

CSM Contributions to the Advisory Group and Bureau meeting of 26 November 2019

Proposals for items under AOB:

- Request for an update on the preparations of the Food Systems Summit 2021 and the involvement of the CFS in this process;
- Request for an update on the discussion on the composition of the CFS Advisory Group;

Agenda Item 1 – Feedback on CFS 46

The evaluation of CFS 46 among several CSM constituencies and Working Groups has generated a series of reflections and suggestions we would like to share with you today:

- The CSM Youth Constituency and Youth Working Group have assessed very positively the fact that Youth was placed prominently on the agenda of the Plenary. The Youth Special Event, we jointly organized with the PSM was seen as particularly positive, also due to the fact that Youth was given an independent and leading role in organizing and conducting the Session. People in CSM have expressed that the CFS could be inspired by fresh way they organized the event. In any case, this successful event should lead to a continued and strong involvement and participation of Youth also in future Plenary Sessions.
- We were extremely appreciative of the explicit support of many countries in their statements on the Right to Food and the keynote address of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. This will help in the continued building of the call for more effective protection and promotion of human rights in the context of food security and nutrition policies.
- We welcome that the International Day of Rural Women has become an important and integral part of the CFS agenda with the 15 October falling into the Plenary week. We also appreciated the participation of the Deputy High Commissioner on Human Rights and would have liked more time to hear all the plenary statements. Going forward, we believe it will be important to continue this engagement of rural women and hearing their voices in the plenary. We would like to suggest hearing from the women of many constituencies involved in small scale food production such as indigenous peoples, pastoralists, fisherfolks, peasants, workers or other food producing constituencies.
- The Monitoring session on CFS Policies on Smallholders Recommendations was assessed very positively as previous CFS monitoring sessions, as it showed the usefulness and the potential of CFS polices to make a difference for people on the ground. All parties agreed that the CFS recommendations concerning smallholders are highly pertinent and merit enhanced use. It is important that they be integrated into the on-going and forthcoming CFS work streams, since smallholders are key actors in all of them. It was a pity that the session was reduced to a two-hour session which should be avoided in the future.
- The Side Events have been assessed within the CSM as generally very informative, useful and inspiring. This is also true for those which combined very different visions, such as the one jointly organized by PSM and CSM on food systems and nutrition, as they also allowed that these different visions could be explained and dialogue with each other. There are some questions on how side events are selected, and which criteria are used for the selection. It would be good to clarify this better in the run-up to the next Plenary.
- A problematic point was the rather empty and descriptive Final Report from the Plenary which does not reflect the richness of the presentations and debates. The lack of clarity about the way how the summaries of the sessions should be developed took away valuable Plenary time which even affected participation, such as in the Segment on the UN Decade on Nutrition. We suggest that the Bureau, with the advice of the Advisory Group, should develop a methodology for drafting of the next Plenary report.

- Another weakness was that not all Plenary Session and the compositions of Panels had been properly discussed and consulted with the Advisory Group, followed by a Bureau decision. One of these problematic cases was the panel on Food Systems and Nutrition which then appeared to be almost detached from the ongoing CFS policy process. In this regard, it was worrying for us to read in the Minutes of the Bureau meeting from September that the composition of panels of the CFS Plenary should be under the responsibility of the CFS Secretariat. This should be corrected. The Chair and the Bureau should make sure that all politically relevant parts of the CFS Plenary Session, including the outlines and the composition of the panels, are duly consulted with the Advisory Group and decided by the CFS Bureau, with active support from the CFS Secretariat.
- An important practice in the CFS since its reform has been that Friends of the Chair meetings had always been open to members and participants of the CFS. This good practice was discontinued during this Plenary in two occasions. Inclusiveness is an important principle and asset of the CFS, and we strongly hope that future Friends of the Chair meetings will be as open to all interested parties as they had been in the past.
- Last, but not least: we appreciate that the Atrium was set up during the CFS 46 as a marketplace with fruits and vegetables and propose for the next year to make it even more diversified with fish and animal products and with active presence of the food producers. We would be happy to support the market realization for next year, which also could be linked to the upcoming policy recommendations on agroecology and other innovations.

Agenda Item 2 – CFS Work Plan 2019-2020

On the Advisory Group Work plan:

- AG meetings should be full day meetings, as several members travel to Rome for this purpose. They should allow for real exchange and dialogue between the AG and the Bureau. If full day meetings are planned, less AG meetings could be envisaged for 2020.
- The agenda of the AG meetings should regularly contain also issues of substantive debate. Examples for such substantive discussions during CFS Bureau and AG meetings could be to dedicate a session on the future workstream on Youth, with particular participation of Youth, or to discuss about the involvement of the CFS in the preparations of the Food Systems Summit, or to reflect on the uptake of the learnings from the Urbanization and Rural transformation workstream in the future CFS workstreams.

On the workplan for the Food Systems and Nutrition:

- The first OEWG meeting end of January needs more time than only half a day, given the fact that it will be the only opportunity to discuss the First draft of the new Voluntary Guidelines.
- A realistic planning of the negotiations is important, based on experiences with negotiations of Voluntary Guidelines in previous years.
- We do believe that there is a need for an additional OEWG Group meeting by the end of March to lay the ground for successful negotiations in May. This meeting should discuss the Second Draft.
- We acknowledge and appreciate that the CFS Calendar foresees two weeks of negotiations (one in May and one in July) for finalizing the VGs. This is very necessary, based on previous CFS negotiations of CFS Voluntary Guidelines. The second week of negotiations should also be included into the general description of the workstream.
- In general, we underline the need to ensure the linkages and synergies between the process on Food Systems and Nutrition and the one on Agroecology and other innovations, so that they can dialogue with each other.

On the workplan for the process on agroecology and other innovations:

- Again, realistic planning is key: in our view, the first Open meeting on 27 January should already discuss the Zero Draft. This should be feasible taking into consideration that the deadline for comments is by end of this week, 29 November.

- We also believe that an additional Open meeting after the release of the first draft will be needed, in order to prepare for the negotiations in May. The experience of previous negotiations on policy recommendations clearly indicates that adequate time needs to be allocated for a good, inclusive and successful process, to also be able to reach consensus on contentious issues.

Specific remark on the Monitoring process towards the Global Thematic Event on the use and applications of the CFS Framework for Action on Protracted Crises:

- The CFS Framework for Action on Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises is a very important CFS contribution to address one of the main drivers of food insecurity, as the SOFI Report 2017 stated.
- The Monitoring process of the Use and application of this Framework for Action, which will lead up to the Global Thematic Event at the next CFS Plenary, is of high importance to all the regions and communities that suffer from the effects of protracted crises.
- We would like to underline the importance of this monitoring process and would like to suggest that this process also counts with a specific workplan and gets strong attention of members and participants, especially in the coming months and the first semester of 2020.

Agenda Item 3 – CFS Budget Update and Resource Mobilization Strategy (RMS)

- We appreciate the information and updates on the CFS budget update. We think it is an important exercise of transparency and planning, to inform about the status of the resources that are available to implement the CFS workplan.
- In this regard, we would call for a more detailed and easy-to-read budget information, with regards to available resources and what has been spent so far.
- Two specific questions in this regard: do the amounts foreseen for 2020 for the workstreams on Food systems and Nutrition and agroecology and other innovations cover the interpretation and translation costs for the scheduled negotiations?
- We also propose that the CFS Budget should allow for comparing funding and expenditures with previous years and also include a detailed projection of funding and expenditures for the full MYPOW 2020- 2023.
- We would also like to see budget information for the HLPE, as it was done in previous years, as well as on the other components of the reformed CFS.
- In the case of CSM, we are happy to share our detailed budget planning and expenditures, if the Bureau and Advisory Group consider this a useful information for the future planning and resource mobilization strategy.

Agenda Item 4 – Any Other Business

Composition of the AG:

- We would like to request an update regarding the Bureau’s discussions on guidance for the appointment of the next Advisory Group.
- In this context, CSM members - and possibly other Advisory Group participants - would be happy to suggest criteria and elements for the Bureau’s consideration, based on our longstanding experience in the AG.

Preparations of the Food Systems Summit and CFS involvement:

We would like to request updated information about the preparations of the Food Systems Summit and particularly the involvement of the CFS in it.

We believe that the CFS should play a central and active role in the preparation and realization of this Summit. The Right to Food should play a central role, as it did in previous Food Summits in 1996, 2002 and 2009. An inclusive governance scheme, as practiced in CFS, should be applied, giving special attention to those most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition. It is also important, as the CFS will finalize the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition in October 2020 which could serve as an essential input to the Food Systems Summit and be promoted by this Summit.

We also want to make a specific suggestion for involving the CFS as the foremost inclusive global platform in the Food Summit preparations: we propose to dedicate a Plenary Session of CFS 47 to an open, inclusive and substantial debate on the Food Systems Summit 2021.

In addition, as information will become available progressively in the upcoming months, for instance on the objectives, timeline, scope and venue of the Summit, it would be useful to include this item in the agendas of the Joint Meetings of the Advisory Group and Bureau, offering a space of discussion and reflection on the possible role of CFS within the Summit.