

**CSM Contribution to the CFS Advisory Group and Bureau meeting
18 September 2017**

Agenda Item 1: Enhancing foresight and scenario analysis for food systems – discussion at CFS 44

The CSM appreciates the fact that the CFS plenary will dedicate an entire session to critical and emerging issues for food security and nutrition. The HLPE -- in accordance with its mandate and following an intense and broad process -- prepared a Note on critical and emerging issues, which deserves ample discussion during the plenary.

We believe that the Friday morning CFS plenary session has an innovative format that will allow for an interesting, vibrant and potentially controversial discussion on the main subjects that the CFS should address in the future. The session will allow for a discussion on the HLPE note, and the various conclusions drawn from the broad consultation held through university conferences, electronic consultations, and an overall well developed methodology, covering the main themes that came up during this process.

Additionally, the format of this session will allow for important but critical themes that were not reflected in the HLPE note to be addressed, so as to further contribute to the debate. The CSM will bring up some of these themes and initiatives that are highly relevant to food security, such as the subject of plantation workers, which affects millions of families at risk. Megamergers is an additional subject to be considered.

We believe that the initiative on *Enhancing foresight and scenario analysis for food systems* – as presented here – could also be presented during a short intervention by the FAO as part of the package of proposals put forward during the plenary session. Clearly, the proposal on *foresight* is not as equally weighted as it is in the HLPE note, which stems from an explicit request by the CFS plenary, and which is the outcome of a broad and participatory consultation and deliberation process.

We understand from the documents prepared for this meeting that the initiative on *foresight* is interesting, but that it still needs to bear concrete results. We believe that it can be presented in a short intervention of three to five minutes, along the lines of many other initiatives and proposals that will be raised by other CFS members and participants, during a session that will inform future CFS MYPOW processes.

Agenda Item 2 : CFS Chair, Bureau and Advisory Group renewal

We thank you for the information note. We hope that the future CFS Chair and Bureau will assume the responsibilities of guiding the CFS with a lot energy, wisdom and success.

Regarding the Advisory Group, it is worth noting that some of the items in the information note need to be more clearly and precisely described. However, as this item is not up for discussion today, but is rather an item on the agenda of next week's evaluation meeting, it would be better to address it then. We just have one question for the purpose of clarification and information today:

We understand from the proposal presented together with the Consultation Information on the Evaluation, that the plenary will receive a proposal to give the Bureau an exceptional mandate to nominate the Advisory Group until March 2018. Is it therefore correct that the AG will remain the same until March 2018, should the plenary approve this proposal?

The CSM would like to inform you that the new CSM Coordination Committee, elected by CSM's eleven constituencies and 17 sub-regions for the period of October 2017 and October

2019, will have their constitutive meeting on the 5th and 6th of October, and will elect the AG members and alternates then.

Agenda Item 3: CFS Bureau and Advisory Group calendar for 2018-2019

We thank you for the proposal of meetings. We would like to once again draw the attention of the Bureau and Advisory Group that CSM AG members are not permanently based in Rome and that we have to travel from our home countries to attend these meetings. Therefore, we urge the CFS to bring together the proposed dates of the AG and Evaluation meetings in the most feasible way possible, in order to make it easier for us to participate and save on expenses.

For instance, in November the date for the Evaluation meeting (currently the 27th of November) and the date of the Bureau meeting (currently the 22nd of November) could simply be changed, thereby solving this problem.

Additionally, for the meetings in January and February, and in April and May 2018, we suggest that the proposed meeting dates be brought as closely together as possible.

Lastly, we suggest not to agree on the 2018 final calendar until the meetings in November, which is when we will have further information on the dates of other CFS meetings related to workstreams.

Agenda Item 4: Update on CFS 44 preparations and workstream updates

On the annotated agenda, we have the following comments and suggestions:

- Given the alarming situation of impending famine and increasing food insecurity in the world, we welcome the fact that the CFS will dedicate a special session to this issue on the first day of plenary. We hereby reiterate that it is crucial that the plenary panel include and hear the voice of a community member from one of the countries most affected by famine.
- We believe that the annotated agenda clearly and correctly expresses that the Outcomes of the Forum on Women's Empowerment need to be endorsed by the plenary. However, it is worth clarifying here that the plenary would not endorse the chair's summary, but rather a very brief text on the outcomes of the Forum.

Agenda Item 5: CFS budget update

- We note with concern that a sentence on the last page of this document states that the HLPE report on nutrition will not be translated should there be no additional financial contributions. We believe it to be of utmost importance and urgency to have the report translated as soon as possible. To ensure a participatory and inclusive policy convergence process, the report needs to be available in several languages.
- We would also like to propose to overcome this problem by calling on RBAs to take up the translation costs of this Report.

Agenda Item 6: Any other business

We wish to extend an invitation to the following events, as circulated last week:

- CSM information meeting on our position on forestry, tomorrow between 2pm and 3:30 pm in the German Room;
- an online webinar on megamergers and food security, on Thursday the 21st of September, from 12:00 to 1:30 pm.