CSM Comments on Outline for CFS Special Event 13-15 October

3 August 2020

Day One:

1) Proposal for keynote speaker on global governance as a public good and global citizenship:

Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Bachelet was previously President of Chile in two terms, and Director of UN Women. She already showed explicit interest for speaking to the CFS. The CFS Bureau agreed already last year to invite her for a speech at the Plenary 2019. She couldn’t attend herself, so her Deputy came. Bachelet would be an excellent speaker on this topic and improve the gender and regional balance of this first panel.

2) More space is needed for interactive discussion on this day. While the second and third day each foresee 75 minutes for comments and questions from the floor, so far only 40 minutes for moderated discussion are foreseen on the first day.

One solution could be shortening the list of speakers in part 4 by taking out WFP and IFAD speakers, as their high-level representatives will have already spoken in the morning. This could help to increase the time for interactive discussion to 60 minutes on the first day.

In addition, Part 3 could focus on SOFI and HLPE, while CERES, WFP and IFAD could be invited to make a short statement within this interactive discussion following the SOFI and HLPE presentation.

Day Two:

1) On the title: the second part of the title should be more ambitious: what policy changes are necessary to build better food systems learning from Covid-19.

2) On the objectives: it would be important to add an objective d) discuss the need for a coordinated global policy response on the Covid-19 food security and nutrition crisis

3) On the panel discussion in part 4:
   - As mentioned previously, CSM is elaborating a Global Synthesis Report on the impact of Covid-19, the responses from communities and constituencies and the most effective policy measures that should guide governments and international actors in such kind of pandemics, building on many internal consultations of CSM constituencies during the last months. Would be important that a CSM representative can present the key findings of the report as part of the panel in not less than 10 minutes.
   - The regional organization could be ECOWAS, presenting their comprehensive work in the response to Covid-19.
   - Proposal for moderator of this panel discussion: Liliane Ortega, former Chair of the CFS OEWG FSyN, or Rafael Osorio, Chair of the CFS Informal WG on CFS and COVID-19
Day Three:

This day needs a reframing in the context of the International Day of Rural Women. The recognition of this date and the practice of having a section dedicated in CFS activities in October cannot be delegated to a CSM panelist only.

For that purpose, we continue to suggest starting the Day with a Kick-off moment with a perspective on how women’s struggles and experiences with sustainable agriculture and agroecological approaches will contribute to the profound transformation of food systems, with a Speaker from Women’s smallholder food producer constituency from the Global South. IFAD could identify the speakers as done in previous years.

This element should also be incorporated into the objectives of the day:

For the objectives, we propose to replace objective c) and add a new objective d):

New c) Highlight the role of rural women for the transformation of food systems
New d) Critically assess the role of CFS towards the Food Systems Summit

The title of part 3 is not precise, as not all proposed speakers are champions in the use of CFS products or in terms of food systems. Additionally, it seems that the list of foreseen speakers for part 2 and 3 (a total of 9) is very long and might take time from the interactive discussion.

Therefore, it might be better to integrate Part 2 and 3 to one under the theme of 3, and reduce the list of panelists to a total of 7: Ministers from Germany and UAE, UNEP, CSM, PSM, plus maybe FAO (for VGGT implementation, in the context of the Decade of Family Farming) and one country (preferably from the Global South) for presenting how they will use the FSyN Guidelines and the Policy recommendations on agroecological and other innovative approaches for the transformation of their food system.