

## Workstreams and Activities Updates

**\*\*\*These updates cover the period from 23 June to 15 July 2020 \*\*\***

### Food Systems and Nutrition

At its meeting of 24 June 2020, the CFS Bureau decided to further postpone commencement of the negotiations on the draft CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems for Nutrition (VGFSyN) scheduled for 21-24 July 2020.

The CFS Bureau tasked the CFS Chair and Secretariat to work in close consultation with the senior management of the three RBAs and workstream chairperson to identify potential negotiation dates ensuring clarity on procedural matters to maximize transparency and inclusiveness of the process.

Further to this guidance, the CFS Chair and the CFS Secretariat, in consultation with the OEWG Chair, and the FAO Conference, Council and Protocol Affairs Division, have identified the week of 21-25 September for the first round of negotiations for the VGFSyN. Additional information on format, modalities and working procedures for the negotiations will be discussed by the Bureau at its meetings of 29/30 July.

In view of this, an updated version of a “Matrix” document with members’ text proposals has been shared with OEWG members. This represents an informal tool to help CFS stakeholders understand the different positions in relation to the various paragraphs of the VGFSyN and to facilitate negotiations.

All information and background documents regarding this workstream are available in the dedicated section of the CFS Working Space:

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

### Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches

As agreed during the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meeting held on 17 April 2020, five informal group discussions on the CFS policy recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches were held during May and June 2020. The discussions aimed at addressing the outstanding issues emerging from stakeholders’ comments on the Zero Draft and informing the development of Draft One.

The resultant Draft One of the CFS policy recommendations was shared with CFS stakeholders on 14 July 2020, and are expected to be available in all six FAO languages by the end of July 2020. The draft includes:

- A revised preamble which further articulates the context and issues that the policy recommendations will address, including linkages with the COVID-19 pandemic;
- The integration of additional relevant sections of the HLPE Report #14;
- A new annex containing definitions;
- A streamlined “Next Steps” section, which is now integrated into the main body of the document.

The process Rapporteur will host an Open Meeting on 23 July 2020 to present and discuss Draft One of the policy recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches. This marks a new starting point in the journey toward consensus building, with negotiations on the texts anticipated to commence later this year. CFS stakeholders are encouraged to participate in the Open Meeting and are welcome to share written comments on the draft by 15 September 2020.

### **Chairperson’s Outreach Activities**

- The CFS Chair was invited to serve as the third speaker in the high-level launch of the 2020 SOFI report that took place 13 July on the margins of HLPF in New York. This was the first time a CFS Chair was invited by the FAO Director General as a prominent speaker at the formal SOFI report launch. His remarks have been posted to the CFS website.
- As part of the CFS Resource Mobilization Strategy, the CFS Chair has held a number of bilateral discussions with key partners about the CFS programme of work with a focus on the Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment workstream. This outreach is part of the CFS Resource Mobilization Strategy, and has so far included conversations with senior officials of Spain, the United Arab Emirates, Finland, and Canada. Other calls are planned for July and August.
- On 17 July, the CFS Chair met (virtually) with IFAD President Hounbo to discuss that agency’s commitment to the substantive work of the Committee, and to strengthen efforts to align efforts to demonstrate impact at country level.
- CFS Chair spoke in various public events, highlighting the work of CFS on food systems transformation.
  - He participated in the launch of the 2020 Global Nutrition Report, a webinar on forests, indigenous peoples and COVID-19, and a virtual dialogue on the occasion of a new Ceres2030 report that estimates the cost of averting a COVID-19 hunger crisis.
  - On 3 June 2020, the CFS Chair addressed the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) providing an update on CFS’s work on food security and nutrition especially in the context of COVID-19
  - On 25 June 2020, the CFS Chair moderated the launch event of the CFS High-Level Panel of Experts latest report on *Food security and nutrition: building a global narrative towards 2030*.