CSM Preliminary Remarks for the CFS Evaluation meeting of 2 May 2018

Annex A – CFS Roles and strategic objectives

First of all, we thank the Co-Facilitators and the Secretariat for their work in revising the different papers of this annex. We can see a number of improvements which we appreciate.

On this annex on roles and strategic objectives, we believe further revision and improvements are necessary on the following issues:

• On table 1 (clarification of roles):
  We can see an increased clarity on roles and related responsibilities in some aspects but still see some lack of clarity in others. The key point here is that a holistic understanding of the CFS is critical. The proposed separation between the Committee as such on one side and its members and participants on the other is artificial. The CFS needs to be perceived in its integrity, as one CFS, including its members, participants and bodies. While this is well reflected in table 1 regarding roles 1, 2 and 6, it needs to be further clarified regarding the roles 3, 4 and 5. All these roles imply a shared responsibility of the CFS, even if certain tasks need to be divided in a differentiated way. In this sense, none of the roles can be considered out of the responsibility of the CFS. All roles are to be performed by the CFS as a whole with different and differentiated forms of involvement of its members and participants. If this holistic view is not applied, the CFS runs into fragmentation, which is the opposite of what the CFS reform aimed to promote. We will provide specific comments with alternative language for the table by May 11.

• Regarding paragraph 4: CFS has been doing great on performing roles 1 and 2. The CFS evaluation offers the leverage to re-launch CFS vibrancy and dynamicity by embracing the challenges of those roles that so far has not been able to foster and perform as foreseen in the reform. That is why great attention should be given to roles 3, 4, 5. These roles are fundamental and should become a priority. If this is not done, the CFS will continue to be a great global governance platform producing excellent outputs but with too little impact on the ground. Fostering the use, application and monitoring of CFS policy products is fundamental for an effective CFS. The people expect that the results of the CFS are taken home and effectively contribute to the elimination of hunger and malnutrition.

• Last remark on the proposed results chain: the table is not describing the roles and functions of the CFS properly. It did serve its purpose to trigger the discussion on the roles and objectives, but for the sake of clarity, it should be taken out of the annex document.

On Strategic Objectives:

• We suggest including two key aspects into Strategic Objective 1: fostering collaborative action and the need to address critical, urgent and emerging issues.

SO1 would then read: “Leverage the convening power as the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform to foster collaborative action at all levels and develop key policy messages and recommendations in response to critical, urgent and emerging issues”
• On Strategic Objective 2, we propose be more concrete than the general term “policy guidance”, by developing global policy analysis, guidelines and recommendations, and to include into this policy objective an explicit link to the progressive realization of the right to food.
SO2 would then read: “Develop global policy analysis, guidelines and recommendations for policy convergence and coherence to ensure FSN, in particular to eliminate hunger and malnutrition and promote the progressive realization of the right to adequate food”

• On SO3, we would propose the following amendment: “Foster the uptake of CFS policy outcomes through enhanced dissemination, use, application and monitoring at all levels”
People expect that the results of the CFS are taken home and effectively contribute to the elimination of hunger and malnutrition. Use and application are essential and requires the involvement of many actors. Monitoring is important as a means to learn lessons from the use and applications of these instruments. Without monitoring, we cannot know if they were applied and had an impact on the ground.

Annex B – MYPoW Structure

We appreciate the efforts to present an innovative proposal for the MYPoW process and we would like to thank the co-facilitators and the secretariat for preparing it.

The proposal under discussion has an interesting potential and could open the way to a participatory and inclusive process in line with CFS nature and spirit. We therefore would like to contribute with some preliminary suggestions for improvements and will provide more detailed comments on the language by May 11th.

• We appreciate the idea of starting the discussion on MYPoW in the CFS plenary, discussing the HLPE note on Critical and Emerging Issues. This approach would also include the possibility of other members and participants to propose additional themes in the Plenary and seek support from members from different regions during the process.

• On para 9 and 12b) we would like to suggest that the proposed inclusive process is conducted through an OEWG or a similar inclusive format. While it is important that the Bureau finalizes the draft MYPOW for decision of the Plenary, we believe that an open and inclusive consensus building process needs to be conducted before. The most functional purpose for this is an OEWG or similar format. Given that from 2019 onwards there will be only one major policy convergence process, we would have one OEWG on Nutrition and one on MYPoW next year, pending on what comes out of the monitoring OEWG in June. In any case, this would mean a significant decrease compared to previous years.

• Para 13 a) we would avoid formalizing the mentioning of informal discussion. The sentence would then read like this: “CFS members and participants will prepare and share a preliminary proposal …”

• Para 13 c) we suggest taking out the mentioning of “potential resources partners”, as the availability of resources should not influence the selection of CFS priorities at this stage; we suggest to replace it by “supporters”
Annex C – Promotion of accountability and sharing best practices

The CFS response to the Evaluation agreed “to review the framework for monitoring in CFS”, “taking into account previous discussions, decisions and experience gained”.

We believe that the table in the annex offers an interesting “screen shot” of the CFS monitoring framework as it stands now. It reflects the work and achievements that the Committee has done so far in relation to its fifth role of promoting accountability and sharing best practices which entails the incremental development of an innovative monitoring mechanism.

The three columns of the table reflect the pillars of what the CFS is currently doing within its innovative monitoring mechanism:

- Follow-Up and review of the situations and trends in food insecurity in the world;
- Assessment of its effectiveness;
- Monitoring the use and applications of CFS policy outcomes

We understand that the functioning of this is monitoring mechanism is fully embedded in the proposed CFS framework to promote accountability and sharing best practices, which is a shared responsibility of the CFS members, participants and bodies. It is based and needs to fully reflect the decisions of the CFS on monitoring adopted since 2012. We will provide wording for making this even more precise in the table.

At the same time, this framework is not static, but in development. We therefore believe that the initial list of new activities to be developed, is an important tool for the way forward. The upcoming meeting of the OEWG on monitoring in June will already discuss some of these elements and should make suggestions to the CFS Bureau and Plenary regarding next steps.

The link to the SDG monitoring efforts is particularly important: while the SDG monitoring exercise in the HLPF framework will mostly look at the question of outcomes, assessing if goals and targets were achieved or not, the CFS monitoring exercise can have a more in-depth look into the policy processes that aim at eliminating hunger and malnutrition and promote the progressive realization of the right to food.

There is also an important opportunity to combine the Voluntary National Reviews on SDGs with the voluntary country-assessments which could provide evidence how CFS policy instruments have been used in national efforts to achieve the FSN related SDGs. We will provide specific comments on this annex in writing by 11 May.

Annex D – Proposal for making plenary more vibrant, attractive and substantive

We believe that the plenary should primarily provide the space for substantive discussions. The more substantial discussions are, the more vibrant, passionate and attractive the Plenary will be.

In that sense, we strongly support:
- proposal 1 (high-level and inclusive format to discuss the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World)
- proposal 2 (on specific sessions on the uptake of CFS policy guidelines and recommendations)
- proposal 4 (interactive discussions on critical and emerging issues)

One additional proposal would be to have one selected Plenary discussion on an urgent issue for FSN that could already be discussed and agreed some months before the Plenary.

We would not support Davos-style or Ted-Style formats. We do not share the idea that the CFS plenary needs more show elements or glamour or entertainment to meet its objective. Celebrities are usually less important than they believe, and often better on performance than on substance.

On the other side, the CFS could benefit from inspirational and substantial key note speakers who have shown a life-long commitment with the struggle against hunger and malnutrition and who can speak to an important topic of the CFS plenary, as we could witness last year with the key note address of Helen Hakena on women’s empowerment.

Regarding the proposals on the feedback from Side events: certainly, a reporting from around 55 Side-events to the Plenary is not feasible. Such feedback instrument could be used to share the outcomes of different stocktaking events on a specific CFS policy guidelines or recommendation.

Annex E – Proposal for actions that could be taken by members

No specific comments at this moment. Possibly upcoming

Implementation Report

Appreciation for the improvements made to the text and comments taken on board that reflect many of the discussion held on 23 April.

Here only some few remarks on those parts that will still need further discussion and on which we will provide more specific comments until 11 May:

• Paragraph 7, 3) Prioritization and Selection would be better than the generic term “Planning”
• Paragraph 9: the importance of roles 3 and 4 and the shared responsibility of all CFS members, participants and bodies for these roles are not properly reflected yet.
• Paragraph 11: strategic objectives need further discussion
• Paragraph 12: the special attention regarding the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition, and the focus on the most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition must not be deleted here.
• Paragraph 14 and 16: the order should be reversed: first the prioritization process, then the question of resources. The consensus building process should be conducted via an OEWG or in a similar inclusive format; mentioning open consultations is not sufficient.
• Paragraph 25: would be recommendable to just use the formulation of the CFS reform document (para 32) regarding the Advisory Group
• Paragraph 35: needs to be adjusted to the discussions on the accountability and monitoring framework
• Paragraph 37: CFS members need to be encouraged to also propose in the RBA governing bodies increased contribution to the CFS overall budget over the next years.
On the process ahead:

- Informal meetings, if necessary, should be open to all interested members and participants.

- Due to the current financial constraints, the CSM is not in a position to confirm its participation to any informal meeting in late May or beginning of June.

- If the situation does not change within the next few weeks, the CSM will also not be in a position to ensure its meaningful participation to formal CFS meetings in June.