

## Contributions of the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism to the CFS Advisory Group and Bureau meeting on 23 November 2018

### ***Comment on the draft agenda:***

As a matter of urgency, we believe that the terrible situation of food insecurity and malnutrition in Yemen is of deepest concern of all of us. We suggest that the CFS should draft a message, in line with its mandate, to contribute to raise global awareness and action on this ongoing catastrophe. In addition to this message, which should go to New York and all concerned parties, a discussion should be scheduled for the next Joint meeting which would be informed by the information and analysis provided by CFS Advisory Group members on the situation in Yemen. We believe the CFS, the *Committee on World Food Security*, cannot be silent in such situations! The process could follow the example from April 2017 when CFS Chair Amira Gornass called an emergency meeting and led a CFS Chair message on the situation in Yemen, South Sudan, North East Nigeria and Somalia.

### **Agenda item 1 – Feedback on CFS 45**

We welcome that the participation of a rural woman speaker to the Opening Session of the CFS Plenary was finally approved, in occasion of the UN International Day of Rural Woman. We believe that from now on CFS should honor and give special importance to this international day, making space for the voices of rural women, especially when the 15 October falls into the CFS Plenary Week.

The World Food Day shouldn't impact negatively the timetable and interrupt the flow of the CFS Plenary Week. Next year WFD commemoration could take place in the morning only, as it was done in previous years, and a better synergy should be sought with the topics on the CFS agenda.

We believe that the Global Thematic Event was a great example for a vibrant, lively, interactive and participatory moment during the annual plenary. The GTE on the Right to Food Guidelines also was used by several member states and other participants who are not necessarily involved in Rome but make effective use of CFS policy outcomes in their countries. This also confirms that the operationalization of the innovative monitoring mechanism can strengthen the connection of the CFS with the national level, encourage solid, inclusive and well-prepared contributions from CFS members and participants and hence inspire a meaningful, learning Plenary.

The traffic light system was useful but could be improved by making it fully respected. We would propose a traffic light system that would allow 3 minutes for individual speakers and 5 minutes for collective statements of regional groups or mechanisms. After the indicated time, the microphones can be turned off.

The missing quorum on Wednesday evening could have been possibly avoided, if the potential evening session would have been announced already on Monday. The fact, that some delegations could deliver only on Friday their statements prepared for Monday, must be avoided in the future.

The Side events continue to be a very important and vivid part of the Plenary, a great opportunity for decentralized discussions, learning and networking.

The full support given by regional groups and all actors to the implementation report of the response to the CFS evaluation shows that many or most members and participants share the view that we all need to recommit to the CFS and its vision. However, it was sad and significant that due to the intervention of one single member state, and without giving a rationale, this recommitment could not be included into the Decision box. The CFS will need to find ways how to effectively advance its work when confronted with this kind of destructive attitudes.

Finally, we are glad to inform you that more than 200 representatives from civil society, social movements and indigenous peoples representatives attended the CSM Forum on the weekend prior to the CFS Plenary. This still increasing participation shows that the CFS continues to be a forum of hope and relevance, and we are also glad that representatives from all other CFS constituencies participated in the public part of the CSM Forum 2018.

## **Agenda item 2 – CFS Draft Workplans**

### **Food Systems and Nutrition**

In principle, we agree with the proposed workplan. However, we have three specific suggestions to improve it:

- The Plenary at CFS 46 should be given a role. It does not make sense to miss the possibility to use the plenary session and its wealth of participation in the process. According to the ToR, we are meant to review progress, but we need to provide it a substantive role;
- It is essential to move forward with the preparation of the regional meetings and have a moment in which the AG & Bureau may decide on their modalities;
- The E-consultation should probably be extended to cover the same time period of the regional consultations.

### **MYPoW**

We thank the CFS secretariat for putting together this workplan. We would like to share a concern on the deadline related to the submission of the MYPoW proposals, now proposed for the 18 of December. We are aware of the overall timeline for this process but we believe that more time should be given to this very first period, as this time it will be the first time that several CFS members and participants need to agree and elaborate together the preliminary proposals for submission. In this sense, would be advisable to maybe set the deadline to 10 January instead. This would still allow to circulate proposals two weeks before the first Open Consultation on 25 January.

### **SDGs**

On the SDG workplan we would like to share two comments:

- We would like to add a bullet point under the Objectives or Expected outcomes of this workstream which would point to the need that more and stronger advocacy work needs to be done by the CFS in New York to ensure that the CFS contribution to the HLPF is properly reflected by the ministerial declaration and better heard in the context of the High Level Political Forum session itself.

- In this sense we would also suggest that Bureau and AG members should support the efforts of the CFS Chair in July by attending the HLPF and explicitly supporting the advocacy work. This should be part of a specific strategy of the CFS to be better heard in New York, and this also includes the need for a stronger involvement and cooperation among member missions and Rome-Based Agencies in New York.

### **Promoting accountability and best practices**

We welcome the workplans for this workstream, and particularly the fact that the preparation process for the Global Thematic Event on the Framework for Action in 2020 is proposed to start already in early 2019. As we've learned in the process to prepare the GTE on the Right to Food, the preparation process of national and regional events needs a lot of time, to get all relevant actors interested and involved.

In that sense, we suggest two specific changes to the proposed timetable:

- 1) A deadline for the reports from the events should be introduced but should still give the needed time to the events to be organized and the reports to be written. We believe that the deadline for submitting reports from events could be Mid of April 2020. This would allow the CFS Secretariat and TTT a period of three full months to draft the summary report.
- 2) The timeline for the e-consultation for individual contributions could be extended as well, ending in February 2020. Those of us who work in situations of protracted crisis know that enough time for participation is important especially in our areas that are moving from one emergency to the other.

### **Urbanization and Rural Transformation (no further comments)**

#### **Agenda item 3 – Sustainable Forestry and Food Security and Nutrition – Follow-up**

The CSM would like to reiterate the importance of a proper discussion event on the relation between commercial plantations and food security and nutrition, as agreed and requested by the CFS 44 plenary.

It was clear that the negotiation process of the policy recommendations on sustainable forestry was too short, could not conduct some highly relevant discussions. It might be worthwhile to recall that the acceptance of the final policy recommendations by all parties was only reached through the inclusion of the paragraph on the pending discussion in the Final report. At the same time, it was clear that this discussion would not imply a CFS workstream, but a well-prepared event.

In this sense, we suggest holding the proposed event on the relation between commercial plantations and food security and nutrition either as an inter-sessional event in the first semester of 2019, or in case no specific funding is available, as part of the agenda of the CFS 46 Plenary Session.

#### **Agenda item 4 – Multi-stakeholder Partnerships for FSN**

Regarding the follow-up to the HLPE report on MSPs, we still believe that the translation of the HLPE reports is a minimal requirement to ensure an inclusive policy convergence process.

If a translation can be provided, the follow-up process should include two main areas:

1. Fill the independent evidence gap, recognized by the HLPE report itself, regarding the contributions of MSP to food security and nutrition and particularly to the Right to Food;
2. Explore how to respond to the need to establish a policy framework to ensure that MSP are effectively contributing to the realisation of the Right to Food.

The first area is not easy to implement, but necessary to address the second area. Filling the evidence gap requires a thorough and independent effort which would look at the missing evidence regarding the contributions of MSP to food security and nutrition. Elaborating the methodology to fill the evidence gap should not only build on the elements brought forward in the HLPE report, but also integrate substantial elements related to FSN and Right to Food. In this sense we could build on certain principles that were developed and adopted in different CFS instruments. These substantial elements could be the first steps to identify recommendations on the development of a policy framework for MSP.

Key questions for this process would be:

- How can MSP be made fully coherent with the principles adopted in CFS instruments?
- Whose interests are being served?
- How do we address power imbalances and conflicts of interest?
- Who is accountable to whom, and on which basis?

The aim of the policy convergence process would be to establish a policy framework to ensure that MSP are effectively contributing to food security and nutrition and the realisation of the Right to Food.

#### **Agenda item 5 – CFS Advisory Group Reporting Exercise 2018**

We welcome the proposal drafted and we would have specific suggestions on possible questions that could be added under section three “strengthening the linkages between Advisory Group constituencies and the Committee”.

- How have specific policies of Advisory Group members been changed or influenced through CFS policy instruments?
- What are the structural problems that Advisory Group constituencies face in their fight against hunger and malnutrition, and should get the attention of the Committee?
- How do AG members assess the political situation of the CFS from their perspective?

In addition, we believe that the idea of dedicating a specific time to the sharing and debate on these reports might be very useful for all CFS members and participants.

In this sense we would also additionally suggest that the Open meeting foreseen for 26 April should also include voluntary reports of governments who are willing to share their own experience or good practices in the use and application of CFS Policy outcomes. By doing so we would enrich the debate and start fostering the important proposals discussed in the framework of the CFS Evaluation implementation response, particularly to recommendation 7.

## Agenda item 6 – CFS and Bureau and Advisory Group meetings content plan

On the proposed calendar we would like to share two suggestions:

- we propose to move the meetings planned between 4 and 7 June to another week, as these are very important holidays at the end of Ramadhan.
- Also, the meeting proposed for 23 April should be reconsidered. Several of those who come from abroad to CFS meetings would be obliged to leave their homes on Easter Sunday.

On the meeting content plan for the AG/Bureau, we suggest:

- We would propose that the policy convergence process on Agroecological practices and innovations in 2019 takes place in an inclusive format open to all CFS members and participants, not only Bureau and AG members.

Following the important agreement from the CFS Evaluation process to introduce more substantive discussions in AG/Bureau meetings, we believe that the following two very important proposals could be included into the agendas of the next AG/Bureau meetings:

- As we said at the beginning, we suggest including into the next AG/Bureau meeting a discussion on the terrible situation of food insecurity and malnutrition in Yemen.
- Another substantive discussion could be held in following AG/Bureau meeting on the fundamental question we must face in the CFS and as committed actors in the whole world: “How can we reverse the trend of increasing hunger and malnutrition, and how can we more effectively address the root causes and drivers of this alarming situation?” We believe that this question could be put forward to all CFS Advisory Group members who would then be requested to present their 10 key proposals to the table, and hence inform an essential and substantial discussion in a Joint AG/Bureau meeting.