

CSM Update

September and October 2020



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CSM Updates

Updates on CFS and CSM activities in October

Updates on the CFS High-Level Virtual Events of 13-15 October 2020

Due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the CFS Bureau decided to postpone the 47th CFS Plenary Session to 8-12 of February 2021. Nevertheless, it was agreed to make use of the dates originally booked for the plenary session to hold instead a three-days CFS high-level virtual events from 13 to 15 of October.

These three days do not foresee any policy decision-making moment, but will foster the policy dialogue among CFS members and participants across key policy issues that have been on the agenda of the Committee of this year. Such issues include the findings of the latest HLPE Report “Food Security and nutrition: building a global narrative towards 2030”, which also contains relevant policy recommendations towards a possible CFS policy response to Covid and call for a radical transformation of current food systems, the findings of the SOFI Report 2020, as well as a debate on the current CFS policy negotiations of the Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition and Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and other innovative approaches, and their link and contribution to the upcoming UN Food Systems Summit.



On 15 of October, the CFS is also expected to honor, as it has done in past years, the UN International Day of Rural Women in its opening session by having the voice of a rural woman addressing the virtual event. **Please find the agenda of the three days here**. As you can see ministerial presence is confirmed in the panel discussions throughout the three days, as well as CSM, PSM and other interventions.

As a result of these three days the CFS Chair will draft, in consultation with the CFS Bureau members, a Summary of the events. It is still not clear if this summary will also be included as part of the background documents that will inform CFS policy decisions in February.

Moreover, a limited number of side events will be also taking place virtually during these three days, prior and after the main events. Find the timetable here. The CSM side event titled “Covid-19 impacts: a transgenerational and women’s viewpoint on food systems transformation” will be taking place on October 15, from 4.30 to 6.00 pm Rome time. **Please register here before October 8th to attend**.

CSM has been advocating in the framework of the Advisory Group and Bureau meetings to ensure that inclusivity, transparency and participatory methodologies would be the main guiding principles leading the debates and events, in line with CFS reform spirit. Please find here CSM latest contribution on this topic delivered during the CFS Advisory Group and Bureau meeting of 18 September.

Registrations to the CFS High-Level events of 13-15 October are closing on October 8th. In order to register please click here.

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CSM Autonomous event for its 10th years anniversary on 12 October 2020

This year CSM will celebrate and commemorate its 10th Anniversary. 10 years of struggles, peoples' voices, faces and hands bringing to Rome their homes, ecosystems and demands. Ten years of alternative and grassroots collective narratives and practices as well as wonderful achievements that have empowered



people's struggle for the right to food around the planet. Today the struggle continues and gets even harder and sometimes more polarized. CSM has grown and has self-equipped itself to face the current challenges with an incredible wealth of knowledge and heritage of capacities and legitimacy. To honor and commemorate this journey the CSM has decided to launch an

autonomous virtual public event prior to the official opening of the CFS virtual events of October to honor these ten years and linking them to the challenges of the present and future, invoking the spirit of the CFS reform: "Nothing about us, Without us!".

The event will take place virtually on **Monday 12 of October 2020 from 2.00 to 5.00 pm Rome time**. This date also coincides with the Indigenous Resistance day and will be a platform to launch our key policy messages to CFS. [Register here to join!](#)

CSM Global Synthesis Report on Covid-19

CSM is finalizing its autonomous Global Synthesis Report on Covid-19. This report will be launched on 12 October 2020 during a CSM autonomous event and will be posted on CSM website that date. The Report is the result of an incredible amount of work carried out by numerous CSM participating organizations facilitated by the Global Food Governance Working Group in liaison with the CSM Women and Youth Working Groups. The Report is based on the evidence and testimonies of the different CSM constituencies and sub-regions. It will offer an overview of the impacts of COVID-19, including government measures; the community, solidarity and social movements responses to these impacts and the emerging public policy proposals and processes for building more equitable, radically transformed and resilient food systems and contribute to the realization of the right to food for all.

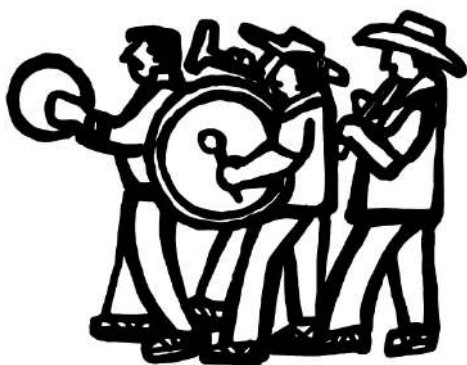
Meanwhile the CSM Women's Working Group has been working on its autonomous report analyzing from a gender and feminist perspectives the impacts of Covid-19. The report has been drafted by Jessica Duncan and Priscilla Claeys after numerous researches, analysis and interviews conducted during the months of June and July. The findings and key messages of this report are also being included in the Global Synthesis Report mentioned above.



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Finally, the CSM Youth Working Group has also been working on a Declaration on Covid-19 and its impacts on young generations and will be made available for the virtual events in October 2020.

CSM Communication tips for October events!



October's virtual events bring excellent opportunities to let the voice of civil society organisations and indigenous peoples heard. A Communications Working Group has been created to help multiply the reach of their key messages and demands, in an effort to further influence political outcomes of the CFS as well as national and regional policy formulation processes.

As part of CSM communication strategy, the working group invites CSM participating organizations to share their perspectives, experiences, personal or collective stories and testimonies through videos. These will be published on the CSM Twitter account <https://twitter.com/CSM4CFS> between 12 and 16 October.

Follow the Twitter account and hashtags **#CSM4CFS** **#CSM10years** to stay up-to-date. Are you interested in sending your own video? Please contact marion.girard.cisneros@csm4cfs.org for the technical and content guidelines.

Furthermore, a press conference will be live-streamed on 12 October from 1pm to 1:40pm Rome time, prior to the 10th CSM anniversary virtual event. The press conference will serve to publicly launch the Global Synthesis Report on Covid-19 as well as the closely related Youth working group declaration and Women's working group report. The conference will also provide an opportunity to present the contents of the call to action on the Food Systems Summit and answer questions from journalists and the general audience.

New HLPE issues paper on the impacts of Covid-19 on food security security and nutrition and effective policy responses

The HLPE published upon request of the CFS Chair an issues paper on Covid-19 impacts on food security and nutrition in March 2020. On September a new and updated version was published, [available here](#). This paper will be available in all six FAO languages before the [high-level special event of the CFS](#), from 13 to 15 October 2020, and will be used to set the stage for the discussion on COVID-19 at the session on 14 October.



Updates on CFS processes

Updates on the latest AG and Bureau meeting of 18 September 2020



On 18 September the CFS Advisory Group and Bureau meeting met to address the final preparations of the CFS High-Level virtual Events of October and to assess the first week of virtual policy negotiations of the Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition. [Please find here CSM Contributions on both agenda items](#). Please find here [CFS Bureau Outcomes](#).

CSM Updates

Updates on the CFS Policy negotiations of the Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition

From 7 to 11 of September, the first round of CFS virtual policy negotiations of the Guidelines on food systems and nutrition took place, including negotiations on the new text on Covid-19. CSM was able to participate with the possibility of a non-limited number of CSM spokespersons to bring in its proposals. Please find here CSM's main points and expectations towards this process.



During the CFS Advisory Group and Bureau meeting of 18 September, an evaluation session of this first week of negotiation took place and CSM reminded CFS members that diversity and plurality of voices are central for the legitimacy and ambition of this process, sharing the expectation that this approach would be maintained in the next steps of the process.

Due to the multiple challenges of this virtual modality and a lack of clarity on the methodology of the negotiation exercise during this first week, a first reading of the text was possible, consisting in a comprehensive annotation of the different text changes' proposals, without having the possibility to negotiate those text proposals, seeking convergence among the different and sometimes very polarized positions.

The CFS has foreseen only a second week of negotiation to finalize the Guidelines on time for their approval in February, during CFS 47th Plenary Session, and so far, no concrete dates were identified in the busy calendar of the RBAs, but it was announced that they might take place between the end of November and the beginning of December.

In order to allow the finalization of the Guidelines during the second week of negotiation, a series of Friends of the Chair meetings on specific parts of the text will be taking place in the upcoming weeks starting on October 9th. The aim of this informal meetings is to facilitate the consensus building around some particular issues and controversies. It seems that no interpretation will be officially granted by the CFS, directly challenging the inclusiveness of the process. The OEWG Chair has circulated a Chair's proposal which would be the basis for the Friends of the Chair meetings, together with a final calendar of meetings and a methodology guidance note.

Updates on the CFS Policy negotiations of the Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and other innovative approaches

At the beginning of September, CFS members and participants received the unexpected news that Ambassador Emadi, Rapporteur of the Agroecology and other innovations policy process was retired from his role in Rome and could not continue his role for the CFS anymore. The CFS Chair immediately issued a call to all CFS members encouraging them to send expressions of interests to lead this process. As today, Ambassador Yaya from Nigeria, which had already led the negotiations on Livestock in 2017, has expressed his interest to chair this process and the CFS Bureau is likely to ratify his nomination by October 5th.

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Meanwhile the CSM made clear during the CFS Advisory Group and Bureau meeting of 18 September that the process needs to stay on track in order to ensure the synergy with the Food Systems and Nutrition Guidelines negotiations and ensure their adoption at CFS 47th Plenary Session in February 2021.

During the second half of August, translations of the negotiation text of the Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and other innovative approaches was made available and written comments were submitted by

CFS members and participants on this revised version of the text on September 22nd. Please find here the comments submitted by the CSM Agroecology Working Group. As of today, there is no clarity about the calendar of this process and we hope that can resume as soon as possible and dates can be identified to start the negotiations.

During the first week of negotiations of the Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition it was clear that: a) there is resistance from some Member States to mention agroecology as a standalone concept, and instead willingness to pair it with “other innovative approaches”, following the consensus reached by the CFS; b) the interlinkages between human health and the environment and ecology met objections from some member states; c) the issue of sustainable healthy diets will be one of the most complicated to solve in that setting but could potentially bring positive results to the discussions on agroecology; d) there was a significant resistance on language about the use, reduction and phasing out of agrochemicals.

Updates on the CFS Policy process on the Guidelines on Gender equality and Women’s empowerment

The CFS policy process towards the Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE) which are expected to be adopted by CFS in 2022 has finally started. The Permanent Representative of Finland, Satu Lassila and the Ambassador of Burkina Faso, Josephine Ouedrago, were appointed by the CFS Bureau meeting of late July, Co-Chairs of this process and the related OEWG.

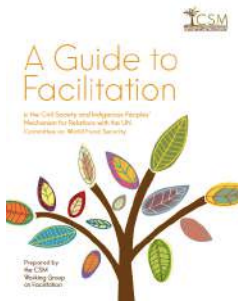
Satu Lassila introduced herself during the last meeting of the Advisory Group and Bureau meeting and shared her expectations towards this process underlining the importance of a relevant policy outcome, solution-oriented and encompassing a fresh and new look on gender issues related to food security and nutrition



that can really mark the difference on the ground. A Technical Task Team was appointed and will start working to prepare draft Terms of Reference for the policy process, that will be discussed by an OEWG meeting expected to take place at the end of October and endorsed by the CFS 47th Plenary Session in February 2021. The CSM appointed two delegates to the Technical Task Team: Marjo Busto (APDWL) and Magdalena Ackermann (SID).

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Updates on CSM internal processes



CSM Facilitation Manual soon online!

The CSM Facilitation Working Group coordinated by Joana Dias and facilitated by Josh Brem-Wilson has been working in the last period on the concept of Facilitation as guiding and founding principle of CSM work, activity and processes. CSM, with the support of Coventry University and the work of this WG is about to publish a Facilitation Guide online. Please check CSM website from 8th October to read the manual!



CSM Youth Introductory Webinar

The CSM Youth Working Group held its Webinar on 23rd September 2020. The Webinar intended to offer a first in introductory moment to CSM history, principles and current challenges from the youth perspective and the CFS. The webinar was very successful and the video will soon be available on the CSM website!



CSM Secretariat welcomes the new Social Media and Communication Officer in its team

The CSM Secretariat welcomes Marion Girard Cisneros as the new Social Media and Communication Officer as part of our team! She will be supporting CSM work until February 2021.