

Food Systems and Nutrition

Draft One of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN) was circulated on Friday 20 December and posted on the [CFS Working Space](#). Language versions of the document were made available in the first half of January in advance of the OEWG meeting scheduled on 29 January 2020 (Red Room, FAO). The OEWG meeting will be an opportunity to share views and feedback on the structure and content of the document with a view to informing the preparation of its next version. The meeting will be live-streamed (link is available on the CFS Working Space).

CFS stakeholders can provide written feedback on Draft One, and make specific suggestions on how to improve it, by Wednesday 5 February. Inputs should be sent to cfs@fao.org

The revised version of the VGFSyN, incorporating inputs and feedback provided by CFS stakeholders, will be circulated in March 2020 (language versions by mid-April) in view of the first round of negotiations taking place between 11 and 15 May 2020. The full workplan agreed by the CFS Bureau in consultation with the Advisory Group on 29 November 2019, is available at this [link](#).

Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches

At CFS 46, a preliminary discussion on “Agroecological and other innovative approaches” kicked off the policy convergence process that is expected to conclude in October 2020 with endorsement of policy recommendations.

Following CFS 46, an open call for written inputs was launched by the Rapporteur, Ambassador Mohammad Hossein Emadi (Iran), seeking feedback from CFS stakeholders on proposed issues and topics to be addressed in the policy recommendations.

An Open Meeting will be held on 27 January 2020 at FAO Headquarters in Rome where all CFS stakeholders are invited to participate and provide additional inputs into the preparation of a Zero Draft of the policy recommendations.

Interpretation in all UN languages will be available during the open meeting and the event will also be webcast at the following link <http://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/>

HLPE

20th meeting of the HLPE Steering Committee

The first meeting since the renewal of the HLPE Steering Committee after CFS 46 was held 26 to 28 November at FAO HQ in Rome. The new Steering Committee also met with the Bureau and Advisory Group on the afternoon of 26 November. The Committee selected Martin Cole from Australia as Chairperson and Bernard Lehmann from Switzerland as Vice-Chairperson. The Steering Committee developed an outline of Report #15 – see below.

Report #15: “Food Security and Nutrition: Building a Global Narrative towards 2030”

A Zero Draft will be released for an E-consultation in January 2020 and will remain open for comments until 22 February 2020. A final report should be publicly released in June 2020.

Report #16: “Promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems”

An [E-consultation](#) on the scope of this report opened on 5 December 2019 and will remain open until 19 January 2020. A [call for experts](#) for an *ad hoc* Project Team to prepare this report was open from 9 December 2019 until 13 January 2020.

Outreach

FAO Council

The CFS Chair presented the CFS 46 Final Report to FAO Council on 4 December 2019. The Council endorsed the report including the four year MYPoW highlighting the importance of its effective implementation. Council also encouraged the consideration of CFS involvement in the planning of a World Food Systems Summit.

CFS Outreach in Geneva

From 9-11 December, a member of the Secretariat conducted an awareness-raising mission to Geneva as part of outreach activities and held meetings with FAO/WFP (jointly), WHO, WTO, OHCHR, IASC Secretariat, UNHCR, SUN Movement, OCHA, FIAN and IFRC. The recently endorsed 4 year MYPoW was highlighted, as was the call for inputs related to the use and application of the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA). The Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSysN) were also discussed. The Secretariat will explore the possibility of the CFS Chair providing an Executive Briefing on CFS work to Geneva-based Ambassadors in 2020, and at ways to raise awareness of the VGFSysN at the WHO Health Assembly in May. Also CFS may consider participation in the “Humanitarian Networks and Partners Week” early February to make links to the FFA.

Upcoming Activities

Global Forum for Food and Agriculture 2020, Berlin

The Chair and the Secretary will be participating in the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture 2020 (GFFA 2020) in Berlin from 16-18 January.

FAO Regional Conferences

The Chair and Secretariat staff will be participating in FAO Regional Conferences:

- Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC) 17-20 February
Opening Statement by Chair. CFS Side Event. Thimphu, Bhutan
- Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC) 2-4 March
Opening Statement by Chair. CFS Side Event. Muscat, Oman
- Regional Conference for Africa (ARC) 23-27 March
Opening Statement by Chair. CFS Side Event. Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
- Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC) 27-29 April
Pending. Managua, Nicaragua
- Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) 5-7 May
Opening Statement by Chair. CFS Side Event. Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Other news

Lancet Series on the Double Burden of Malnutrition

WHO would like to inform Bureau and Advisory Group Members about the Lancet Series on the Double Burden of Malnutrition, which was launched on Monday 16 December 2019. This Series explores how all forms of malnutrition are affecting low-income and middle-income countries. With 6 years remaining in the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, this Series outlines the future direction required to achieve the global goal of eradicating hunger and preventing malnutrition in all its forms and related SDG targets. The series is available to download for free (with free registration to The Lancet.com) at: <https://www.thelancet.com/series/double-burden-malnutrition>