

Key Messages to CFS 46

October 2019

1) On the overall CFS 46 theme of SDGs:

We envisage that the discussion on SDGs, informed by the SOFI report and the discussions at the UN Summit on SDGs, will be frank and honest. We are going in the wrong direction to achieve SDG2, and the possibility of attaining zero hunger is becoming more and more unlikely. **Acceleration is not enough - we need to change direction.** The CFS has developed and adopted policy orientations that can and should guide this shift towards more people and community-centered public policies for sustainable food systems, focused on supporting small-scale food producers and the realization of the right to food for all. The CFS does not only need to reaffirm its commitment to its Vision but also propose concrete steps to strengthen policy coherence, convergence and accountability to the CFS goals and policy recommendations. Members should reaffirm its commitment towards the CFS as the legitimate global policy platform to lead realization of SDG2 in the framework of the Agenda 2030.

With relation to the **Food Systems Summit in 2021**, we believe that the CFS must play a central role in the preparation and realization of this summit, playing its role as intergovernmental and international political platform in the global architecture on food security and nutrition governance. The CFS Vision must be at the core of this Summit, as well as the participation of all relevant actors, giving particular attention to the groups most affected by hunger and malnutrition. The upcoming CFS Voluntary Guidelines on food systems and nutrition must become a cornerstone for the Summit and shall be promoted through a strong commitment for implementation.

The CFS Plenary Session on the International Day of Rural Women central to promote **women's rights, women's empowerment and gender equality as a transversal priority for the CFS**. It should reaffirm to mainstream this perspective in all processes in the CFS, and well as breaking the ground for the upcoming CFS process towards Voluntary Guidelines on gender equality and women's empowerment for food security and nutrition.

The CFS plenary session on the UN Decade of Family Farming and the Monitoring Session of the CFS Policy Recommendations on Smallholders shall **recall the priority attention of the CFS to the needs, rights and potentials of small-scale food producers in their diversity**, including through the implementation of the UN Declaration of the Rights of Peasants and other People living in the Rural Areas.

2) **On MYPOW:** The CFS 46 will adopt an ambitious and effective MYPOW that has the potential to significantly contribute to the needed change of direction:

a. We welcome the policy convergence process following the HLPE Report on **agroecology and other innovations** that shall lead to the adoption of policy recommendations at CFS 47. We have seen deeply worrying attitudes of few but influential members aiming at obstructing or conditioning this process. The CFS process on this topic must be kept open, inclusive, participative, transparent and fair, which also means that the search for consensus on substantial and broadly agreed policy agreements cannot be stopped by attempts to apply destructive veto-like measures. All members shall be treated with the same attention and respect, and we expect that the voices of those who have practiced agroecology for decades will be heard during the process.

b. We also welcome the proposal on **Youth engagement and employment** in agriculture and food systems, although several critical elements will need more substantial attention during the process itself:

- recognizing youth leadership, agency, autonomy and diversity;
 - ensuring decent work, decent lives and decent incomes for and by youth;
 - investing in youth including from the viewpoint of their capacity to be agents to the progressive realization of human rights;
 - identifying the required public policy environment to ensure that small-scale farming can remain a positive option for young people, in line with CFS policy guidance.
- c. We underline the importance of the proposal on **Gender Equality and women's empowerment**. CFS needs to make sure that the Voluntary Guidelines will be developed in an inclusive and participatory process and ensure a comprehensive policy outcome with a strong and transversal dimension on women's rights. Member states and participants should be firm and clear in defending the human rights and women's rights perspective in this context.
- d. The proposed workstream on **"Reducing inequalities for food insecurity and nutrition"** is fundamental for the realization of the right to food, and an urgency at the global level. We strongly believe that the HLPE report for 2022 should be on this subject on inequalities and food security and nutrition. We also support the proposal on data collection and data analysis which in our view is a transversal challenge to all CFS workstreams. The CFS could request the HLPE to produce two HLPE reports in 2022, one on inequalities and one on data.

3) Food Systems and Nutrition

A key policy convergence process within the CFS is the current process towards elaborating Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition. This process presents a unique opportunity for member States and other CFS participants to engage in a holistic and frank discussion of the various challenges that exist across food systems and the linkages with nutrition and other key dimensions of food security and nutrition in the context of the progressive realization of the right to food. The CSM hopes that the Guidelines, once adopted in October 2020, will provide a clear pathway for systemic transformation of food systems to make them truly healthy, sustainable and just. We particularly expect that the following aspects will play an essential role in the further process:

- support the human rights framing of the Guidelines in full recognition of the interrelatedness and indivisibility of human rights;
- ensure the Guidelines are people-centered, and put the interests of those affected first;
- emphasize the crucial role women play in food systems and nutrition, while recognizing that violations of women's rights are a key driver of malnutrition and must be urgently addressed;
- recognize the need for, and engage in, an honest discussion on the dysfunctionalities of food systems as the starting point for transition towards truly healthy, sustainable and just food systems;
- elaborate on the interlinkages between agroecology, sustainable food systems and nutrition;
- support a systemic approach that cuts across the multiple domains of food systems and the need for policy coherence with other policy spaces and processes that affect food systems and nutrition.