

CFS Bureau meetings

Date: 28 and 31 January 2020

Venue: German Room, FAO

Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting Outcomes - With Bureau Decisions

Agenda

1. Preparations for CFS 47
 - a. Proposed CFS 47 Agenda, Timetable, and Theme
 - b. CFS 47 Final Report Preparation
 - c. CFS 47 Side Events: Criteria, Guidance and Conditions
2. Resource Mobilisation Strategy
3. Monitoring: Update on Framework for Action
4. Workstream Updates
5. Update from the Chair of the Informal Bureau Working Group on Advisory Group Composition
6. CFS Advisory Group Reporting Exercise – Proposed format
7. Any Other Business (AOB)

Adoption of Provisional Agenda

CFS Chairperson opened the 28 January Bureau and Advisory Group meeting and proposed the following items to be included for discussion/information under AOB:

- a) Information on a BMGF open event to take place on 10 February;
- b) Update on the 2021 Food Systems Summit;
- c) Review of agenda for March Bureau meetings; and,
- d) Update on the Desert Locust crisis.

With these additions, the provisional agenda for the 28 January meeting was adopted.

1. Preparations for CFS 47

Sub-item a. Proposed CFS 47 Agenda, Timetable, and Theme

CFS Chair presented a proposed CFS47 Agenda and Timetable, noting it had been developed using feedback from the Bureau and Advisory Group, various surveys carried out by the Secretariat, and lessons learned from the CFS 46 Plenary Session.

Attendees of the joint meeting welcomed the suggested theme of “Transforming food systems to end all forms of malnutrition.” The Secretariat responded to questions on the purpose of having a theme, and if it should serve as the basis for delegation statements in plenary. Delegates sought clarifications on whether delegation statements on Day One of CFS 47 needed to focus only on the SOFI report, as it will already have been launched in July at the HLPF in New York.

A discussion ensued on the timing of adoption of policy recommendations on ‘Agroecological and other Innovative Approaches’ and voluntary guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, with explanations on the logic of their proposed timing and spacing during CFS plenary week. Some proposed to make links between those two plenary sessions and the Decade of Action on Nutrition and other UN Decades such as the UN Decade on Family Farming and the UN Decade of Action on SDGs.

Attendees debated the pros and cons of holding a Special Event on “Celebrating the International Day of Rural Women” during the Thursday lunch-break, in lieu of a shorter session during the plenary. The Secretariat explained that the Special Event, held in either the Red or Green Room, with no other side

events competing for attention, would provide a longer event, an opportunity for the Rome agencies to jointly prepare the event, the presence of media, and a higher general visibility “profile.” Similar discussions sought to clarify agenda item Vb (“MYPoW Discussion on Gender, Youth, Data Systems, and Inequalities”), and the content of discussion vs. decision. The Secretariat clarified that the decision would be linked to the annual “rolling section” of the MYPOW, to allow the plenary to review the work-plans and anticipated budgets for work anticipated for the coming year. Decisions would be expected on the first major work-stream contained in the MYPOW agenda – Gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition – including agreement on the naming of a OEWG Chairperson and an anticipated work-plan. A discussion on framing the remaining MYPOW topics would be more general in nature, with a background paper to pose questions and prompt debate. Regarding agenda item VII “CFS and its contribution to the Food Systems Summit in 2021”, some attendees queried whether a background paper could be prepared by the CFS Secretariat, that would address the CFS engagement in Summit preparations. The CFS Chair noted he had sent a letter to the Special Envoy, Ms Agnes Kalibata, and plans to meet her, with the Chairperson of the HLPE Steering Committee, in Rome in early February. His letter to the Special Envoy was posted to the CFS homepage. Discussion also ensued on the HLPE Report (#15, to be released in June) - “Food Security and Nutrition: Building a Global Narrative Towards 2030.” Attendees proposed that this paper could be addressed at the opening session on Monday, as well as serve as a background document for item VII. The Secretariat was asked to ensure the report is available in all FAO languages in advance of CFS 47. To questions raised about the format/roll-out of plenary sessions, the Secretary noted that such details would be further elaborated in future Bureau meetings with due consideration of feedback following CFS 46.

Sub-item b. CFS 47 Final Report Preparation

The proposal presented by the CFS Secretariat was positively received. Attendees requested some revisions to the background document before the next Bureau meeting, to show the process of preparing draft decisions and conclusions. For example, attendees requested that the paper clarify that draft decisions and conclusions will be finalized by the Bureau, after consultation with the Advisory Group; and, Plenary will maintain its prerogative to discuss, amend as needed, and approve those decisions and conclusions – along with the normal review process conducted by the Drafting Committee.

Sub-item c. CFS 47 Side Events: Criteria, Guidance and Conditions

The Secretariat presented the criteria, guidance and conditions for CFS 47 side events, pointing out that they had been developed over many years, were carefully considered, and formed a solid base for rolling out side events during sessions. Building on lessons learned, two new clauses were proposed -- the first to encourage organisers to merge applications if proposed side events have similar themes; the second, to make sure official CFS side events follow the formal process and are not confused or mistaken with other meetings held during the week on FAO premises.

Special consideration was requested for proposed side events that involve “vulnerable” groups, and those that involve developing countries in their organization. It was requested that enough time be allocated to allow possible mergers to be negotiated. And, that side events strive to have “solid outcomes” some of which might be reported back to Plenary. The Secretary welcomed ideas from participants on potential participants and/or organizations that might play a role in CFS 47 plenary sessions. Likewise, thematic ideas and sponsors were welcome for an anticipated CFS substantive networking event on the first evening of plenary, after side events conclude.

Bureau decisions

Sub-item a. Proposed CFS 47 Agenda, Timetable, and Theme

The Bureau approved the CFS 47 Draft Agenda and Timetable, as proposed, requesting additional details from the Secretariat at a later date on the anticipated roll out of each plenary session. The Bureau also

requested that the order of the agenda items regarding the MYPoW be reversed, so the anticipated decision on the 2020 workplan follows the more general framing discussion. The Secretariat was asked to include the forthcoming HLPE Global Narrative Report (#15, scheduled for mid-June release) as a background document for the High-Level event scheduled for October 15. Members were unable to decide on a specific theme for CFS 47, with some disagreeing on use of the word “transforming,” in the context of food systems. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to present options for a decision at its next meeting, including the option of no theme or, possibly, the same theme as the 2020 SOFI report. Members agreed that country statements under Item II should continue to focus on the SOFI report, while highlighting national good practices and experiences in the field of food security and nutrition. The Secretariat was requested to make all necessary efforts ahead of CFS 47 to ensure that delegations clearly understand what topics/issues they should address under each agenda item, including Item II (delegation statements). The Bureau also acknowledged that the procedures used at CFS 46, regarding delegation-speaking times, would form the basis for CFS 47 planning. The Bureau noted it was premature to determine how CFS might potentially play a role in planning for any Food Systems Summit in 2021, given the UN Secretary General had only recently appointed the UN Special Envoy for the Summit. Nevertheless, the Bureau recognized that CFS is unique in terms of inter-governmental bodies addressing food security, and that CFS should provide its agreed products to the Special Envoy’s team, as contributions to the Summit’s planning. The CFS Chair closed the discussion by emphasizing the value of collaborative CFS 47 plenary planning, including shared ownership of decisions and a substantive final report.

Sub-item b. CFS 47 Final Report Preparation

The Bureau requested the CFS Secretariat to prepare a revised version of the background document, to be further discussed at the next joint meeting and to be approved at the Bureau meeting of 19 March. The CFS Chair reminded interested Bureau Members that they can submit written inputs to inform the next version of the proposal by Friday 14 February.

Sub-item c. CFS 47 Side Events: Criteria, Guidance and Conditions

The Bureau approved the proposed document – “Criteria, Guidance and Conditions for CFS 47 Side Events.”

2. Resource Mobilization Strategy

The CFS Chair introduced a slightly modified CFS Resource Mobilization Strategy document, edited to reflect requests from Bureau members during their November 2019 meeting, including a reference to FAO’s rules and procedures related to safeguards, as well as an inclusion of non-state institutions among potential donors.

The Secretariat took note of comments made related to quantifying any funding gaps, and on financial reporting and updates from the Secretariat.

Bureau decision

The Bureau endorsed the CFS Resource Mobilization Strategy, adding that the strategy should be considered a “living document” to allow future discussion and sharpening by the Secretariat, reflecting the status of CFS funding throughout the biennium, and in regular consultation with the Bureau. An update on the budget and financial plans will be briefed to the Bureau at its next meeting.

3. Monitoring: Update on Framework for Action

A background document (BurAG/2020/01/28/03) giving an update on the process and timeline for preparations of the Global Thematic Event (GTE) on the Framework For Action for Food Security and

Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA) was introduced by the CFS Secretariat, as requested by the Bureau and Advisory Group at its meeting of 29 November 2019. The Secretariat reminded that the deadline for responses to the two calls for inputs (one on events held, and the other on the use of CFS-FFA) was 31 March 2020. The Secretariat highlighted the importance of help from the Technical Task Team (CSM, PSM, FAO and WFP) and Member States to disseminate these calls for responses. The CFS Secretariat informed the Bureau and Advisory Group that no submissions had been received so far. FAO and WFP reaffirmed their commitment to responding to the two calls as a contribution to informing the preparation of the GTE for CFS 47. A follow-up on the CFS-FFA calls will be made by WFP in several Country Offices such as Somalia, Zimbabwe, Niger, Central African Republic, Iraq, Yemen, Syria, Burkina Faso, Afghanistan, Mali, and Nigeria. The CFS Secretariat also informed that in December it undertook a mission to Geneva, where many agencies with a humanitarian-development focus are based, and met with 11 agencies/organizations in order to raise awareness of the CFS MYPoW 2020-2023, including the preparation of the next GTE in October 2020. Through discussions with Geneva-based stakeholders, the relevance of the 11 CFS-FFA principles in today's context was broadly re-affirmed.

4. Workstream Updates

CFS Chair updated the Bureau and Advisory Group members on his most recent activities - in particular his participation in the Global Forum on Food and Agriculture (GFFA) in Berlin with the CFS Secretary. CFS Chair described his bilateral meetings with Ministers and Vice-Ministers from prospective CFS Member States, and succeeded in having CFS and its key products mentioned in the Ministerial communiqué.

CFS Chair informed of his meeting with the German Ambassador and their discussion about the development of a toolkit for supporting the uptake and the implementation of the VGs on Food Systems and Nutrition at country level, after their endorsement.

The first draft of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition has been released and stakeholders were encouraged to submit their written comments by COB 5th February, after which time, no more comments will be accepted.

The HLPE coordinator informed that the V-0 draft of the HLPE synthesis report "Food Security and Nutrition: Building a Global Narrative towards 2030" was published; deadline for comments is 23 February 2020.

Bureau requested that an additional open meeting be organized to discuss the V-0 draft of the policy recommendations on Agroecological and other innovative approaches before the V1 draft is released. CFS Secretariat will seek a suitable date in the calendar for such a meeting, in consultation with the process Rapporteur.

5. Update from the Chair of the Informal Bureau Working Group on Advisory Group Composition (Bureau only)

CFS Vice-Chair, and Chair of the Informal Bureau Working Group, provided an update on the status of discussions on renewal of the CFS Advisory Group (which currently consists only of the three Rome-based UN agencies). He informed that the Informal Bureau Working Group met in early November and again in mid-January. In its second meeting, all applications were assessed and potential modalities for a way forward were explored. As consensus was not reached on a draft decision memo for Bureau decision, one last meeting of the Working Group is foreseen.

Bureau agreed that an options paper with recommendations should be presented for discussion and decision at the next Bureau meeting in March.

Bureau also agreed that the most recent members of the Advisory Group would be invited on an 'ad hoc' basis for the March joint meeting, as would representatives of organizations who have expressed interest in filling one of the three open seats – under the Chairperson's authority, per CFS procedures – to permit the opportunity for Bureau members to discuss how their potential inclusion would strengthen the work of the Committee.

6. CFS Advisory Group Reporting Exercise – Proposed format (Bureau only)

The Bureau approved the scope and content of the draft (2019) Advisory Group reporting exercise, along with the plan to share the reporting exercise format with 2019 Advisory Group members with a deadline for their reports of Monday 23 March 2020.

7. Any Other Business (AOB)

Mr Alexandre Latchininsky, FAO Agricultural Office, provided an update on the desert locusts situation, which is extremely alarming and represents a major threat to food security and livelihoods in the Horn of Africa. (For further information, please refer to the attachment).

CFS Secretary informed that a CFS-related event is organized by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in occasion of the visit to Italy by Mr Rodger Voorhies, President of the foundation's Global Growth & Opportunity Division, on 10 February. The meeting will be held in FAO's Sheikh Zayed Center, from 2:00 - 3:15 PM, with the title "Bridging the Data Divide: Reaching Zero Hunger Requires Better Agricultural Statistics". CFS Secretariat will circulate an invite on behalf of the Gates Foundation, and CFS stakeholders are invited to attend given the relevance of the topic to the CFS Programme of Work items on data systems and inequalities.

CFS Chair invited suggestions for any additional topics to be discussed in the March Bureau meetings. Inputs must be sent to the Secretariat as soon as possible for due consideration.

At the Bureau meeting, the Dominican Republic delegate shared two documents: 1. Courtesy translation of a letter to the FAO DG and the WFP ED on a special briefing on food security to be held by the UN Security Council during April 2020; and, 2. A letter to the leaders of the RBAs on the declaration of the Dominican National Year for the Consolidation of Food Security. Both letters are available as attachments to this document.

Annex 1: List of attendees of the Bureau and Advisory Group meeting

CFS Bureau members:

Mr Thanawat Tiensin (CFS Chair / Thailand); Mr Abdul Razak Ayazi (Afghanistan); Mr Felipe Carlos Antunes (Brazil); Ms Julia Vicioso, Ms Diana Infante, Ms Liudmila Kuzmicheva, Ms Maria Laureano (Dominican Republic); Ms Delphine Babin-Pellier (France); Mr Don Syme (New Zealand); Mr Ilya Andreev (Russia); Ms Kelli Ketover, Ms Silvia Giovanazzi (USA).

CFS Bureau alternates:

Mr Mohammad Hossein Emadi (Iran); Mr Rafael Osorio (Spain); Mr Tim Kränzlein (Switzerland); Ms Mi Nguyen (Canada).

Advisory Group:

Mr Máximo Torero, Mr Mark McGuire (FAO); Ms Jordana Blankman, Mr Shantanu Mathur, Mr Sundeep Vaid (IFAD); Ms Stephanie Hochstetter, Mr Jacopo Valentini (WFP); Ms Marzella Wüstefeld (WHO); Ms Stineke Oenema (UNSCN); Mr R.D. Cooke (CGIAR); Mr Fabrizio Moscatelli (Gates Foundation); Mr Martin Wolpold-Bosien, Ms Nettie Wiebe, Ms Ramona Dominicioiu, Ms Azra Sayeed (CSM); Mr Brian Baldwin, Ms Robynne Anderson (PSM).

Observers:

Ms Silke Stallkamp (Germany); Mr Damien Kelly, Ms Isabel Paliotta (EU Delegation); Ms Alberta Guerra, Ms Teresa Maisano (CSM); Ms Federica Veschi, Ms. Ratchanok Sangpenchan, Ms. Supajit Sriariyawat (Thailand).

CFS Secretariat:

Mr Chris Hegadorn (Secretary), Mr Evariste Nicoletis (HLPE Coordinator), Ms Françoise Trine, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Ms Sarah Longford, Ms Cordelia Salter, Ms Giorgia Paratore, Mr Seunghyeon Seo, Ms Paola Termine.

Annex 2: List of attendees of the Bureau meeting

CFS Bureau members:

Mr Thanawat Tiensin (CFS Chair / Thailand); Mr Abdul Razak Ayazi (Afghanistan); Mr Felipe Carlos Antunes (Brazil); Mr Mario Arvelo, Ms Diana Infante, Ms Liudmila Kuzmicheva, Ms Patricia Rodríguez (Dominican Republic); Ms Delphine Babin-Pelliard, Ms Laureline Bobin (France); Mr Gustaf Daud Sirait (Indonesia); Mr Don Syme (New Zealand); Mr Ilya Andreev (Russia); Ms Kelli Ketover, Ms Silvia Giovanazzi (USA).

CFS Bureau alternates:

Mr Mohammad Hossein Emadi (Iran); Ms Hyojoo Kang (Republic of Korea); Mr Rafael Osorio (Spain); Mr Tim Kränzlein (Switzerland).

Observers:

Mr Damien Kelly, Ms Isabel Paliotta (EU Delegation); Ms Silke Stallkamp (Germany); Ms. Ratchanok Sangpenchan, Ms. Supajit Sriariyawat (Thailand).

CFS Secretariat:

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