

**CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meeting
And Bureau meeting
Date: 02 and 05 June 2020 (14:00 - 17:00)
Venue: virtual meeting (via ZOOM)**

Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting Outcomes - With Bureau decision

Agenda

1. CFS47 Contingency Plan (with Bureau decision)
2. Potential roles for CFS in response to COVID-19 (with Bureau discussion)
3. CFS negotiations in 2020 - Options paper (with Bureau decision)
4. CFS workstream on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment – *Bureau only*
5. CFS Advisory Group composition – *Bureau only*
6. Workstreams updates
7. Any other business

1. CFS47 Contingency Plan

CFS Chairperson, Mr Thanawat Tiensin, opened the meeting briefly presenting the three option scenarios outlined in the background document for this discussion. He also highlighted that whatever decision is taken by the Bureau at Friday's meeting, FAO management - since FAO hosts the CFS annual plenary session – will have the final decision after looking at the overall calendar of the RBAs.

The three scenarios were discussed, with the majority of interventions favoring Option Three, i.e., CFS will organize public virtual meetings during World Food Week, 13 to 15 October 2020; with the official CFS 47 Plenary Session postponed to late-February or early March, 2021. Virtual CFS meetings held during World Food Week would be for information items, while CFS 47 plenary would adopt two ongoing workstream products and take other decisions.

The CFS Secretariat shared a notional timetable for virtual meetings in October to kick-start the discussion. This notional timetable includes three main sessions – one 3-hour plenary session per day (Tuesday to Thursday), and a limited number of side events held immediately before or after these main sessions. These side-events would ensure broad participation, visibility, and a wider array of topics to be discussed.

Several participants of the joint meeting suggested that any virtual meetings in October not duplicate the agenda of the CFS47 Plenary Session; and that the "outcomes" of virtual discussions in October be captured in a Chair's Summary. They also added that the postponement of CFS47 to the first quarter of 2021 should not result in any further delays to the implementation of the MYPoW 2020-2023 or interference with CFS 48 later in 2021.

Bureau decision:

The majority of CFS Bureau members agreed that Option Three was the most realistic option under present circumstances, pending news from and decisions by the FAO Director-General. The Bureau agreed that any information/discussion items tackled during the virtual meetings in October should be captured in a Chair's Summary, and reviewed for comment by the Bureau. Last, the Bureau requested

avoiding any duplication of content between any virtual meetings held in October and CFS47 Plenary held in early 2021, and requested that these meetings be organized inclusively.

One Bureau member expressed a preference for holding the CFS47 plenary session 12-16 October, albeit virtually (Option Two), in order to discuss the food security and nutrition situation in the world, and the impacts of the pandemic on global food security and food systems. Such a session would be shorter than usual, but still allow formal decisions to be made, with an official report of the session to be approved by the full membership. Given the lack of full information from FAO management on the use of its facilities, and uncertainties related to scheduling RBA governing body and other large meetings, a final decision will be postponed until the 24 June Bureau meeting, at which the CFS Secretariat will provide an oral briefing to share any new information relevant to this issue.

2. Potential roles for CFS in response to COVID-19

During the joint meeting, several participants expressed interest in having CFS continue using its convening power as a global platform for discussions on food security and nutrition (FSN) issues, in accordance with CFS Strategic Objective One. The objective would be to ensure FSN remains a top priority in response to the current pandemic (i.e. interacting with CFS partners/advisors, sharing available information from various CFS stakeholders on the pandemic's impacts on FSN; and debating policy measures taken to address the situation). This role would require holding open meetings to discuss the situation, such as at the CFS meetings held in March, April, and May. The results of these open meetings could be used as a basis for the preparation of a background document for any virtual meetings in October, and/or a CFS47 plenary session, along with input from the HLPE.

Limited interest was also expressed during the joint meeting for the other two areas of CFS's mandate as related to the COVID-19 pandemic: (i) some sort of stocktaking exercise to be held in plenary, consistent with Strategic Objective Three (uptake); and (ii) a reflection on how to ensure that COVID-19 is adequately addressed in the 2020-2023 MYPoW policy convergence processes, consistent with Strategic Objective Two (policy convergence).

Some participants stressed the importance of having a separate workstream on COVID-19, while others considered it premature, as there is currently limited evidence of the impacts of the pandemic on FSN. Last, it was confirmed that the HLPE Global Narrative Report, which will be launched on 25 June, will include a section on COVID-19, with relevant policy recommendations. Members also recalled that the HLPE had committed to updating its Interim Issue Paper on COVID-19 and food security later this year.

Bureau discussion:

The Bureau agreed on the role proposed under Strategic Objective One (platform). While many thought that this could be combined with Strategic Objective Three (uptake), several Bureau members thought it premature for CFS to act under Strategic Objective Two (policy convergence).

Some Bureau members expressed the possibility of addressing some COVID-19 related issues in on-going policy convergence processes, although others expressed their view that there is not enough evidence available at the moment to do so.

Some Bureau members pointed out that the three Strategic Objectives are equally important and thus the three roles might be combined.

The Bureau requested clarification on how COVID-19 will be addressed at proposed virtual CFS meetings to be held in October - with divergences as to whether, or not, there would be a "decision" on a role for CFS in COVID-19. The Secretariat also confirmed that the Interim Issue paper issued by the HLPE would be updated before World Food Week.

The Bureau was informed that an informal open working group will be formed, with the participation of Bureau and Advisory Group members, to develop an options paper on this topic to be drafted and shared by 17 June for discussion and decision at the 23 and 24 June Bureau meetings.

3. CFS negotiations in 2020 - Options paper

Bureau and Advisory Group expressed the importance of maintaining momentum, recognizing that the feasibility of the options presented in the background document depends on factors that are out of CFS control.

The importance of ensuring in-person negotiations was reiterated by several members, while the proposed option of in-person participation with a limited number of participants was considered the best option under current circumstances. In such instance, several argued that the number of in-person participants would need to be sufficiently large to allow at least one participant per delegation, for such a quota system to work.

In light of the extraordinary situation, and considering the importance of finalizing the two policy products by the end of the year, some Advisory Group members suggested that negotiations start as soon as possible by fully virtual means, and transition toward in-person meetings when permissible.

Bureau decision:

CFS Bureau members expressed their preference for a revised and more inclusive version of Option B, which foresees a revised quota proposal to allow participation of one participant per delegation.

The CFS Secretariat was requested to check with FAO the feasibility of holding physical meetings in July in FAO or WFP Headquarters with a larger number of people than the original proposal, and to present an updated proposal to the Bureau and Advisory Group meeting on 23 June, with the Bureau expected to take a decision on this matter on 24 June.

Some Bureau members reiterated the need to reconsider the possibility to start with virtual negotiations, in case physical meetings are not allowed for a long time, bearing in mind the importance of finalizing the two policy instruments by the end of 2020. However, some Bureau members opposed virtual negotiations, which they believe would not ensure inclusivity. Concerning the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, it was clarified that the current version is the one that will be negotiated and that no amendments will be made prior to the start of negotiations. The Working Group Chair will introduce some additional text on COVID-19 when the negotiations commence.

4. CFS workstream on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment – *Bureau only*

This discussion was deferred to the next meeting of the CFS Bureau, 23/24 June, due to lack of time.

5. CFS Advisory Group composition – *Bureau only*

CFS Bureau members discussed some of the recommendations included in the background document. Some Bureau members expressed support for recommendation 5.1 concerning the representation of farmers in the CFS Advisory Group, suggesting seeking the agreement of the CFS Plenary to create a new farmers mechanism through an amendment to paragraph 11 of the CFS Reform document, while others indicated their preference for 5.3, which invites WFO to fully enter the PSM or CSM as a member.

With the Bureau unable to find consensus on the issue, the CFS Chair suggested, and the Bureau agreed, that for the foreseeable future, at least until CFS 47, the CFS Chair will revert to a fully ad-hoc and inclusive Advisory Group, with only 3 permanent members (the RBAs) and all other participants being invited by the Chair, after consulting with the Bureau. In this regard, some

Bureau members sought clarification on the modalities by which the Chair may invite participation in Bureau meetings by relevant groups or organizations.

6. Workstreams updates

CFS Secretariat provided an update on the communication strategy and the main activities, which will be implemented in the upcoming period to raise the visibility of CFS. He noted that the overall drive will be to position CFS as the foremost inclusive intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder platform within the United Nations system dedicated to food security and nutrition for all; strengthen CFS's image and increase awareness about CFS and its work. Key priorities in this effort include:

- Upgrading the CFS website into a functional and user-friendly online resource that showcases all of CFS's work and products.
- Regular production, posting and distribution of fresh and impactful content on the website and social media platforms to drive engagement and grow CFS digital footprint.
- Revamping the CFS newsletter as the main quarterly channel for sharing strategic updates on the Committee's work with targeted audiences.
- Strategic stakeholders' engagement through bespoke events for thought leadership and to enhance audience growth.
- Media engagement to increase coverage of CFS's work in top tier media around the world
- Supporting Chair's outreach and engagement activities through talking points, messaging and media engagement.
- Deploying all available measurement tools including Google Analytics to assess CFS communications impact.

In conclusion, the Secretariat presented the updated CFS corporate brochure that will be used in outreach, resource mobilization, and engagement efforts. Afterword, the brochure was shared with the Bureau for review and feedback.

7. Any other business

CFS Chair informed of the following changes in the calendar of CFS meetings:

June:

23 June 14:00 – 17:00 Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting

24 June 09:30 – 12:30 Bureau Meeting

July:

29 July 14:00 – 17:00 Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting

30 July 09:30 – 12:30 Bureau Meeting

Annex 1: Attendance list Bureau and Advisory Group meeting

CFS Bureau Members:

Mr Thanawat Tiensin (CFS Chair / Thailand); Mr Felipe Carlos Antunes (Brazil); Mr Mario Arvello, Ms Liudmila Kuzmicheva, Ms Diana Infante (Dominican Republic); Ms Delphine Babin-Pellier, Mr Jean Guedon (France); Ms Agnes Rosari (Indonesia); Don Syme (New Zealand); Mr Sean Cox, Mr Paul Welcher (United States).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Mr Nazareno Montani (Argentina); Ms Mi Nguyen (Canada); Ms Amarilli Villegas, Mr Fernando Ceciliano (Costa Rica); Mr Mohammad Hossein Emadi (Iran); Mr Baye Mayoro Diop (Senegal); Mr Rafael Osorio (Spain).

Advisory Group:

Mr Mark McGuire, Ms Serena Pepino (FAO); Ms Stephanie Hochstetter, Mr Jacopo Valentini (WFP); Mr Michael Fakhri (UN Right to Food); Ms Stineke Oenema, Alessandra Mora (UNSCN); Mr Fabrizio Moscatelli (Gates Foundation); Ms Musa Sowe, Ms Nettie Wiebe, Mr Saul Vincente, Mr Andre Luzzi (CSM); Mr Brian Baldwin (PSM); Ms Marzella Wustefeld (WHO).

Observers:

Mr Martin Wolpold-Bosien, Ms Teresa Maisano, Mr Luca Bianchi, Thierry Kesteloot, Ms Cristina Brovia, Ms Nora McKeon, Mr Nemo Amaral (CSM); Silke Stralkamp (Germany); Ms Federica Veschi, Ms Supajit Sriariyawat (Thailand);

CFS Secretariat:

Mr Chris Hegadorn (Secretary), Mr Evariste Nicoletis (HLPE Coordinator), Ms Françoise Trine, Ms Giorgia Paratore, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Ms Paola Termine, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Mr Waiganjo Njoroge, Ms Sylvia Orebi.

Annex 2: Attendance list Bureau meeting

CFS Bureau Members:

Mr Thanawat Tiensin (CFS Chair / Thailand); Mr Felipe Carlos Antunes (Brazil); Mr Mario Arvelo, Ms Liudmila Kuzmicheva (Dominican Republic); Ms Delphine Babin-Pelliard, Mr Jean Guedon (France); Mr Bommakanti Rajender (India); Ms Nona Gae Luna, Ms Agnes Rosari (Indonesia); Don Syme (New Zealand); Ilya Andreev (Russian Federation); Mr Sean Cox, Mr Paul Welcher (United States).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Ms Mi Nguyen (Canada); Ms Amarilli Villegas, Mr Fernando Ceciliano (Costa Rica); Mr Mohammad Hossein Emadi (Iran); Mr Baye Mayoro Diop (Senegal); Ms Hyojoo (Republic of Korea); Mr Rafael Osorio (Spain); Tim Kränzlein (Switzerland).

Observers:

Mr Damien Kelly (EU Delegation); Silke Stralkamp (Germany); Ms Federica Veschi (Thailand).

CFS Secretariat:

Mr Chris Hegadorn (Secretary), Ms Françoise Trine, Ms Giorgia Paratore, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Mr Waiganjo Njoroge, Ms Sylvia Orebi, Ms Tatiana Moruz, Mr Evariste Nicoletis (HLPE Coordinator), Ms Paola Termine.