

## **Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting 18 September 2020: Workstreams and Activities Updates**

\*\*\*These updates cover the period since the 29 July 2020 Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting\*\*\*

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### **Food Systems and Nutrition**

The first round of negotiations on the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems for Nutrition (VGFSyN) takes place from 7 to 11 September virtually via Zoom. Open-ended Working Group members are expected to review the draft text of the VGFSyN, including text on COVID-19/pandemics.

### **Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches**

The First Draft of the CFS policy recommendations on “Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches” is now available in all six of FAO’s official languages at <http://www.fao.org/cfs/workingspace/workstreams/agapp/en/>

During the Open Meeting held on 23 July 2020, CFS stakeholders were encouraged to share written feedback on the First Draft by 15 September 2020.

The Rapporteur and Secretariat are in the process of identifying a suitable date for a possible additional Open Meeting to discuss the First Draft, as well as potential time slots to commence negotiations during the fall.

### **Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

The Technical Task Team on Gender are expected to meet virtually in the fourth week of September to discuss draft Terms of Reference (TORs) for the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (VGs) that were drafted by the Secretariat. This draft version of the TORs will then be discussed at the first Open-Ended Working Group on Gender, which is tentatively planned for the second half of October (pending confirmation from the host-agency).

The CFS Chair, with support from the Secretariat, has embarked upon a resource mobilization drive for the Gender workstream that will cover the costs of preparation and negotiations of the VGs. Should any CFS stakeholder be interested in contributing resources toward this important effort, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Secretariat soonest.

### Chairperson's Outreach Activities

- The CFS Chair participated in the high-level opening of FAO's 35<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference for the Asia and Pacific region (APRC). Addressing the Ministerial segment of the Conference, he called upon members and other stakeholders to take urgent actions to transform their food systems to deliver healthy foods, for healthy diets, for a healthy planet. He encouraged them to make use of CFS's various policy products.
- CFS also organized a virtual event at APRC to highlight CFS's work on food systems and nutrition and urged CFS members and other stakeholders to commit to implementing the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, once adopted at CFS 47.
- The Chair participated in various public events, highlighting the work of CFS on food systems transformation. He joined a ministerial roundtable at the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF), the premier forum for African agriculture. He also spoke at an AGRF side-event organized by the Rockefeller Foundation to highlight the CFS VGFSyN and policy reforms recommended to transform food systems.
- On Resource Mobilization, the Chair has been reaching out to key partners to brief them on implementation of CFS's programme of work, and to seek support for the work-stream on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment that began with the naming of OEWG co-Chair's (Burkina Faso and Finland).
- On 13 August, the Chair participated in a meeting organized by the Alianza Latinoamericana de Asociaciones de la Industria De Alimentos y Bebidas (ALAIAB) and briefed its members on the role of the private sector in achieving CFS's mandate. He also discussed with them existing opportunities to engage with CFS in the effort to achieve food security and better nutrition for all.

### CFS Newsletter

In an effort to increase awareness and visibility of CFS and its work, the CFS Secretariat launched a quarterly newsletter – *CFS Quarterly*, highlighting the Committee's top priorities and achievements.

The first edition of the newsletter was released in August 2020 and distributed to about 8,000 CFS stakeholders. It was also published and disseminated on CFS's Twitter account.

This first edition of the *CFS Quarterly* is available here: <https://mailchi.mp/fao/quarterly-newsletter?e=035269ad1c>