

CSM Contributions to the CFS Advisory Group and Bureau Meeting of 14 May 2019

Agenda Item 1 – Sustainable Forestry for FSN

- Based on the interventions at the CFS plenary on forestry for FSN and subsequent submissions of members, we believe that the main topic of interest to be discussed at the September event is still the ‘impact of commercial tree plantations on FSN’.
- The topic of forest restoration is also relevant within this discussion, for example to explore the differing impacts on FSN of different types of forest restoration planned in existing initiatives such as the Bonn Challenge. This is in line with the proposal of France.
- The CSM believes the CFS event should be framed within the unique role of the CFS by paying special attention to the role of small-scale producers and indigenous peoples, which includes forest dependent communities, to provide policy coherence and make space for genuine debate between all stakeholders including the RBAs.
- It is therefore essential to have adequate space for representatives of communities affected by plantations and civil society organizations that work with them. We envisage their inputs on the specific problems they face on the ground with regards to plantations and their perspectives on the challenges facing UN agencies and international institutions in providing coherent policy frameworks on FSN, forests and plantations.
- Expert views could be provided by the HLPE and we would also support the suggestion of Costa Rica to have opening remarks from the CFS Chair and closing remarks from the COFO Chair.
- The discussion would be most meaningful if there is adequate space for debate and discussion after the presentation of inputs. The discussion should focus on bringing to the table a set of specific issues that could be considered in the further work of all involved actors and participants.
- We will submit a detailed proposal in written to the CFS Secretariat before the Bureau meeting on Friday, as requested by the CFS Chair during the AG -Bureau meeting.

Agenda Item 2 – CFS Advisory Group Reporting Exercise – 2018 and updated template for 2020

We would like to make the following remarks on the AG reporting exercise:

- The contributions of many Advisory Group member show how they have promoted the use and application of CFS policy outcomes. This is an important step ahead that needs to be appreciated and shows at the same time the huge potential for the future.
- We also would like to highlight the strategic approach taken by IFAD to bring the CFS and the use and application of CFS policy outcomes more into the institutional deliberations and actions.
- Maybe the reports on use and application of AG members could be complemented by reports from countries which would like to share their views and experiences in a voluntary manner in the future.
- We also take note that the constituency of philanthropic private foundations has not delivered a report. This should still be done and should specifically provide information about how the current member for this constituency has reached out to other foundations and involved them in the CFS and the use of its results.

- For the next reporting exercise, it might be good to revise again the questions and make them more specific. All respondents should reply to all questions. The question on the structural challenges faced by constituencies when fighting for food security and nutrition was answered only by a few AG members.
- Finally, we would like to also share with you today the CSM Annual Report which provides a more detailed report about our activities last year regarding the engagement with the CFS, on use, application and monitoring, as well as on our organizational processes. We would like take the opportunity to also express our gratitude for the important financial support provided by the Swiss Development Cooperation, IFAD, Germany and France for the functioning of the CSM in 2018.

Agenda Item 3 – CFS Workstreams Update

- Regarding the monitoring exercise on the three sets of policy recommendations for smallholders, we note that the participation to the electronic consultation was even higher than indicated in the workstream update: a total of 47 submissions were received with most of them following the template.
- The CSM Working group on Monitoring held a workshop last week to gather more information and analyze the content of civil society and indigenous peoples' experiences in using the three sets of policy recommendations. The CSM will prepare its own monitoring report on these policy recommendations and would be happy to present it at the Stocktaking event on the use and application of these policies recommendations during the CFS Plenary in October.
- Regarding the proposal for the HLPE Steering Committee renewal, we believe that there is a strong need for more diversity and synergies between different forms of knowledge in the HLPE Steering Committee, as it used to be so far. The CFS reform document explicitly states that the HLPE should *“help to create synergies between world class academic/scientific knowledge, field experience, knowledge from social actors and practical application in various settings”*. The HLPE should also consider specifying its selection criteria in relation to the vision of the CFS and the CFS MYPoW.
- Finally, regarding the question we raised if CFS is proposing a side event to the HLPF in July in New York: we regret that this is not the case, as it would have been an important occasion to strengthen the profile of CFS in New York. In any case, we suggest the Chair and other CFS actors to use their presence during the HLPF meeting in July to refer to the successful Global Thematic Event on Monitoring event on the use and application of the Right to Food Guidelines, as this is of great relevance for the HLPF and the SDG review process in general.

Agenda Item 4 – Process for Agroecological Approaches and other innovations

Regarding the discussion at the Joint meeting of the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group on 14 May on this topic, CSM is deeply concerned about attempts to avoid discussions on the process that will follow the HLPE report on agroecology and other innovations before its launch. This approach is unprecedented in the CFS: discussions about the follow-up of an HLPE report were always held before an HLPE report was launched, to make sure that the policy convergence process after the

launch is clear to everybody. We also note that in all previous processes, the offer of diplomats to facilitate a policy process was warmly welcomed.

Along with other delegations, CSM supports the proposal from Switzerland to agree on the Policy Convergence process on agroecology and other innovations as soon as possible, the latest by end of July, so that a proposal for decision about the policy convergence process can be presented to Plenary. It would be very useful that the facilitator was involved in the elaboration of the process proposal. For this reason, it would be advisable that the facilitator of this policy process is appointed by the Bureau at its meeting on June 7.

The proposed schedule for the policy convergence process, as presented to the AG-Bureau meeting, is generally appreciated by the CSM, with a few important comments and suggestions:

- The process on agroecology and other innovations is strongly interconnected with the other policy convergence process on food systems and nutrition. The fact that they are now running in parallel should be taken as an opportunity to seek the best dialogue and synergies among both processes.
- The dialogue between the two process might require a specific methodology which allows that both processes can speak to each other and benefit from the discussions held in the other workstream. We suggest that such methodology should be developed between the two workstreams.

Regarding the more technical aspects of the proposed timetable:

- We suggest clarifying that the basis for the written comments procedure after October 2019 will be the summary and recommendations of HLPE report and the discussions during the CFS Plenary.
- It is also need to clarify the nature of the documents to be circulated on 15 January and 28 February 2020: at that stage, it cannot be anymore a draft proposal for a policy convergence process, it should rather be a draft outline for the policy recommendations (on 15 January) and then a zero draft for the policy recommendations on 28 February to which then CFS members and participants are invited to provide comments. This approach would allow for a proper consultation with capitals and is required if the timeline for conducting negotiations in May should be realistic.

Agenda Item 5 – Any other business

- On the topic of Plenary interventions: while individual interventions could be limited to 3 minutes, we consider that joint interventions should be given more time. This would follow the practice in other UN bodies to allow at least a 5 minutes slot for joint interventions, such as from regional groups or mechanisms that include a broader spectrum of constituencies.
The CFS should always be aware that with its reform, a special attention should be paid to the constituencies of the most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition. The space for these constituencies is already far too limited in all global governance bodies, also in Rome, and is an essential part of the reformed CFS. It should be appreciated and strengthened, not restricted.

In addition, the Indonesian proposal to reorganize the first day of the Plenary into a continued discussion on SOFI and SDGs, with a presentation of the SOFI in the morning and a key note of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food in the afternoon, as agreed before, could help to provide a large space for delegations' statements during the first day. This idea should be further explored, as time pressure could be significantly reduced with this approach.

- On the MYPoW process:
 - We appreciate that the proposals on Youth and Gender equality are acknowledged in the outcomes of the last MYPOW meeting as priorities for the MYPOW 2020-2023.
 - The CSM Youth Constituency delegate presented the key points for us at the last meeting. Unfortunately, these key considerations and proposals are not reflected in the Outcomes of the MYPOW meeting of 17 April. This is particularly concerning as also our main inputs as CSM Youth Constituency at the MYPOW consultation in January and the CFS Bureau and Advisory group in March were not taken on board. We really believe that the next draft of the MYPOW process should reflect our priorities as CSM Youth Constituency.
 - We also urge the CFS to not drop the proposal on reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition. The proposal was not only prepared by a group of different constituencies in the CFS, including countries from three different regions, IFAD and CSM; it was also broadly supported by other members and participants of the CFS. A workstream on gender equality cannot replace the enormous impacts of inequalities on food security and nutrition that connect SDG 10 with SDG 2. There is no doubt that inequalities within and among countries are among the most important structural causes of hunger and malnutrition, and they are a worrisome even increasing problem which is likely to also contribute to increased hunger and malnutrition if not tackled in a serious manner. The CFS should not shy away from this urgent topic and should rather recognize that many countries and UN agencies have decided to effectively take this challenge.
 - We also continue to believe that the proposed theme on migration and conflict should not be dropped at this point.
 - The number of four workstreams for a four-year MYPOW is already a strong reduction of workstreams as compared with previous years when we had seven workstreams or more in a two-year MYPOW.
 - Finally, the dissemination, use and application, and follow-up and review of CFS products and recommendations, we would urge to integrate in the MYPOW for 2021 and 2023 activities that are looking into the uptake of specific policy recommendations, likewise the monitoring exercise on the three sets of policy recommendations of this year.

- Regarding the participation of the CFS Chair in the International Coordination Committee of the Decade on Family Farming, we believe that this is an important proposal to strengthen the connections between the CFS and the Decade. We suggest that the Bureau supports the proposal.