



CSM Update

November//December 2018

Reports from CFS 45th Plenary Session and CSM Forum

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Updates on CFS processes

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- Upcoming process on Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships;
- HLPE e-consultation on the scope of the 2020 Report on Food Security and Nutrition: building a global narrative towards 2030;
- Overview of the CFS calendar for the inter-sessional period 2018/2019;

Updates on CSM internal issues

- Meeting of the CSM Working Group on Nutrition and Food Systems, 3-5 December
- Invitation to join the CSM working group and actively engage to CFS policy processes during the 2018//2019 inter-sessional period.

Reports from CFS 45th Plenary Session and CSM Forum

CFS 45th Final Report and main highlights from the CFS Plenary week



[CFS 45th Final Report](#), adopted by the Plenary on Friday 19th of October, lists all proceedings and decisions agreed by the Plenary this year. It is, however, a rather superficial report which does not reflect the substantial contributions of members, participants and observers and discussions held on important issues such as the debate and outcomes of the Global Thematic Event to monitor the Right to Food Guidelines or the debate and outcomes of the session on critical and emerging issues that will inform the upcoming Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW). The CSM Advisory Group members shared on 23rd November, during the joint meeting of the CFS Advisory Group and Bureau, some thoughts on CFS 45th Plenary week:

- The Global Thematic Event (GTE) 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.
- CSM welcomed 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. 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 (WFD) on 16 October 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.
- The missing quorum on Wednesday evening (17 of October) 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 on the SOFI 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.

CSM contributions to CFS Plenary week

At this [link](#) you will be able to find all videos and written contributions that CSM spokespersons delivered during the CFS Plenary Week on behalf of CSM Working Groups!



Summaries from CSM side events at CFS 45

As in previous years, CSM held five [side events during CFS Plenary week](#). Please find here the summaries and key messages of these events:

- [Celebrating the international day of rural women](#). From the field to the CFS and back. Experiences, demands and perspectives from rural women's grassroots organizations.
- [Food Systems and Nutrition Guidelines](#): How can the CFS make a difference? Perspectives and expectations of small-scale food producers, civil society and indigenous peoples.
- [Defend the defenders](#). How effectively protect those who fight for the right to food? Supporting indigenous peoples and social movements in their struggle against hunger by protecting them against threats and criminalization.
- [The UN Decade for family farming](#). A historical opportunity to foster peasant's rights. Connecting the UN Decade with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants. Summary.
- [The nexus between migration and the Right to Food](#): the case of migrant agricultural workers. Insights from worrisome realities calling for urgent and effective policy responses.



CSM also organized two autonomous side events within CFS Plenary Week:

a) The [launch of the Right to Food and Nutrition Watch](#): “When food becomes immaterial: confronting the digital age”. The dominant use of technologies is transforming food – a key component of life, identity and social relations – into an immaterial commodity and a source of data. More and more, seed data floats around the world, artificial flavors dominate our daily dishes and financial speculation,

fluctuating through invisible digital networks, modifies the value of the resources in all continents. These dynamics have improved hunger and malnutrition rates, on the rise for three consecutive years, so who does this really benefit?

b) [“Mutating the chain](#): How emerging-tech and corporate mega-mergers are rapidly transforming the landscape of food, agriculture and farmers’ right”. Urgent debates are now occurring at all levels of governance on how to navigate the new technologies and new cross-chain alliances ranging from national and regional authorities to the UN’s Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as in the negotiation of cross border trade. National competition authorities are still grappling on how to deal with mega-mergers and their implications while there is no place in the UN to tackle this.

CSM Forum highlights and conclusions

We are glad to inform you that more than 200 representatives from civil society, social movements and indigenous peoples organizations attended the CSM Forum on the weekend prior to the CFS Plenary. This still increasing participation shows that the CSM Forum continues to be an important moment in the year for reflection and exchange, discussion of visions, policies and strategies, and preparing our positions to the CFS. [Have a look at the video with the closing speech of the CSM Forum!](#)

Inclusion of Indigenous Peoples into the name of CSM

As announced in the CSM Update of October, the CSM Forum 2018 celebrated and welcomed the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples into the name of CSM. All CSM constituencies acknowledged that indigenous peoples possess an identity that goes beyond the concept of 'civil society'. Their struggle for having their identity recognised has been acknowledged and fully supported by the CSM. Indigenous peoples have fought over centuries, from generation to generation, to defend their territories, cultures and identities. This request therefore is not only about the participation of indigenous peoples in the CSM, but also about the political recognition of their struggles for their identity as indigenous peoples.

The new name is: Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSM) for relations with the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS). We will soon create a new logo for this amended name! Look at the video explaining the meaning of this important step for the CSM!



CSM Video messages and Communication work!

Have a look to the CSM video messages on the different issues discussed at the CSM Forum and CFS Plenary Session [here!](#)

Updates on CFS Processes



CSM Advisory group contributions to the joint meeting of CFS Advisory Group and Bureau meeting of 23 November, and Outcomes of the CFS Bureau meetings of 8 and 23 November

On November 23rd [the joint meeting of the CFS Advisory Group and Bureau](#) took place. The [agenda](#) dealt with several issues, including [the assessment of CFS 45th Plenary session](#), the [drafts workplans of the different upcoming workstreams](#) and the upcoming [Advisory Group reporting exercise](#). As a matter of urgency, CSM expressed its deepest concern on the terrible situation of food insecurity and malnutrition in Yemen. CSM suggested 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. The CFS, the *Committee on World Food Security*, cannot be silent in such situations! The Bureau supported the demand for an urgent message and requested the CFS Chair to draft the letter. Please find here [CSM Contributions](#), the Outcomes of the [CFS Bureau meetings on 8 and 23 November](#).

CSM collective contribution to the online HLPE consultation on the upcoming report on Agroecology and other innovations

[CSM Working Group on Agroecology](#) submitted its comments and contributions to the online HLPE consultation on the Zero draft of the Report on Agroecology and other innovations. Please find [here](#) the overarching comments submitted on November 5th and [here](#) the full contribution submitted on November 19th.

Update and follow-up on the pending inter-sessional event on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition

The last CFS Bureau and Advisory group meeting discussed the pending issue related to the Policy Recommendations on [Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition](#). CSM reiterated during the meeting 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 44th Plenary Session.



It was clear that the negotiation process of the policy recommendations on [sustainable forestry](#) was too short, and could not conduct some highly relevant discussions. 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 CFS 44 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, CSM suggested 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. Please find here [CFS Bureau decisions](#) on this topic.

Upcoming process on Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships

The last meeting of the CFS Advisory Group and Bureau addressed the follow-up process to the HLPE Report on MSPs and the debate that took place in the last CFS Plenary Session of October. The CFS Chair announced that translations of the report will be finally available from January 15th. Moreover the Bureau approved the nomination of Oliver Mellenthin, from the Permanent Representation of Germany, as the Rapporteur of the process. The newly appointed



rapporteur shared already a process proposal that does not foresee to arrive at policy recommendations in 2019. Please find [here](#) the current Rapporteur's proposal as it stands now and here [his message](#).

CSM made clear in the last AG and Bureau meeting that 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. 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.

HLPE e-consultation on the scope of the 2020 Report on Food Security and Nutrition: building a global narrative towards 2030

The HLPE has launched its online consultation on the scope of the 2020 Report on *Food Security and Nutrition: building a global narrative towards 2030*, as approved by CFS 45th Plenary Session. Please find [here](#) all information. Deadline for submissions is 4th of January. The CSM Working Groups on SDGs and Global Food Governance will be requested to work on a collective CSM contribution to this online consultation.

Overview of the CFS calendar for the inter-sessional period 2018/2019,
Please find [here](#) the draft calendar of CFS inter-sessional meetings for the period 2018/2019 as it stands now.



Updates on CSM internal Issues

Meeting of the CSM Working Group on Nutrition and Food Systems, 3-5 December

On 3,4 and 5 of December 17 members of the CSM Working Group on Nutrition and Food Systems met in Rome to draft the CSM vision towards the upcoming policy convergence process on Nutrition and Food Systems Guidelines. Soon a brief report and outcomes of the meeting, including the preliminary CSM vision, will be shared within the CSM Working Group on nutrition and food systems for feedback and comments.

Invitation to join the CSM working groups and actively engage to CFS policy processes in 2018//2019 inter-sessional period.

This is an open call to all CSM participating organizations to actively engage in the upcoming processes of the inter-sessional period 2018//2019. Send an email to cs04cfs@gmail.com expressing the working group you want to join!

1. [Nutrition and Food Systems](#)
2. [SDGs](#)
3. [Urbanisation and Rural transformation](#)
4. [Agroecology](#)
5. [Global Food Governance \(Multi-stakeholder partnerships\)](#)
6. [Women](#)
7. [Monitoring](#)
8. [Protracted Crises](#) (Monitoring the Framework for Action 2019/20)
9. [Smallholder to Markets](#) (Stock-taking event 2019)
10. [Sustainable Agricultural Development and Livestock](#) (Stock-taking event 2019)
11. [MYPoW](#)
12. [Sustainable Forestry](#) (inter-sessional event)