



Date: 2 May 2018

Time: 09:30-12:30 and 14:00-17:00

Location: Philippines Room, FAO HQ (Building C, 2d Floor)

## I. INTRODUCTION

### CFS vision<sup>1</sup>

CFS constitutes the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental Committee for a broad range of committed stakeholders to work together in a coordinated manner and in support of country-led processes towards the elimination of hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all human beings. The CFS will strive for a world free from hunger where countries implement the voluntary guidelines for the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

1. The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) carried out the reform in 2009 so that it can fully play its respective role in the area of food security and nutrition (FSN) in line with its vision. The Reform Document remains the cornerstone of CFS work. The Implementation Report documents the implementation of the response to the recommendations<sup>3</sup> from the CFS Independent Evaluation conducted in 2016-2017<sup>4</sup>. The report seeks to clarify or revitalize particular elements of the reform to strengthen CFS as the most inclusive international and intergovernmental platform of FSN, considering the worrisome situation of increasing hunger and malnutrition<sup>5</sup>, the new global FSN environment, shaped by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, the UN Decade on Family Farming 2019-2028 and other relevant initiatives.
2. The CFS Bureau, who was given the mandate at CFS 44 to finalize and implement the response to the evaluation process, nominated two co-facilitators to lead the process, which included inclusive discussions with all stakeholders in the form of open meetings, as well as a Bureau retreat to brainstorm on how best to proceed with an effective and efficient implementation process. Written inputs and bilateral meetings along the way ensured voices were heard and well communicated. All information was shared with CFS stakeholders in an open and timely manner through the CFS Working Space so as to keep the process transparent and synchronized with stakeholders.
3. The implementation of the response to the evaluation recommendations (Plan of Action) is intended to improve the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of CFS, stimulating the potential of CFS and its policy products and recommendations, which are used and applied on a voluntary basis, towards the realization of the CFS vision, better responding to future challenges. CFS will serve as a platform dealing with FSN guided by the three key principles of the reform: inclusiveness, strong linkages to the reality on the ground and flexibility in implementation.

<sup>1</sup> CFS:2009/2 Rev.2

<sup>3</sup> CFS:2018/45/XX (Plan of Action)

<sup>4</sup> CFS:2017/44/Inf.23

<sup>5</sup> The state of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, 2017

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4. Section II presents the measures that have been taken to address the challenges faced by CFS, which were identified during the preparation of the Plan of Action. Section III provides more detailed information on specific issues summarized in this document.

## II. KEY ELEMENTS TO IMPROVE CFS

5. The Implementation of the Plan of Action is directed toward strengthening CFS to address future challenges in a world where food insecurity and malnutrition are on the rise again. The great efforts that have been made to discuss the evaluation results and reach consensus on the content of the implementation report show the determination of stakeholders to tackle present problems and inefficiencies in the functioning of CFS in order to ensure the full relevance of CFS within the UN system and the global governance on FSN.

6. CFS should make full use of its unique role to prioritize and focus on FSN issues with a clearer strategic direction where it has comparative advantage<sup>7</sup>. The CFS multistakeholder approach is fully in line with, and supportive of, the UN reform process as an integral component of the global governance on FSN, through facilitating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and improving its overall efficiency and effectiveness. The intensive debates among CFS stakeholders about the implementation confirm the renewed commitment by all to CFS and long-term support to its vision, activities and policy convergence and coherence work among stakeholders, across sectors and across global, regional and national levels.

7. Seven key elements to address the challenges that CFS faces have been identified to provide the basis of a holistic approach for the implementation process<sup>9</sup>. The following paragraphs describe how these elements will improve CFS:

- 1) DIRECTION – Providing more strategic direction to strengthen CFS to achieve its vision.
- 2) DEMAND DRIVEN - Ensuring that CFS work is guided by its vision and the needs of the people most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition and anchored to realities on the ground.
- 3) PLANNING – Ensuring the effective prioritization and selection processes of CFS activities that can most directly contribute to a positive impact on food insecure and malnourished people in line with CFS vision, bearing in mind budget implications.

<sup>7</sup> The main comparative advantages of CFS are mentioned in Section A of the Annex.

<sup>9</sup> A detailed overview of the implementation of the Evaluation Plan of Action, action by action, is provided in an information note for Plenary (ref...)

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- 4) EVIDENCE/SCIENCE-BASED – Maximizing the value of the inputs from the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE).
- 5) OWNERSHIP - Creating political momentum, resulting in the involvement and commitment of high-level representatives of Members.
- 6) UPTAKE – Increasing awareness of CFS and promoting the dissemination, use and application, and follow-up and review of CFS products and recommendations at all levels.
- 7) FUNDING - Ensuring adequate and sustainable funding for CFS Plenary and workstreams, HLPE and the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM).

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### DIRECTION

*Providing more strategic direction to strengthen CFS to achieve its vision*

8. [CFS work will focus on activities that identify and address the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition with a focus on people most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition. Gender equality, women's and girl's rights and women's empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition will be mainstreamed in all CFS workstreams and products.](#) In order to provide more medium-to-long term strategic direction to guide its work, CFS has clarified the contribution of its six roles set out in the Reform Document to CFS vision and how and by whom they should be performed. [CFS has also](#) developed strategic objectives and expected outcomes that will set the focus of CFS activities for the next 4-year MYPoW.
9. All roles were recognized to be important and interconnected, jointly contributing to achieving CFS vision, requiring the active involvement of CFS member states and stakeholders at all levels. [For the next MYPoW, CFS as a committee<sup>10</sup> will focus its resources on performing Roles 1 \(coordination at global level\), Role 2 \(policy convergence\) and Role 5 \(promoting accountability and best practices\) in a more demand-driven way and with greater efficiency and effectiveness as well as and Role 6 \(Global Strategic Framework\). CFS as a committee has no capacity to implement or coordinate actions at national and regional levels. Roles 3 \(support and advise to countries\) and 4 \(coordination at national and regional level\) will therefore rely on government initiatives possibly in collaboration with RBAs, other UN bodies and other stakeholders that have an implementation and coordination role at national and regional levels.](#)
10. The MYPoW strategic objectives are based on the CFS roles, referring to global priorities in the field of FSN, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and informed by HLPE Critical and Emerging Issues Notes, the RBAs technical work and other relevant UN sources. They will promote the recognition of CFS as the leading and inclusive [international and intergovernmental](#) platform for FSN and keep FSN high on the global development agenda.

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<sup>10</sup> See Section A of the annex.

11. Three interlinked strategic objectives will help channel CFS energy and resources for the next 4-year MYPoW activities that respond to the needs of the food insecure and malnourished people and will contribute to achieving the CFS vision, CFS will support country-led implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular SDG2, by focusing on the nexus between SDG2 and other SDGs and targets, guided by the following strategic objectives for MYPoW 2020-2023.

- Strategic Objective 1 – PLATFORM: Leverage the convening power as the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform to discuss the situation of FSN at all levels and develop key policy messages on FSN
- Strategic Objective 2 – POLICY: Develop global policy guidance for policy convergence and coherence to address food insecurity and malnutrition
- Strategic Objective 3 – UPTAKE: Foster the uptake of CFS work on FSN at all levels

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### DEMAND-DRIVEN

*Ensuring that CFS work is guided by the needs of the people most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition and anchored to realities on the ground*

12. The CFS Plenary will be provided space to define demands and identify priority issues in the field of FSN through multistakeholder dialogue. A more prominent role will be given to the CFS Plenary in proposing, discussing and giving guidance to MYPoW. This is in line with the provision of the CFS Reform Document which states that the Plenary “should focus on relevant and specific issues related to FSN in order to provide guidance and actionable recommendations to assist all stakeholders in eradicating hunger”.

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13. Ensuring CFS is more demand-driven is the responsibility of all CFS Members and Participants, through nurturing and maintaining linkages with different actors at regional and national levels. The Advisory Group will contribute to making CFS work demand-driven by providing inputs to the Bureau, on request, on the needs for FSN policy work on behalf of their constituencies regularly consulted in an open format.

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### PLANNING

*Ensuring the effective prioritization and selection processes of CFS activities that can most directly contribute to a positive impact on food insecure and malnourished people in line with CFS vision, bearing in mind budget implications*

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14. The new MYPoW preparation process will lead to a more effective prioritization of CFS thematic activities. The selection of activities will be carried out bearing in mind that activities will not start until resources are provided or a clear indication that the resources are in the pipeline. The new process will also contribute to strengthening ownership and commitment of CFS stakeholders in implementing the results of CFS policy work as well as optimizing the use of HLPE inputs to support CFS thematic workstreams. CFS will not engage in more than one major policy negotiation process at a time.

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15. The various CFS activities aim at producing different types of outputs, including policy messages [and recommendations](#) from inclusive discussions, global policy guidance resulting from negotiations, [updates of the Global Strategic Framework](#), and communication- and outreach-[related outputs](#). An appropriate prioritization process is key to [enhance the relevance of activities, ensure](#) the quality of outputs, allowing sufficient time for stakeholders to coordinate with their constituencies.

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16. [The MYPoW preparation process will start with a plenary session dedicated to discussing an HLPE note identifying critical and emerging FSN issues, highlighting topics that could be considered. This will not prevent CFS to consider other issues in the following steps of the process. The process will involve all interested stakeholders through open consultations<sup>11</sup>. The CFS Bureau, after consultation with the Advisory Group, will finalize the draft MYPoW, to be presented to the CFS Plenary for endorsement.](#)

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17. [More concise and precise](#) criteria for prioritizing CFS thematic activities will be applied. [The criteria include the contribution of the activities to CFS vision and overall objectives, addressing the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition, CFS strategic objectives for the MYPoW, their added value compared to existing policy work considering CFS comparative advantages, their relevance to FSN global priorities and commitment of CFS stakeholders, to use and apply the policy product resulting from the activity.](#)

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#### EVIDENCE/SCIENCE-BASED

*Maximizing the value of the inputs from the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE)*

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18. [It is recognized that CFS stakeholders, such as RBAs and other UN bodies, CSM, PSM and CGIAR provide substantial technical inputs to the development of CFS policy work. The CFS Evaluation specifically reviewed the contribution of the HLPE. The HLPE was established as part of the CFS reform to strengthen CFS through FSN-related expertise to support CFS members and other stakeholders in designing strategies and programs for addressing food insecurity and malnutrition<sup>12</sup>.](#)

19. [The HLPE supports CFS with structured expertise and its key functions<sup>13</sup> so that the decisions and the work of the CFS are based on the best available evidence and knowledge, utilizing and synthesizing high quality existing research and analyses. Regular and sustained interaction between the HLPE Steering Committee and the Bureau and Advisory Group will be set up, in particular on substantive issues. Advice and focused interventions will be provided by the HLPE at the request of CFS to maximize the value of the HLPE in supporting CFS policy convergence and coherence work as a complement to the main HLPE products \(typically substantive reports\), subject to HLPE resources and workload.](#)

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<sup>11</sup> See Section B of the annex.

<sup>12</sup> CFS:2009/2 Rev.2

<sup>13</sup> CFS:2009/2 Rev.2, para. 37

20. The decision to request the HLPE to produce a report or other inputs will be based on a clear understanding of how the report will support the preparation of policy guidance, how it will feed into the process considering the timescale, and the availability of information on the subject under discussion. The HLPE will be requested to continue to produce a note regularly on critical and emerging issues. Plenary will discuss this note and provide guidance to the MYPOW process.

### OWNERSHIP

*Creating political momentum, resulting in the involvement and commitment of high-level representatives of Members*

21. As outlined in the Reform Document, the CFS Plenary is the central body for decision-taking, debate, coordination, lesson-learning and convergence by all stakeholders at global level on issues pertaining to FSN and the achievement of CFS vision, while voting and decision taking remain the exclusive prerogative of Members. The Plenary plays a critical role in creating political momentum and all efforts will be made to make Plenary more vibrant with an agenda that attracts high level participants who have the ability to bring about changes at national level. The communication strategy will include a media plan for Plenary.

22. The agenda will reflect critical, urgent and emerging issues on the global FSN agenda, with high-level, innovative roundtables and forums that include stakeholders from the CSM and Private Sector Mechanism (PSM), think tanks, financial institutions and researchers to encourage more interactive and substantive dialogues on FSN, while ensuring a balance with its decision-taking function. This will contribute to reinforce CFS role as a platform and confirm that CFS is a place for generating ideas and synergies, and to promote policy coordination and convergence.

23. The comprehensive planning phase leading to the prioritization of MYPoW thematic activities will strengthen stakeholders' ownership through their direct involvement from the initiation phase and their commitment to the implementation of the policy work resulting from the proposed activity.

24. The participation and involvement of all member countries in CFS intersessional activities will be strengthened. Bureau members will brief their regional groups on a regular basis and communicate to the Bureau the feedback they receive from the countries. All member countries will keep their respective countries regularly informed of CFS activities and progress and inform Bureau members of their countries' priorities and concerns to be reported during Bureau and Advisory Group meetings.

25. As outlined in the Reform Document, the Bureau, immediately following its election, will establish an Advisory Group, and decide the working modalities, including the frequency and format of the meetings with its Advisory Group. The Bureau will request specific advice on substantive issues and agenda items from its Advisory Group.

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- 26. The Chairperson has an important political and strategic role in Rome and beyond to help achieve CFS vision and objectives and will provide strategic leadership to CFS in Plenary and the intersessional period.

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**UPTAKE**

*Increasing awareness of CFS and promoting the dissemination, use and application, and follow-up and review of CFS products and recommendations at all levels*

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- 27. CFS members have primary responsibility for promoting CFS and the use and application of CFS policy products and recommendations at all levels, working in partnership with the RBAs, other relevant UN agencies, CSM, PSM, CGIAR, philanthropic and financial institutions and other concerned actors. CFS Members States are encouraged, at their discretion, to constitute or strengthen multidisciplinary national mechanisms (e.g. food security networks, national alliances, national CFS) including all key stakeholders dedicated to advance food security at national and local levels<sup>14</sup>.

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- 28. The RBAs have a role to play in mainstreaming CFS products and recommendations in their own work and facilitating their use and application at all levels. They provide advice and technical support on specific topics, at the request of countries, drawing upon various resources including the work of CFS. Advisory Group members are encouraged to organize events at all levels that can foster the uptake of CFS. Outcomes of these events, activities and achievements will be shared with all CFS stakeholders and reported to the Bureau on an annual basis.

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- 29. The CFS Chairperson will continue to play an active role in promoting the use and application of CFS products and recommendations. The CFS Chair will advocate for the consideration of CFS policy outcomes and collaborate with all relevant stakeholders to find opportunities to raise awareness of the work carried out by the Committee.

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- 30. Communication is the responsibility of all CFS Members and Participants. Communication refers to two distinct sets of activities: (i) activities aiming at raising awareness of CFS and its work that will be supported by the CFS Secretariat and (ii) activities towards the use and application of CFS products and recommendations at country level for which Member countries have primary responsibility. CFS stakeholders will support the dissemination of CFS-endorsed policy recommendations to the relevant ministries and are encouraged to continue disseminating HLPE reports, recognizing that they are not CFS-endorsed deliverables.

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- 31. The CFS Secretariat will continue to focus on raising awareness of CFS and its work through the CFS website and social media, reporting to the required global bodies such as UNGA through ECOSOC and sharing information with other UN bodies as appropriate, and subject to available resources, supporting outreach efforts of the CFS Chair in consultation with the Bureau.

<sup>14</sup> CFS:2009/2 Rev.2, para 24

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33. CFS will also promote accountability and share best practices at all levels, including through: follow-up and review of both global and country/region specific FSN situations, trends, progress, challenges and sharing lessons; assessing the effectiveness of CFS and follow-up and review of the use and application of its policy guidelines and recommendations; and facilitating advice regarding recommended approaches to country/regional review and follow-up of FSN objectives. CFS will continue to hold Global Thematic Events in Plenary every 2 years and to encourage stakeholders to organize national and regional events to support Global Thematic Events.

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### FUNDING

*Ensuring adequate and sustainable funding for CFS Plenary and workstreams, HLPE and CSM*

34. A robust resource mobilization strategy will help support CFS Plenary and workstreams, the HLPE and the CSM to support CFS priorities as identified in the MYPow with clear safeguards in line with FAO guidelines to prevent potential conflicts of interest regarding funding. Continued efforts will be made to expand and diversify the financing base, including by reaching out to CFS Member States, private foundations and the private sectors, and financial institutions.
35. The structure of the CFS Secretariat was also reviewed and revised to ensure that the Secretariat can effectively support CFS and to make the most efficient use of staff and available resources. The Bureau should consider the optimal use of existing resources based on budget information provided by CFS Secretariat inter alia for MYPow implementation. CFS Members, as appropriate, will request the Governing Bodies of the RBAs to adjust their contribution to cover the core budget for CFS Plenary and Workstreams.

### III. ANNEX