

CSM Contributions to the CFS AG and Bureau Meeting of 22 July 2019

Suggestions for the Agenda:

We would like to propose three agenda items to be included under AOB:

- The first item is a question related to the proposed “Food Systems Summit” envisaged for 2021 and the involvement of the CFS in it.
- The second item is a short information to share a concern about the financial situation of the CSM.
- The third item is about the background document prepared for the Bureau meeting of 25th of July related to the Renewal of the Advisory Group which includes a proposal for decision of the CFS Plenary regarding the CFS Rules and Procedures.
-

Morning Session: CFS 46 Draft Decision on MYPoW (2020-2023)

We would like to share with you some comments on specific sections of the second draft of the MYPoW:

- 1) We believe that the sequence of the themes in the MYPOW 2020-2023 should be guided by the importance this topic has for the people most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition, and for the struggles and efforts for overcoming the causes and drivers of the dramatic situation of hunger and malnutrition as documented in SOFI 2019. Therefore, we suggest to clearly prioritize gender equality, youth and inequalities. If a fourth workstream can be chosen, considering workload and resources availability, it should be data collection and analysis. This sequence of priorities should also be reflected in the timetable of the MYPOW 2020-2023.
- 2) We welcome the proposal on **Gender Equality and women’s empowerment** and we are looking forward to engage in this process. We believe that the timeline for the Voluntary Guidelines should not be rushed and should allow for an inclusive and participatory process, which is fundamental for such a comprehensive policy outcome. In this sense the original proposal in terms of timeline defined by the second draft of the MYPoW should be kept. Concerning the themes to be prioritized in the framework of the Voluntary Guidelines we believe they are all highly relevant to the rational, objectives and expected outcomes of this policy process and strongly relevant to ensure women’s empowerment and gender equality in the context of food security and nutrition. Evidence show us that violence and discrimination against women in the rural areas and in workplaces such as plantation, are impacting women’s food security and nutrition, and that domestic violence within households is the most common form of violence against women, impacting their food security and the one of their children.
- 3) Concerning the proposal on **Youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems** we welcome the improvement of the text that we now find more focused and comprehensive. Our Youth Working Group had a participated skype call last week and have identified some additional remarks that we believe are crucial for this topic. I will share them now, and we will also submit the specific text proposals to the CFS Secretariat:

- We would like to stress the fact that these recommendations should lead to actions to make the agri-food sector more attractive to young people to support and foster their capacity to generate their own decent incomes.
- We would like to see included in the potential returns of investments in young people also the progress that can be made in terms of human rights realization.
- We believe that youth engagement is fundamental together with the recognition of their leadership, agency, autonomy and diversity in FSN related policies.
- We believe that, in the introduction part of the text when it speaks about the reasons that make youth turning away from agriculture, we should emphasize the poor remuneration of agricultural and food workers, very often youth. Small-Scale farming is not in itself a problem, as it looks like in the text now. It is and can be an excellent option for young people whenever public policies are not directed against small-scale farmers but rather support them. The CFS has given important political guidance in this direction, as is recognized in the monitoring event at CFS 46.
- We would like to also include the notion of decent living within the objectives.

Please find the specific wording proposals for including these concepts in annex 1 to this document.

- 4) On **Inequalities**, we would like to express our surprise that none of the elements of our [comment on this chapter of the MYPOW First Draft, jointly submitted by Hungary, Indonesia and CSM](#) have been taken up. We believe that this is an omission that should be corrected, especially as these elements had been included in earlier drafts and were not contested during previous meetings. The key concepts were to include in the draft the notions that reducing inequality in agrifood-systems include explicitly:
- access to land, other natural resources, financing and markets;
 - references to decent employment for workers in the food and agriculture sector.
 - assessment of the impact of corporate concentration in food trade, processing and distribution as stated in the 2017 HLPE note on critical and emerging issues;
 - the importance of including SDG 10 in the proposal its full meaning, which is reducing inequalities not only within, but also among countries.

S

Moreover, we are very concerned that the previously proposed and broadly supported expected outcome of this workstream was dropped from the text: the previous versions foresaw that the CFS will elaborate, on the basis of the envisaged HLPE report, Voluntary Guidelines for Reducing Inequalities for FSN. We believe it is fundamental to restore this proposed outcome.

Finally, we've seen that there is a contradiction between the text of the rolling section (where the proposal is to start the process with an HLPE report in 2022) and the timeline table at the end of the Second draft, which puts the HLPE report back to October 2023.

We cannot agree that the CFS policy convergence process on inequalities shall be effectively postponed to the next MYPOW. This proposal was broadly supported, and it should start at the latest with an HLPE report in 2022. The data proposal did not achieve comparable support from member states and other participants as the inequality proposal. In that sense, the sequence must be: first the inequality process, and then the data proposal, if the latter is indeed adopted as a full policy convergence process.

5) Concerning data collection and analysis

- Data collection and analysis is essential for FSN, as we said in previous occasions. However, as several members said, also in their written comments, CSM is not convinced that this topic as proposed is appropriate for a policy convergence process. The revised proposal also lacks a proper explanation of what the comparative advantage and added value of the CFS would be in such an endeavor.
- In our view, the issue of quantitative and qualitative data collection and data analysis should be included as a transversal approach in all CFS workstreams. To a certain extent this is already the case, but it could be strengthened in the future.
- We believe that the topic of data collection and analysis should be the object of a stand-alone event, as the US written comment to the MYPOW first draft suggests. Such a well-informed and prepared High-Level Forum could convene experts from institutions such as the RBA, World Bank, CGIAR, countries, national research institutions, academia, community-based researchers and others to share their analysis and knowledge on data collection and analysis in the field of FSN, to seek improved synergies, identify gaps and work on strategies to overcome them. Such a High-Level Forum would also be an exploratory event to see if an own policy convergence process for the CFS is needed, appropriate and fully supported by member states and other actors.
- In the event that this proposed workstream is included in the 2020-2023 MYPOW, we propose the following addition to the final point in the description on pg. 9 of the Second Draft MYPOW, which would be in line with the comments submitted by the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Hilal Elver:
 - “Provide insights into how to ensure data collection and its utilization give voice to the people most affected by policies stemming from that data, including farmers and other food producers, and protect people’s and communities’ ownership of data concerning them and their right to determine how this data should be utilized.

Concerning the thematic workstream on Agroecology and other innovations:

- We support the section on the thematic workstream on agroecology and other innovations which is actually an extension of the current MYPOW.
- It is very important to appoint by Thursday a Rapporteur for this process, as the Bureau meeting decided in June.
- It is also essential to discuss and agree on a workplan for this process in the AG and Bureau meetings by September, in order to have an effective plenary session and a clear and shared road map on this policy convergence process for the time period October 2019 to October 2020.
- We would also like to stress once again the importance of generating and strengthening synergies with the ongoing policy process of food systems and nutrition. The draft workplan should also consider this aspect.

Monitoring event on Policy Recommendations on Water and Climate Change

- We welcome the inclusion of a stocktaking exercise on the CFS Recommendations on water and climate change.
- Moreover, we would like to call your attention to the date, as it should not overlap with other activities such as the FFA foreseen in 2020. In this sense this stocktaking exercise should not take place in 2020 but be foreseen for 2021.
- This event should also be visualized in the timeline table at the end of the second draft.

Afternoon Session

Agenda Item 2 – Updates on preparations for CFS 46

Overview CFS 46

Concerning this overview, we have several points to make under the different sections.

But we have first a comment concerning the summaries foreseen at the end of some of the sessions. We would propose to dedicate the last 20 minutes of each session to read out the draft summary and to offer a limited space for possible comments and improvements before adoption. Summaries should be brief, clear and concise. A verbatim of the sessions of the week could be useful.

A second comment is that the agenda seems to be quite full on some days, particularly Tuesday and Thursday. Is an evening session envisaged on a certain day? If this is the case, we suggest this shall be planned and announced in time, not as last year only on the same day with the consequence that no quorum was reached. If an evening session is necessary, it should be planned and announced in advance.

Plenary Session on SDGs

Our suggestion is that the dialogue of the plenary with NY should be realized with a political representative from the Bureau of ECOSOC or the General Assembly, not with UNDESA.

Regarding the Guiding Questions, we would suggest a different approach in order to respond more directly and effectively to the dramatic trend documented in the SOFI report:

1. Which are the new approaches you've used to effectively address the causes of hunger and malnutrition?
2. What can and must be done to change the direction of national and global policies to effectively achieve SDG2 and the other SDGs related to Food security and nutrition?

Experiences from CSM participants with the interactive app "Slido" are not particularly encouraging. The CFS Plenary should not seek show effects which might be visual, but in this case tend to be rather superficial. Strong substance is more important than performance. Plenary methodologies should foster in-depth, truly participative and interactive discussions.

Food Systems and Nutrition

- The proposed guiding questions for Section B are very interesting and should guide the whole session now divided in A and B.
- The section on A should allow for substantial feedback from the regional consultations that have taken place until the Plenary.
- In the panel on Section B, we miss important actors, such as small-scale food producers or other constituencies active in the CSM. We strongly request these constituencies of the CSM should be included into this panel.
- How was the composition of the panel selected? Can suggestions still be made? What is meant with retail sector: does this include small companies or cooperatives, or huge supermarket chains? We believe that the discussion should benefit from the experiences of the smaller businesses.
- Who is responsible for taking the decisions on Plenary agenda speakers and panels? We believe that the politically relevant decisions on the Plenary agenda need to be made by the Bureau after consultation with the Advisory Group. The CFS Secretariat should prepare the proposals but should not take these decisions on their own.

Urbanization and Rural Transformation

It was agreed last year that the two Chair's reports of two postponed events on urbanization and rural transformation would be shared in an informal open meeting before being presented to Plenary. When will this open meeting take place?

MSP Panel

- CSM had presented to the last AG-Bureau meeting a detailed proposal for this Plenary event. In a previous step, we had submitted possible guiding questions for the discussion to the CFS secretariat.
- We are disappointed that the outline presented in this CFS Guide reflects very little of our suggestions for this panel. We continue to see a risk that the plenary event will be partly or mostly used to promote the MSPs present in the panel. We believe that the event should rather assess critically the positive and negative impacts of MSPs on FSN.
- As a minimum, we suggest that at last the guiding questions three and four are directed to all panelists.
- One the Bureau revised and cleared the proposed event, CSM will appoint the panelist from our side. However, as already anticipated to the CFS Secretariat, we will not nominate a representative of an MSP, as the other panelist, rather an expert who can contribute a transversal analysis of MSPs to the debate.

Agroecology

- Plenary debate should, first of all, allow for a substantive and participative discussion of the report itself. The guiding questions should help to interrogate the report within a substantial discussion. These are usually the most interesting and concentrated moments of CFS meetings.

- The proposed guiding questions should therefore be transformed into key questions that interrogate the analysis and findings of the report, leading to an in-depth discussion which can inform the subsequent policy convergence process on the matter.

We propose three guiding questions:

- 1) How does your country/constituency relate to the transition pathways indicated by the Report?
 - 2) The report highlights a number of divergent perspectives. Is the analysis sufficient and useful to support the policy making process on these issues?
 - 3) How to ensure an adequate science-policy interface on these important issues?
- After the presentation, a panel composed by member states, RBAs, PSM and CSM could kick-start the discussion, followed by the plenary debate.
 - The Moderation should facilitate the lively discussion; a possible option could be to ask the Rapporteur of the process to undertake that task.
 - In any case, it would be important to include at the end of the session a short moment where the workplan after the CFS Plenary is communicated to everybody, so that the roadmap ahead is clear to all.

Decade of Family Farming

- We welcome this event, as we said in previous occasions.
- To focus the debate in a more strategic way, we suggest revising the first guiding question in the following way:
“How will the CFS, its members and participants, use the Decade more effectively promote the use and application of its policy outcomes?”
- Also, the second question seems a bit too far from our realities as peasants, farmers and other food producers. We would rather suggest asking:
“How can the UNDFP be used for public policies in support of smallholders family farmers in their efforts to advance food security and nutrition?”
- The UNDFP references a number of CFS policy products, but not the RAI principles. They could be taken off from the package and be replaced by the CFS GSF which comprises the broader range of CFS policy guidelines.

Monitoring

- We’re looking forward to this event. We believe that the foreseen time for this event should be kept. In case that this cannot be ensured, because the agenda of previous days seems to be overloaded, it is better to already arrange for and announce an evening session for Wednesday evening.

Youth Special Session

We welcome the proposed format. As youth we would like to make two remarks:

- The first is that is very important that CFS takes this first opportunity not only to look at how CFS can better incorporate and address youth perspectives and concerns and integrating youth as a cross-cutting area in the near future and long term.

- The special event aims to have a youth-led interactive dialogue with a high participation of governments and other key actors.
- In this sense that last question in part 3 should rather ask “what actions and steps can be taken by governments and other actors to ensure that youth are involved and engaged on FSN policy making in their national context?”

See specific wording proposals in Annex 2.

Agenda Item 3: Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition follow-up meeting (Draft Concept Note and Agenda)

- We would like to highlight the need to keep the function and focus of the event on what had been agreed by the Plenary:
 - Its function is to discuss a topic that was not properly addressed in the negotiations
 - Its thematic focus is the relation between commercial plantations and FSN.
- We believe that two technical introductions are quite ambitious for such a short event. One should be enough, or a limited time could be given to each of them.
- We have been advocating the realization of this event for a long time. We don't think that the participation of CSM constituencies should be reduced to a person who presents a case study. Our expectation and suggestion is that two panelists could participate for the CSM (one from impacted forest communities and indigenous peoples and one of those experts who works close with them on this topic).
- The Bureau agreed in May to invite the UN SR Right to Food as a panelist of the event, following the proposal of Indonesia. We believe that it would be important that she is invited to this event.
- We need to flag already here, that due to our current tight financial situation, the CSM calls on the support of members states and participants to ensure our own participation and interpretation to this event.

Agenda Item 4: Workstreams Updates

No comments.

Any other business

- 1) **Food systems Summit:** we have received the information that the UN Secretary General, in collaboration with the RBAs and the World economic Forum is planning to hold a Food systems Summit in 2021, possibly during the UN General assembly in September 2021 in New York. We would like to know how the CFS has been involved in this process, or how the CFS will involve itself into it.
- 2) **CSM Funding Situation:** due to a recent information we received from IFAD that informed us that an envisaged significant grant foreseen for the CSM won't be approved due to changes in the general grant policy of IFAD (which according to our information does affect a number of traditional recipients, among them the CSM), we are facing severe funding constraints for 2019 and 2020.
One of the immediate consequences is that the CSM is possibly not even in a position to guarantee the participation of the Coordination Committee members to the October

activities or of the CSM to the Advisory Group in November 2019. We usually do not alarm the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group on our never stable financial situation. But in this case, we do. And we call upon you to consider supporting the participation of our constituencies, including smallholder family farmers, indigenous peoples, youth, women, consumers etc, to the activities of the CFS in 2019 and 2020.

As requested by the CFS Chair during the Joint meeting, the CSM will provide the detailed information to the CFS Secretariat.

- 3) We would like to know more about the **background document prepared for the Bureau meeting of 25th of July related to the Renewal of the Advisory Group** which includes a proposal for decision of the CFS Plenary of the CFS Rules and Procedures.

Our comments on this:

- We have some questions on the idea to change the status of the RBA to members ex-officio and extra quota? What is the reason behind? Is it just to free spaces in the CFS Advisory Group? What are the expected implications? We already know that the financial contributions from IFAD and WFP to the CFS are not secured on a contractual basis. Will this change with the new status? Has the new FAO Director General be consulted about this change and its possible implications?
- If the change of status was approved by the Bureau now, and by the plenary afterwards, how would the process of selection of new Advisory Group members be guided? We would like to recall in this context that the CFS Plenary 2018 approved the response of the CFS evaluation which requested the CFS Bureau to establish guidance for those organizations interested to become members of the Advisory Group. To our knowledge, this guidance has not been established until now, and we are also surprised to not see any reference to this Plenary agreement included into the background document for the Bureau meeting on Thursday. By when does the Bureau plan to have this guidance established?
- As we have stated in previous occasions: the CSM farmers' constituency is the biggest constituency in the CSM. The CSM participating organizations of family farmers and other small-scale producers have more than 330 million members in all continents. A separate mechanism established in parallel to the CSM would split the farmers' and peasant organizations that have been working very well and effectively together in other Forums, such as the UN Decade of family farming or the IFAD Farmers' Forum. In a recent exchange of letters with WFO, the CSM smallholders and family farmers constituency has expressed again our cordial invitation to join the CSM, underlining that both PSM and CSM are open to all farmers' and food producers' participation.
- If we see the list of possibly interested organizations outlined in the background paper of Thursday, there are at least two of them we have never heard about during the past two years: the OECD and the international social protection secretariats. What is the status of these requests, are they formalized and what is their motivation and reasoning? What would be the criteria under which some of them would be accepted, and others not? Again, we believe it is time to implement the Plenary request to the CFS to establish guidance for organizations interested in joining the CFS Advisory Group.

Annex 1: Specific wording proposals on the Youth section of MYPOW Second Draft:

2.1.4. Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems

Rationale:

Young people are one of the keys to achieving sustainable development, in particular in developing countries, where the vast majority of them reside, often in rural areas.

There is a large untapped reservoir of employment opportunities in the agri-food sector. Yet, poor access to land, natural resources, infrastructure, finance, technology, knowledge, and poor remuneration for agricultural and food workers ~~often associated with small-scale farming~~ turn youth away from agriculture and for remaining rural areas. As a result, many feel that their best only option is to migrate, either to urban areas or overseas. Actions are needed to make the agri-food sector more attractive to young people ~~for both to support and foster their capacity to generate their own decent income for their~~ sustainable livelihoods.

The potential returns of investing in young people are boundless in terms of food security, poverty reduction, employment generation, human rights realization, as well as peace and political stability.

As the average age of farmers worldwide approaches 60, it is essential to develop systems, public policies, and programmes that engage more youth in agriculture and agricultural professions. Youth engagement and leadership is linked intrinsically to countless aspects of the achievement of food security and good nutrition for all. Among these aspects, interlinkages with gender equality and women's rights, the rural-urban continuum and innovative practices and technologies, including new uses of data and knowledge-sharing platforms, are particularly relevant. The workstream will foster the recognition of youth agency, autonomy and diversity in FSN related policies.

Objectives and expected outcomes:

The objectives of the workstream are twofold:

- (i) to initiate a discussion among all CFS stakeholders, including youth themselves, around fostering the participation of youth in FSN-related decision-making;
- (ii) to create a set of policy recommendations on engaging, recruiting, and retaining youth in agriculture and food systems as a key means of achieving CFS vision, SDG2, and an array of other SDGs, with a secondary focus on SDGs 5, 8, 9,10. The CFS policy recommendations on youth are envisioned as a focused, action-oriented document that will encourage public policies to foster enabling environments capable of tapping in the energy and skills of youth to improve food systems.

The workstream will benefit from the findings and recommendations of an HLPE report on the topic. The report will:

- review the constraining factors to youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems, including youth access to: 1) knowledge, information and education; 2) productive land, natural resources and inputs; 3) productive tools, extension, advisory and financial services; 4) training, education and mentorship programmes; 5) innovation and new technologies; 6) markets; 7) policy-making processes;
- examine aspects related to employment, salaries and working conditions with a view to achieve a decent living and food security and nutrition;

- explore the potential of territorial approaches as an analytic and operational framework for understanding and addressing the complexity of structural economic, cultural, social and spatial transformations currently taking place globally;
- explore the potential of food systems and enhanced rural-urban linkages to provide more and better jobs for women and youth.

Annex 2: Specific wording proposals on the Youth Special Event at CFS 46:

CFS 46 Special Event: Friday 18 October 10.00 - 13.00, Red Roo The Special Event will be organized by youth delegates at CFS. The objective is for CFS stakeholders to:

- Engage in a structural dialogue with the youth delegates present for CFS 46;
- Discuss youth views on the CFS Session, its Side Events, the 2020-2023 MYPoW, and how this it will help achieve SDG2;
- Look at how CFS can better incorporate and address youth perspectives and concerns and integrating youth as a cross-cutting area in the near future and long term.

The Special event aims to have a youth-led interactive dialogue with a high participation of governments and other key actors.

The session will be divided into three parts:

Part 1: Highlights of CFS 46 Session, the Side Events and SDG2

Youth delegates will give their feedback on the CFS session and the Side Events, highlighting those items that they think will most effectively accelerate progress on SDG 2.

Part 2: Youth and the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work 2020-2023

Youth delegates will kick off this item by discussing the MYPoW, especially the proposed “youth”-themed workstream, “Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems”. They will highlight expectations and demands. They will also put forward ideas on how a youth lens can be mainstreamed across the other proposed workstreams.

Part 3: Youth and CFS policy work

The session will explore the question – “How can youth support the uptake of existing and future CFS policy recommendations and guidelines?” What actions and steps can be taken by governments and other actorsto ensure that youth are involved and engaged on FSN policy making in their national context? ~~key food security and nutrition stakeholders are taking actions to utilize/apply these CFS recommendations and guidelines systematically and effectively?~~

The youth delegates will prepare a summary of the event which will be posted on the CFS 46 Session page.