



CFS Famine Response

Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting 12 April 2017 and Bureau Meeting 12 April 2017

CFS Chair's Summary

Date: 12 April 2017 2.00 PM – 4.00 PM

Location: Lebanon Room, FAO

Welcome and Introductory Remarks by the CFS Chair

The CFS Chair, Amb. Amira Gornass (Sudan), opened this extraordinary Bureau and Advisory Group meeting expressing her deep concern for the global food insecurity situation which is significantly worsening. She recalled some of the main elements of the *Global Report on Food Crises* recently launched by the Food Security Information Network, recognizing that acute conflicts, climate change and protracted crises are some of the main causes of the significant numbers of food insecure people in need of urgent assistance. The CFS Chair made reference to the words of the UN Secretary-General who urged all members of the international community to step up and to do whatever is in their power, whether that is mobilizing support, exerting political pressure on parties to conflict, or funding humanitarian operations.

An update by the representatives of FAO and WFP

The representatives of FAO and WFP provided an overview of the ongoing crises and the actions being undertaken by the international community.

FAO underlined that this is an unprecedented situation which involves 108 million people of which 30 million need immediate assistance in Somalia, South Sudan, Yemen and Northern Nigeria, countries on the brink of famine. It was reported that conflicts play a key role in these crises. High food prices and the effects of El Niño contributed to the increased food insecurity but it was confirmed that these crises were mainly conflict-driven.

WFP stressed that there are 48 countries currently in crises and emergency situations and that 9 of the 13 most challenging current crises are caused by conflicts. This has serious implications for agricultural production which undermines work opportunities, the purchasing power of rural people and makes it more difficult to bring commodities to markets, leading to higher food prices. WFP is targeting 15 million people per month with food assistance but it is facing two major challenges, one in term of access to those people living in conflict areas and the second in term of resources that are available only until mid-May.

Bureau and Advisory Group joint discussion

During the meeting with the Advisory Group, the Bureau took note of the relevant suggestions and comments provided. Several members of the meeting raised the importance for the Chair to address a letter to Governments, the United Nations and intergovernmental agencies and other relevant stakeholders to call upon the international community to step up its efforts to address this issue, to provide adequate funding to the planned actions and to make use of the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA). A press release quoting the content of the letter from the CFS Chair was also identified as a feasible contribution from CFS. It was noted that

the CFS Plenary in 2017 will discuss the new *State of Food Insecurity in the World* report which will be an opportunity to give visibility and further address this issue of worsening global food insecurity. In that context, a special event/session could be dedicated to these emergencies, inviting representatives from the most affected countries. It was also suggested to convene an Extraordinary Hearing to assess the causes of the crises and hear the voices of social movements and communities from affected territories and agree on key actions to be taken. It was mentioned that CFS could encourage fact-finding and field missions of its stakeholders to the most affected countries. It was recognized that any suggested action should take into account the role, mandate and value added of CFS and be designed in support of existing mechanisms in place to address emergency response, without duplicating ongoing efforts or confusing the international architecture on emergency response.

In the long-term, the meeting expressed the view that CFS should continue its efforts to contribute to global food security and nutrition and sustainable agricultural development by providing policy guidance and promoting the use and application of its already agreed recommendations. In this context, it was highlighted that all CFS stakeholders should share such a responsibility.

Next Steps based on Bureau discussion

In light of the information and suggestions received during the meeting with the Advisory Group members, the following actions were agreed by the Bureau in their meeting immediately after the joint Bureau and Advisory Group meeting:

- a) Send a letter by the CFS Chair to Governments, United Nations and intergovernmental agencies and other relevant stakeholders to call upon the international community to step up its efforts to address this issue. The first draft of the letter will be shared with the Bureau and Advisory Group before being circulated. The letter should:
 - ✓ Highlight the link between crises, food insecurity and malnutrition;
 - ✓ Support the existing mechanisms and architecture for emergencies and avoid duplicating efforts;
 - ✓ Underline the need to address the financing short fall which is hampering the global response;
 - ✓ Stay within the mandate of CFS and rely on CFS language;
 - ✓ Encourage bridging of the gap between humanitarian emergency response and development;
 - ✓ Promote better and systematic use and application of CFS products, and especially the FFA.
- b) Dedicate a space at CFS 44 next October to the discussion of the famines, perhaps during the session on the State of Food Insecurity in the World or in a special event.
- c) Explore the possibility of a Side Event on the famines and the CFS FFA during the FAO Conference in July 2017 (through the Office of the Director General of FAO).
- d) Issue a press release, based on the key messages in the letter.

Other suggestions made during the Bureau discussion were the possibility of a video message, and some reflection on the role of CFS in crises as part of the follow up to the CFS independent evaluation.

The May joint meeting and subsequent Bureau meeting will discuss further potential changes to the CFS 44 plenary agenda in light of the discussion.

Annex 1: List of attendees

CFS Bureau Members:

Ms Amira Gornass (CFS Chair / Sudan); Mr Abdul Ayazi (Afghanistan); Mr Mafizur Rahman (Bangladesh); Ms Fernanda Mansur Tansini (Brazil); Mr Xie Jianmin, Ms Tian Jiani (China); Mr Khaled El-Taweel (Egypt); Mr Oliver Mellenthin (Germany); Mr Jon Erlingur (Iceland); Ms Maria de los Angeles Gomez Aguilar (Mexico); Mr Matthew Hooper (New Zealand); and Ms April Cohen (USA).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Mr Nazareno Montani (Argentina); Ms Rosemary Navarette (Australia); Ms MI Nguyen (Canada); Mr Mitiku Tesso (Ethiopia); Mr Pierfrancesco Sacco, Ms Valentina Savastano (Italy); Mr Francois Pythoud (Switzerland).

Advisory Group:

Mr Kostas Stamoulis, Ms Marcella Villareal (FAO); Ms Mihoko Tamamura, Ms Denise Brown, Mr Jacopo Valentini, Mr Arif Husain (WFP); Mr Jean Philippe Dudinet (IFAD); Ms Stineke Oenema, Ms Alessandra Mora (UNSCN); Mr Martin Wolpold-Bosien, Ms Alberta Guerra, (CSM); Ms Alice Giallombardo, Ms Paulina Ceballos, Mr Ben Robinson (PSM); Mr Willi Kampmann, Ms Maria Giulia De Castro (WFO).

Observers:

Ms Lieselot Gerronprez (Belgium); Mr Igor Lukic (Austria); Mr Zoltan Kalman (Hungary); Ms Myrthe de Kock, Mr Hein Gevers (Netherlands); Mr Robert Fillon (Monaco); Ms Teresa Maisano (CSM).

CFS Secretariat:

Ms Deborah Fulton (Secretary); Ms Cordelia Salter; Ms Françoise Trine; Mr Giammichele Di Maio; Ms Chiara Cirulli; Mr Emilio Colonnelli; Mr Fabio Isoldi; Ms Ophélie Hémonin.