

Bureau Meeting Outcomes

Document No: CFS Bur/2017/05/11/Outcomes

Date: 11 May 2017

Time: 09.30 - 13.30

Location: Lebanon Room, FAO

Agenda

1. HLPE Steering Committee renewal
 2. CFS Evaluation – Discussion on the recommendations and preparation of plan of action
 3. Forum on Women’s empowerment
 4. Questions for the Advisory Group reporting exercise
 5. Rapporteur for the Forestry policy convergence process
 6. Budget update and sustainable funding solutions
 7. HLPE methods and programme of work
 8. Theme of the Global Thematic Event at CFS 45 in 2018
 9. Any other business
 - a) CFS response to worsening food security situation in the world
 - b) CFS 44 VGGT event proposal
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The CFS Chair, Ambassador Amira Gornass (Sudan), opened the meeting and the Provisional Agenda has been adopted without further changes.

1. HLPE Steering Committee renewal

The Chair introduced the first item by recalling the CFS Rules of Procedures on the composition of the Steering Committee of the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE). She then invited Mr Ren Wang, FAO AG-ADG, on behalf of the *Ad Hoc Technical Selection Committee* (AHTSC), to explain the procedure followed for the selection of the HLPE Steering Committee. Mr Wang recalled the selection criteria, as stated in the CFS rules of procedure and further elaborated by the CFS Bureau in 2015, and underlined the need for regional balance within the selected group. After his presentation, the Chair opened the floor for comments. Although there was no objection to the list of 15 candidates recommended by the AHTSC, some Bureau Members asked for more information on the selection process, acknowledging the need to preserve the independence of the AHTSC. Many Bureau Members expressed complete trust in the process followed, and noted there may be a need to revise the selection criteria in the future to meet Bureau’s expectations. After the discussion, the Bureau decided to postpone the endorsement of the HLPE Steering Committee’s list until the next Bureau meeting, in order to allow sufficient time to Bureau Members to share the additional information requested with their capitals.

2. CFS Evaluation – Discussion on the recommendations and preparation of plan of action

The CFS Chair opened the second item by summarizing the discussion in the joint Bureau and Advisory Group meeting and requesting the Bureau to give clear indications on what is envisioned for CFS44 and on the process. The Bureau agreed that the process for preparing the Plan of Action should not be rushed and the time available to prepare for CFS 44 was not sufficient to discuss all the important issues raised in the evaluation report. They also felt it is important to demonstrate progress by CFS 44 and affirmed the Bureau's ownership of the process. Several Members suggested the preparation of a roadmap for CFS 44, which could detail how to prepare the Plan of Action throughout 2018, and potentially propose decisions on some elements, recognizing the deadline of end July 2017 to prepare documents for plenary. The Bureau agreed on Iceland and Egypt to be the co-facilitators for the process. An OEWG-style meeting is scheduled on 1 June, where member countries and participants will have the opportunity to discuss the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation report. The Bureau also agreed to have a Bureau and Advisory Group meeting on 7 June to discuss the outcomes of the first meeting, and to have a Bureau retreat on 8 June to progress the work. Both these meetings will be dedicated to discuss the evaluation. Subsequent meetings might be required but were not scheduled.

3. Forum on Women's empowerment

The Chair recalled some of the feedback received in the joint Bureau and Advisory Group meeting and invited the Bureau to give further guidance.

The Bureau provided additional feedback on the Forum's agenda and on the annotated outline. Key points included: a request for more clarity on the use of the word "opportunities" in the background document; a suggestion for Ms Bianca Pomeranzi as panellist and the suggestion that the keynote speaker be a woman leader from a social movement. While some interventions suggested keeping open the possibility of adding Women's Empowerment as a work stream for the next biennium, the Secretariat clarified this had not received support in the MYPoW OEWG, which was continuing its discussions on a range of other priorities and attempting to prioritise work.

4. Questions for the Advisory Group reporting exercise

The Bureau finalized the questions for the Advisory Group reporting exercise and agreed to include an additional question on the number of meetings they attended. Advisory Group members who did not participate in previous reporting will also be asked to explain the reasons for not having submitted their reports. Last, the Bureau decided that the length of the reports should not exceed three pages. It was agreed that Ad-hoc Advisory Group Members will also participate in the reporting exercise. The reporting period for the next exercise will span from January to December 2017.

5. Rapporteur for the Forestry policy convergence process

The Bureau appointed Mr François Pythoud, Ambassador of Switzerland, as rapporteur of the policy convergence process on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition and thanked him for his willingness to facilitate the process.

6. Budget update and sustainable funding solutions

The Bureau agreed that follow-up on sustainable funding would be taken care of in the context of the preparation of the Plan of Action of the CFS Evaluation. It has however been clarified that the Resources Mobilization Strategy that is recommended by the Evaluation should not be seen as the solution to the current budget gap as its results would only be seen in the long term. The importance of countries contributing to CFS budget was reiterated. Interest was also expressed in seeking financial support from private sector.

7. HLPE methods and programme of work

The CFS Chair introduced the item by highlighting that a decision is needed on how to deal with the policy convergence process on forestry in the event that funds for the translation of the HLPE report are not made available on time. It was stressed that additional resources are urgently needed to translate HLPE Report 11 (Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition), Report 12 (Nutrition and Food Systems) and the HLPE Note on Critical and Emerging Issues for FSN. The translation of the reports is key to ensure inclusiveness and negotiations without translation/interpretation would harm the process and would not be possible - notwithstanding that interpretation has never previously been provided for negotiation of recommendations arising from HLPE reports - . Bureau members acknowledged the responsibility of Members not to commission work if funds would not be provided and considered it an important lesson for future MYPoWs. It was decided that the Chair will again write a letter to all CFS Members seeking funds and alerting them of the fact that there would not be a policy convergence process if the resources for translation were not committed by 1 June (date to be confirmed by FAO translation service). It was agreed that, without funds committed by that date, the policy convergence process would need to be postponed, with implications for the CFS 44 Agenda. The Bureau proposed to meet in 10 days to decide on the matter (24 May).

8. Theme of the Global Thematic Event at CFS 45 in 2018

The Bureau was asked by the Open Ended Working Group on Monitoring to decide the theme for the Global Thematic Event (GTE) at CFS 45 in 2018. USA offered some conditions that would enable them to join consensus on the proposal for the Right to Food to be the theme, which had implications for the preparation of the event and the CFS plenary final report. Several Bureau members felt that there should be an output from the event consistent with expectations for other GTEs. The Bureau discussed options for a Chair's summary and factual records in the final report, but reached no agreement. The OEWG on Monitoring would be informed and the Chair noted discussions may continue informally.

9. AOB Any other business

- a. CFS response to worsening food security situation in the world
- b. CFS 44 VGGT event proposal

On the first item, the Bureau agreed that the discussion on famines will be part of the SOFI discussion on the first day of the Plenary and this should be reflected in the agenda.

On the second item, the Bureau welcomed the proposed FAO/EU event to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the VGGTs and agreed it should be scheduled on Monday 9 October lunchtime. As the attendance will be high, the event could be held in the plenary hall.

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 Martha Barcena, Ms Maria de los Angeles Gomez Aguilar (Mexico); Mr Mohammed Asri (Morocco); Mr Matthew Hooper (New Zealand); and Ms April Cohen, Ms Silvia Giovanazzi, Ms Molly River-Olds (USA).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Mr Nazareno Montani (Argentina); Ms Rosemary Navarette (Australia); Ms Valentina Savastano (Italy); Ms Anna-Marie Moulton (South Africa); Ms Liliane Ortega (Switzerland).

Observers:

Ms Lourdes Magana de Larriva, Mr Giacomo Ferretti, Ms Camilla Contorni (EU Delegation); Ms Galina Jevgrafova (Estonia); Ms Marlene Pra (France); Mr Hinrich Tholken (Germany); Mr Zoltan Kalman, Ms Viktoria Schuster (Hungary); Ms Maryna Dobrenko, Ms Beatriz Zamora Garcia (Spain).

CFS Secretariat:

Ms Deborah Fulton (Secretary); Ms Cordelia Salter; Ms Françoise Trine; Mr Giammichele Di Maio; Mr Emilio Colonnelli; Mr Fabio Isoldi; Ms Ophélie Hémonin; Ms Cherin Hoon; Mr Nathanael Pingault (HLPE Coordinator).