

CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meeting
Date: 23-25 July 2018
FAO HQs

Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting Outcomes - With Bureau's Decisions

Agenda

1. Nutrition – CFS 45 Draft Decision
2. CFS Contribution to the 2019 HLPF and beyond – CFS 45 Draft Decision
3. CFS Evaluation
4. Monitoring
 - a. CFS 45 Global Thematic Event on Right to Food
 - b. Proposals for monitoring other CFS policy recommendations
 - c. CFS 45 Draft Decision
5. CFS 45 - Critical and Emerging Issues in Food Security and Nutrition – Towards a Strategic MYPoW 2020-2023
6. HLPE Report on Multistakeholder Partnerships – Follow-up
7. CFS Workstream on Urbanization and Rural Transformation
8. CFS Annual Report 2018
9. CFS 45 Drafting Committee nominations
10. CFS Advisory Group 2018-2019
11. CFS 45, Workstream and Budget Updates
12. Any other business

Before starting the joint Bureau and Advisory Group meeting, the CFS Chair acknowledged the presence among the Bureau of the new representative from New Zealand and welcomed the participation of Ms. Pepino in representation of the UN Special Rapporteur on Right to Food. Ms. Pepino briefly introduced herself, the mandate of the Special Rapporteur and her role as Advisor to the Special Rapporteur.

1. Nutrition – CFS 45 Draft Decision

The joint meeting welcomed the draft decision, acknowledged the effective leadership of the Nutrition OEWG Chair, and highlighted the importance for CFS to contribute with voluntary guidelines to reshaping food systems towards improved nutrition and healthy diets.

The Advisory Group requested that a reference to the Decade of Action on Nutrition be included in the first bullet of the draft decision.

More general comments underlined the importance of the organization of regional consultations and called for the regional groups to support their organization.

It was suggested that an open call to all CFS stakeholders be made to raise funds in support of this workstream.

Bureau's Decisions:

The Bureau approved the CFS 45 draft decision on nutrition with amendments, which are reflected in the revised draft decision text (annex 3).

The Bureau agreed that all Chairs and facilitators of OEWGs and workstreams should be duly recognized in the respective draft decisions.

It was also agreed that the CFS Chair should send a letter to CFS Members and Participants with a call to action for mobilizing resources in support of this workstream.

2. CFS Contribution to the 2019 HLPF and beyond – CFS 45 Draft Decision

The joint meeting welcomed the decision text, which reflects the consultations within the OEWG-SDGs.

There were no specific comments on the draft decision. Remarks were made on the importance of better cross-engagement by all stakeholders between Rome and New York and on the need for a stronger CFS presence/visibility at the HLPF, including the revitalization of the informal group of Friends of Food Security and Nutrition in New York.

Bureau's Decisions:

The Bureau decided to proceed with incorporating the outcomes of the discussions, which are reflected in the revised draft decision text (annex 4).

3. CFS Evaluation

The joint meeting expressed appreciation for the work of the co-facilitators and welcomed both the Draft Decision and the Implementation Report. Participants underlined the importance of finalizing the implementation of the response to the CFS evaluation before CFS 45, and not to prolong the process into next year. Specific suggestions were: (a) to draft an information note for the resource mobilization strategy (Rec. 3), similar to the communication strategy; and (b) to finalize the implementation of Rec.4 in September; as well as Rec.8 and 9.

The meeting took note that points (c) and (d) of the draft decisions are added as placeholders, as some progress is expected before the Plenary Session, so that the brackets will be revised in September.

Bureau's Decisions:

Bureau members reiterated the importance of finalizing the report detailing the implementation of the response to all evaluation recommendations before CFS 45.

The Secretary provided an update of progress and possible actions to finalize the implementation of the response in time for the Plenary (ref: Bur/AG/2018/07/23/03c):

- **Recommendation 3:**
 - o Action 3.1. An information note will be prepared for the resource mobilization strategy;
 - o Action 3.3. The Chair should envisage to continue consultations with RBAs to secure their contributions;
- **Recommendation 4:** To be discussed on 18 September;
- **Recommendation 8:** There will be further contacts with the relevant office for the timely release of the TORs of the CFS Secretary;
- **Recommendation 9:** A draft document on proposed staffing of the CFS Secretariat will be finalized.

Based on this information, the Bureau expressed confidence that the report detailing the implementation of the response to all evaluation recommendations can be finalized before CFS45.

The Bureau requested that all background documents be made available at least two weeks before they are discussed, specifically requesting the timely distribution of the TORs of the Secretary and the document on proposed staffing of the CFS Secretariat for the September meetings.

The Bureau did not have any further comments on the current version of the implementation report, but decided to postpone the endorsement of the whole Implementation Report and the approval of the updated Draft Decision on Evaluation to the September meeting, when all the Annexes of the Implementation Report are expected to be completed.

4. Monitoring

a. CFS 45 Global Thematic Event on Right to Food

The joint meeting expressed support for the outline of the Global Thematic Event (GTE), including: (a) inviting Mrs. Livia Pomodoro, UNESCO University Chair on the Right to Food, as an additional speaker; (b) delegating the Chair of the OEWG to select the moderator observing gender and regional balance, taking into account the speakers and panelists that will be nominated; and (c) the proposed panelists, with a suggestion to invite Nepal as an additional panelist, recognizing Nepalese efforts made to implement the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Adequate Food.

No comments were received on the report summarizing the submissions received (Document 04c).

Bureau's Decisions:

The Bureau agreed on the keynote speakers, panelists and the list of priority interventions for the GTE, to wit: (a) inviting UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food Hilal Elver; FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva; and Mrs. Livia Pomodoro, UNESCO University Chair on the Right to Food, as keynote speakers; (b) inviting representatives from Burkina Faso (Africa, with Malawi as an alternative in case Burkina Faso could not make a presentation), Colombia (Latin America and the Caribbean), Bangladesh (Asia/Pacific), European Economic and Social Committee (Europe) and Civil Society Mechanism (Global) as panelists; and (c) including the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP), the Private Sector Mechanism and Nepal in the list of priority speakers from the floor. The Bureau thanked Costa Rica for their generosity in withdrawing from the priority list in order to facilitate the Bureau's decision.

The Bureau also agreed that the participation of Mrs. Pomodoro should not impact the CFS budget.

The Bureau agreed that the Chair of the OEWG should select the moderator from among the two proposed individuals, ensuring gender balance and regional representation in the GTE. The Bureau requested that the moderator should be instructed to exert strong time control to enable an interactive session, and that both priority and floor interventions should be given the same amount of speaking time.

The Bureau also agreed on the report summarizing submissions received (Document 04c). The words "The Committee:" will be deleted from the first page of the report.

b. Proposals for monitoring other CFS policy recommendations

At the joint meeting, Italy and the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) presented their proposals for monitoring the implementation of other CFS policy recommendations at CFS 46. Participants expressed support along with queries on whether resources exist to hold such an event.

Some suggestions focused on one specific set of recommendations (either “Sustainable agricultural development including livestock” or “Connecting smallholders to markets”), while others argued for covering several sets of policy recommendations to reflect their interconnectedness.

General comments from participants highlighted:

- The importance of establishing/showing connections among selected CFS policy recommendations and the SDGs;
- The interest of selecting sets of policy recommendations that are related to family farming, as 2019 will be the first year of the UN Decade on Family Farming;
- The importance of always applying a gender perspective in monitoring any set of recommendations; and
- The concerns on the feasibility of monitoring the use and applications of recommendations that were only recently endorsed.

Another suggestion was to focus the thematic event on what could have been done differently if CFS policy guidelines were better known and used.

Lastly, Italy and CSM were advised to explore the possibility of submitting a joint proposal.

Update: Following up on the suggestion to submit a joint proposal, at the Bureau meeting Italy made a presentation to that effect, combining their proposal with that of CSM in order to monitor the use and application of three CFS policy recommendations: the two originally proposed (Sustainable agricultural development including livestock approved in 2016 and Connecting Smallholders to Markets, also approved in 2016), plus Investing in Smallholder Agriculture (2013). The exercise would assess their relevance and potential to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the objectives of the UN Decade on Family Farming.

Bureau’s Decisions:

While there was general support to organize such an event, concerns remained that the joint proposal had not been circulated to a wider audience, as well as on resource availability. As follow up action, the Bureau decided to make the concept note available for comments on the CFS working space for the sake of inclusiveness, with a view to renewing the discussion at the next Bureau and Advisory Group meeting in September. The Bureau also requested the CFS Secretariat to come up with a set of criteria for the selection of topics for future monitoring events, including suggestions for an appropriate minimum timeframe for selecting activities to be monitored.

The Bureau agreed that a decision on whether to have a monitoring event in 2019 will be deferred to the next Bureau meeting in September.

c. CFS 45 Draft Decision

The joint meeting heard a comment on paragraph (d) of the decision text that a one-off meeting would not be sufficient to prepare a proposal for improving existing activities and developing new activities for promoting accountability and sharing best practices at all levels, as per paragraph 10 of Annex C of the CFS Implementation Report.

Bureau's Decisions:

The Bureau agreed to defer undertaking the CFS 45 Draft Decision to the next Bureau meeting in September, as a decision on whether to organize a monitoring event in 2019 is still pending (refer to sub-item above).

The Bureau also requested an updated CFS budget, with indications on the availability of extra-budgetary resources and the gaps, so as to inform the final decision on this item.

5. CFS 45 - Critical and Emerging Issues in Food Security and Nutrition – Towards a Strategic MYPoW 2020-2023

At the joint meeting, an overview of the document outlining the objectives and expected outcomes of the CFS 45 session on critical and emerging issues, including the different scenarios and related implications for HLPE activities in 2020, was provided.

Participants advised on options (a) and (b), while option (c) was not supported.

In case scenario (a) is selected (requesting a thematic report to HLPE), it was suggested that the Secretariat circulate a proposal outlining the different steps of the preparation process, the timeline for the electronic procedure, the date for the physical meetings, as well as the type of inputs required. In this case, the 2nd HLPE note on critical and emerging issues was considered as an appropriate starting point.

In case the option (b) is selected (requesting the HLPE to carry out alternative activities in 2020), it was reiterated that Bureau and AG members should provide specific indications on what possible alternative activities to request the HLPE.

Participants underlined that any request to the HLPE should be based on a clear understanding of CFS needs and workload, and should clarify from the outset what outcomes this activity is expected to bring for CFS.

Bureau's Decisions:

The Bureau highlighted the relevance of the HLPE and its importance for the work of CFS. It reiterated that HLPE activities should be functional to the work of CFS, and that the requests coming from CFS should be clear and concrete as well as provide specific indications concerning the CFS follow-up process, including on how the HLPE inputs are intended to be used.

With regards to the HLPE activities in 2020, the option not to give any mandate to the HLPE has not been considered. During the discussion, most Bureau members expressed an interest for requesting the HLPE to carry out a holistic review of previous reports to analyze how the HLPE and CFS are contributing to the realization of zero hunger and the advancement of the 2030 Agenda. This activity could articulate the links between past reports and identify potential gaps that would deserve CFS attention in future MYPoWs.

It was clarified that the HLPE Steering Committee will have to design an appropriate process to deliver this “synthesis report”, exploring the opportunities to reduce the related costs.

The Bureau discussed that CFS may want to consider the possibility to extend exceptionally the mandate of the current Steering Committee for one year, i.e. until October 2020. An extension would allow the continuity of the work on this activity and requires a plenary decision as well as the acceptance of the current members of the Steering Committee.

The Bureau decided to postpone all decisions on this matter to its September meeting.

The CFS Secretariat, in collaboration with the HLPE Coordinator, will work on a proposal that reflects the outcomes of the Bureau discussion.

The proposal will be circulated to the Bureau and AG in order to get written inputs which will be incorporated in the final version, to be finalized by the first week of September, in order to be presented for discussion at the next Bureau and AG meeting and for finalization at the next Bureau meeting. Bureau members are expected to consult with and involve their regional groups before this meeting.

The proposal prepared by the Secretariat will be shared also with the HLPE Steering Committee prior to the September meeting in order to get its collective reaction.

A decision on HLPE activities in 2020 is expected to be taken at CFS 45.

6. HLPE Report on Multistakeholder Partnerships – Follow-up

At the joint meeting, participants reiterated the importance to define a meaningful follow-up process to the HLPE Report on Multistakeholder Partnerships.

It was suggested that the HLPE report be used as the starting point of a process leading to CFS 46, when CFS could hold a session focusing on knowledge and lessons sharing on effective multistakeholder partnerships – following a similar format to the global thematic events.

In preparation of that session, an open consultation could be held using the questionnaire presented in the HLPE report to gather more information and practices on existing partnerships.

The joint meeting reiterated the urgency to select a facilitator for the process and it stressed that no process should start until the report is translated in all official languages.

Bureau's Decisions:

The Bureau agreed that any follow-up process should start only after the HLPE report is translated in all official languages. To this end, the Bureau also agreed that a letter will be sent by the CFS Chair to request CFS stakeholders to contribute for the translation of the report.

It was also agreed that a reminder would be sent to the Chairs of the Regional Group to ask them to facilitate the selection of a facilitator for the follow-up process.

The Bureau noted the proposal to use the HLPE report as the starting point of a process leading to CFS46, and agreed that in the course of the next intersessional period, it will define the details of the follow-up process and decide whether to allocate time in CFS 46 to this session.

7. CFS Workstream on Urbanization and Rural Transformation

At the joint meeting, the CFS Chair recalled that this workstream had been put on hold due to lack of extra-budgetary resources. It was then suggested, after consultation with the OEWG Chair and the Technical Task Team, knowing that extra-budgetary resources are becoming available, to carry over the two events and to hold them early in the next intersessional period so as to inform future MYPOW discussions. It was underlined that the topics of the two events were already agreed in CFS44 (FSN impacts of urbanization/rural transformation dynamics on lower income groups; women and youth employment across the rural-urban continuum) and

that they remain highly relevant to the work of the Committee and present complementarities with other workstreams such as CFS work on Nutrition and food systems. Comments were made on the need for CFS to develop clearer objectives for this process, in terms of what policy outcomes are envisaged, as well as to get a clearer understanding of the areas of comparative advantage/added value for CFS. Finally, it was explained that, as the above activities are already foreseen by the 2018-19 MYPoW, they do not require further endorsement.

Bureau's Decisions:

The Bureau took note of the update regarding forthcoming funds which will enable the two intersessional events foreseen in the current intersessional period to be held after CFS 45. The Chair again noted that the above activities are already foreseen by the 2018-19 MYPoW, that they are simply rolling over to 2019 and, as such, they do not require further endorsement by Bureau nor Plenary.

8. CFS Annual Report 2018

The joint meeting heard a presentation on the CFS Annual Progress Report 2018, which was well-received. Participants suggested to add a reference in the nutrition section to the UN Secretary-General Report on the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition. It was clarified that a standard format, in line with last year's, was followed for the preparation of the budget of the different CFS constituencies, and that the email addresses of their focal points were added for those interested in receiving more detailed versions.

Bureau's Decisions:

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to review the CFS Annual Progress Report 2018 to be more substantive (i.e. mention that the COFO 2018 has welcomed the CFS recommendations on Sustainable forestry for FSN and recommended their use to the member States; include a link to the Chair's speech delivered at the Opening Session of COFO, make reference to CFS presence at HLPF 2018, etc.).

9. CFS 45 Drafting Committee nominations

Because nominations can only come from member States, this item was not tackled by the joint meeting. The Bureau was informed that as per past practice, the Chair will send a message to the Chairs of the Regional Groups asking for nominations for the CFS 45 Drafting Committee, including its Chair, with a suggested deadline of 14 September to allow an informal meeting of the Drafting Committee before the CFS Plenary. This approach has received positive feedback since it was initiated.

The observed rotation of the Drafting Committee Chair going back more than a decade shows that GRULAC is the region which has not provided a Chair for the longest time, followed by North America.

10. CFS Advisory Group 2018-2019

This item was only on the agenda of the Bureau meeting. The Bureau decided to extend the mandate of the current Advisory Group until CFS45, pending a discussion and final decision on the function and composition of the AG in September.

11. CFS 45, Workstream and Budget Updates

The Bureau agreed that the International Day of Rural Women will be celebrated on 15 October by referring to it in the opening speech of the CFS Chair and/or the FAO Director-General, as well as with a side-event.

The Bureau also agreed to implement a “traffic light” system for plenary, to limit the duration of floor interventions, as well as to project the speakers’ list on the screen, following the practice of the last session of the FAO Council.

With reference to the budget, the Bureau requested that in future the item on budget be discussed upfront in the agenda of the meeting. The Bureau also requested to amend the budget for 2018 taking into account that CFS 45 will be a 4 days event; that an update-to-date budget be available two weeks prior to the next meeting, and be more detailed on the current level of expenditures and the gaps to better understand the costs of the on-going and proposed workstreams.

12. Any other business

At the Bureau meeting, the Secretary informed of some changes in calendar for September.

18 September → Evaluation meeting

24 September → Bureau and Advisory Group meeting

25 September → Bureau meeting

Annex 1: List of attendees of Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting

CFS Bureau Members:

Mr Mario Arvelo (CFS Chair / Dominican Republic); Mr Antonio Sá Ricarte (Brazil); Ms Jiani Tian (China); Mr Luis Fernando Ceciliano (Costa Rica); Mr Khaled El-Taweel (Egypt, by remote connection); Mr Mitiku Tesso Jebessa, Mr Tarekegn Tsegie Haile (Ethiopia); Mr Pierfrancesco Sacco, Ms Valentina Savastano (Italy); Mr Don Syme (New Zealand); Ms Anna-Marie Moulton (South Africa); Mr Sid Ahmed Alamain (Sudan); Ms Liliane Ortega (Switzerland); Ms Emily Katkar(USA).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Ms Mi Nguyen (Canada); Mr Oliver Mellenthin (Germany); Ms Diana Calderón Valle (Peru).

Advisory Group:

Ms Marcela Villarreal, Mr Panagiotis Karfakis (FAO); Mr Michael Huggins, Mr Jacopo Valentini (WFP); Mr Torben Nilsson (IFAD); Ms Serena Pepino (Special Rapporteur Right to Food); Ms Marzella Wüstefed (WHO); Ms Stineke Oenema (UNSCN); Ms Azra Sayeed, Ms Ramona Dumicioiu, Mr Saúl Vicente Vázquez, Mr Martin Wolpold-Bosien (CSM); Mr Brian Baldwin (PSM); Mr Fabrizio Moscatelli (BMGF).

Observers:

Ms Julia Vicioso (Dominican Republic); Ms Novella Maugeri (United Kingdom); Mr Zoltán Kálmán, Mr Dániel Komlós (Hungary); Ms Gemma Cornuau (France); Mr Luca Bianchi, Ms Alberta Guerra, Ms Paola de Meo, Ms Teresa Maisano, Ms Nora Mckeen (CSM).

CFS Secretariat:

Mr Mark McGuire (Secretary a.i.), Mr Nathanaël Pingault, Ms Françoise Trine, Ms Cordelia Salter, Ms Aya Shneerson, Ms Cherin Hoon, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Ms Sylvia Orebi, Mr Gabriele Iallussi.

Annex 2: List of attendees of Bureau Meeting

CFS Bureau Members:

Mr Mario Arvelo (CFS Chair / Dominican Republic); Mr Antonio Sá Ricarte (Brazil); Ms Jiani Tian (China); Mr Luis Fernando Ceciliano (Costa Rica); Mr Mitiku Tesso Jebessa, Mr Tarekegn Tsegie Haile (Ethiopia); Mr Gustat Daud Sirait (Indonesia); Ms Valentina Savastano (Italy); Mr Don Syme (New Zealand); Ms Anna-Marie Moulton (South Africa); Mr Sid Ahmed Alamain (Sudan); Ms Liliane Ortega (Switzerland); Ms Emily Katkar, Ms Silvia Giovanazzi, Ms Maya Nandakumar (USA).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Ms Mi Nguyen (Canada); Mr Oliver Mellenthin (Germany).

Observers:

Ms María Laureano (Dominican Republic); Ms Delphine Babin-Pelliard (France); Mr Damien Kelly (EU Delegation).

CFS Secretariat:

Mr Mark McGuire (Secretary a.i.), Mr Nathanaël Pingault, Ms Françoise Trine, Ms Cordelia Salter, Ms Aya Shneerson, Ms Cherin Hoon, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Ms Sylvia Orebi, Mr Gabriele Iallussi.

MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE

CFS 2018/45/06 “Terms of Reference for the preparation of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition” and CFS 2018/45/05 “CFS workstream on Food Systems and Nutrition – Draft Decision”, presented by Mr Khaled El-Taweel (Egypt), Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Nutrition.

The Committee:

- a) Expresses its appreciation for the work of the OEWG on Nutrition and acknowledges the effective leadership of its Chair;
- b) Endorses the Terms of Reference for the preparation of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, in support to the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025;
- c) Recognizes the importance of an inclusive process leading to the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines, open to all interested stakeholders, which will be facilitated by the CFS Secretariat, under the guidance of the CFS Open-Ended Working Group on Nutrition, and with the assistance of a Technical Task Team;
- d) Emphasizes the crucial importance of the planned consultation phases for the ownership and success of the process, and invites all relevant CFS stakeholders to actively participate to the preparation of the Voluntary Guidelines;
- e) Recognizing that funds are not currently available, invites CFS Members and stakeholders to provide adequate financial resources to enable the implementation of the policy convergence process and ensure that all the planned activities are carried out within available resources;
- f) Requests that the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition be presented for endorsement by CFS at its 47th Session in 2020.

Annex 4: CFS 45 – DRAFT DECISION ON CFS CONTRIBUTION TO THE 2019 HLPF AND BEYOND

The Committee:

- a) Expresses its appreciation for the inclusive process facilitated by Mr. Willem Olthof (EU);
- b) [Placeholder for FSN references in the Ministerial Declaration of the 2018 UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)];
- c) Reiterates its commitment to intensify efforts to promote the use of CFS policy recommendations in all countries, with a view to promoting policy coherence for food security and nutrition;
- d) Considers document CFS/2018/45/xx "CFS Contribution to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2019" as an adequate basis for the CFS contribution to the 2019 HLPF review on "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality". The Committee notes in particular that it should be updated with the outcomes of CFS 45 discussions, as well as the latest international statistics and trends on food security and nutrition, based on global reports such as - but not limited to - the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI), and finalized by the Bureau following one or more open meetings;
- e) Decides, based on the UNGA resolution on follow-up and review arrangements for the next HLPF cycle, to continue sending inputs to future reviews of the HLPF beyond 2019;
- f) Requests that a draft contribution for 2020 be presented at CFS 46, following an inclusive, facilitated process involving a maximum of two open ended meetings and taking advantage of electronic consultations;
- g) Encourages all CFS stakeholders to increase their coordinated engagement at different levels in the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including by presenting, at the CFS Plenary, the food security aspects of Voluntary National Reviews.