

**\*\* This note covers only updates since the cancelled X March Bureau meetings \*\***

### Food Systems and Nutrition

A revised version of the draft VGFSyN was circulated on 16 March (language versions by mid-April) in view of future negotiations. The document incorporates suggestions provided during the OEWG meeting held on 29 January and written inputs submitted by CFS stakeholders (66 contributions). An OEWG meeting will take place on 14 April (14.00-15.30), to share initial views on the revised draft of the VGFSyN.

All background documents, including the Chair's Summary of the last OEWG meeting and the workplan, as well as relevant information regarding this workstream, are available on the CFS Working Space:

<http://www.fao.org/cfs/workingspace/workstreams/nutrition-workstream/en/>

Additional information regarding the next steps of the process, including negotiations, will be provided shortly, after discussions between the Bureau and its Advisory Group. This will include a decision on replacing the OEWG Chair, Dr. Liliane Ortega, who will be stepping down from this role for personal reasons following the meeting of April 14. The Bureau is set to approve her replacement at their meeting of April 17, solicitation of nominations for which was communicated by the Secretariat to Bureau members on 25 March.

### Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches

At an open meeting held on 27 January 2020, CFS stakeholders provided inputs to inform the development of the Zero Draft of policy recommendations. Additional written comments were received up to the deadline of 3 February 2020.

The Zero Draft CFS policy recommendations on "*Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable food systems that enhance food security and nutrition*" was shared with CFS stakeholders and posted on the CFS working space on 19 February 2020. Language versions were made available the first week of March 2020.

CFS stakeholders were invited to submit written inputs on the Zero Draft to [cfs@fao.org](mailto:cfs@fao.org), focusing on the substance of the document and concrete proposals for its improvement by 18 March 2020.

Following a request from the CFS Bureau to organize an additional open meeting to discuss the Zero Draft before the First Draft is released, the CFS Secretariat, in consultation with the Rapporteur, is seeking how best to accommodate this request in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, FAO closure, and decisions on virtual meetings and negotiations.

## Gender equality and women's empowerment

CARE USA is developing a Scoping Paper to inform discussions on this workstream, to help identify the most significant issues to advance gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) in the context of food security and nutrition in the absence of a separate HLPE report on this topic. The RBAs gender focal points will review the Scoping Paper for content and consistency with their programmatic work in this area.

## Monitoring: Update on Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises

A Technical Task Team meeting was held in March to review a draft outline of the summary report and a session outline for the GTE.

Given the prevailing circumstances of the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, and the insufficient number of responses received to calls for input, the CFS has extended the deadline to submit contributions to the two calls on the "CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises" (FFA) by one month **until 30 April 2020**. These inputs are required to gather information on FFA-relevant events, and how the Framework is being utilized by CFS members and partners.

While some submissions have been received through the SurveyMonkey on the use of the CFS-FFA, only two submissions have been received on events organized to discuss this CFS product. The CFS Secretariat encourages you to submit your contributions to the calls and to remind your capitals and constituencies of this monitoring exercise. Without member state inputs, especially from those countries considered to be in protracted crises, or those countries that are actively providing humanitarian and development assistance to countries in protracted crises, the monitoring exercise cannot be considered complete. Bureau and Advisory Group inputs are crucial to contribute to the realization of a successful Global Thematic Event (GTE) monitoring session during CFS 47 in October 2020.

## HLPE

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

V1 sent to peer-reviewers.

Launch still scheduled for 17 June 2020, with event likely held by virtual means.

### HLPE Virtual Steering Committee meeting 27-30 April 2020

The meeting was initially to be hosted by the Republic of Slovakia in Nitra, but has been converted to a virtual meeting due to Covid-19.

## Outreach

CFS Chair called for a special meeting of CFS stakeholders to discuss the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on global food security and nutrition. The meeting was informed by an Interim Issue Paper prepared by the HLPE, and updates from the RBAs, the WHO, and the Special Envoy for the Food System Summit. Following the meeting, the CFS Chair issued a statement calling on all stakeholders to act in coordination to prevent the health crisis to turn into a food crisis. The meeting was the first CFS virtual meeting.

CFS Chair released an Op-Ed, jointly with UN Secretary General Special Envoy, Agnes Kalibata, and HLPE Chair, Martin Cole, highlighting the role of CFS and the threat of Covid-19 to global food security and nutrition.

On this same topic, the CFS Chair was interviewed by Bloomberg Businessweek.

## Upcoming Activities

### FAO Regional Conferences

The Chair and Secretariat staff have been asked to actively participate in FAO's Regional Conferences (when they are rescheduled):

- Regional Conference for Africa (ARC)  
*Opening Statement by Chair. CFS Side Event.* TBD
- Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC)  
*Pending.* TBD
- Regional Conference for Europe (ERC)  
*Opening Statement by Chair. CFS Side Event.* TBD
- Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC) TBD  
*Opening Statement by Chair. CFS Side Event.*
- Regional Conference for Near East (ERC) TBD  
*Opening Statement by Chair. CFS Side Event.*
- Chair traveled to Thailand with FAO Director-General 17-18 February  
Bangkok, Thailand
- Chair's and Secretary's travel to the Global Forum for  
Innovations in Agriculture, UAE TBD

## Other news

The Secretariat has been asked to provide comments on a draft G20 Framework to enhance implementation and reporting on responsible investment in agriculture and food systems. The Framework, promoted by the Saudi Arabian G20 Presidency for 2020, references the CFS-RAI, CFS VGGTs, and the FAO-OECD Guidelines on Sustainable Value Chains. This discussion offers an important opportunity to promote two of CFS's most practical and important policy products for which significant action is required to meet the relevant SDG goals and indicators by 2030.