

CSM Suggestions for the CFS Special Event, 13-15 October 2020

Submission 17 July 2020

General Comments on the three days:

- **Overall objectives and guiding questions:** For each of the days, an overall objective with guiding questions should be drafted, to focus the interventions from the panels and the floor, facilitating a conversation among them.
- The objectives and guiding questions should to **connect the three days** in a logical and dynamic way with **the urgency of a radical transformation of food systems** as the HLPE report on the Global Narrative suggests. The new figures of the SOFI report 2020 and the foreseeable impact of Covid-19 on further increasing hunger and malnutrition must be the last wake-up call for such radical transformation of the food systems guided by the right to adequate food.
- The workers who have produced and provided food to the people are finally acknowledged as **essential food workers**: small-scale food producers and family farmers, agricultural and food workers, women, youth, pastoralists, indigenous peoples, fisherfolks and others. Their **active participation in all panels** and discussions of the CFS Special event is essential.
- **Gender** balance in the panel composition is as important as regional balance and should be ensured throughout the three days.
- The voices of the **Youth** should be given special attention. All members and constituencies of the CFS can make special efforts that young people will be involved in the preparations of and be among the speakers to the October CFS events.
- Regarding **methodology and facilitation**: the experiences of UN events with major audience during the past months have seen severe reductions of inclusiveness, participation and interaction, due to connectivity problems, time zones, time pressure, with statements read in a hurry and almost no real discussion. It is important to identify skillful facilitators and develop a methodology for each event that allows for real interaction.

Specific comments on 1st Day:

- The **objective** of this day would be to
 - a) assess the current global situation and food security and
 - b) discuss pathways for the urgently needed transformation toward sustainable food systems.The guiding questions could be framed along these two lines.
- In this context, FAO and HLPE could be invited to present the last **HLPE report and SOFI 2020**.
- This presentation could be followed by a panel to which we suggest a **CSM Women or Youth** representative be included.
- Would be also important to hear on the topic of this day from the **UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food**, either as a panelist or as the moderator.
- As it is not a CFS Plenary session, the **normal opening protocol of October is not needed**.

Specific comments on 2nd Day:

- The **objective** of this day would be to
 - a) assess the impact of Covid-19 on food security and nutrition,
 - b) share experiences of responses from governments, communities and international actors, and
 - c) discuss the need for a CFS policy guidance for the global response, recovery and resilience of food systems.

The guiding questions could be framed along these three lines.

- In terms of urgency, it would be important to **reflect in the title the food crisis** that is accompanying Covid-19, especially among the millions of people who had been struggling with poverty before and now lost their jobs and income often without any social protection.
- **Participation from Members states on Ministerial level** should be envisaged for that day, to visualize the high-level commitment of member states in supporting a coordinated global policy response to this crisis.
- The **CSM is elaborating a 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. The report builds on many internal consultations of CSM constituencies, including from the Youth, Women, Indigenous Peoples, workers and Smallholder and family farmers. We would be **keen to present the major findings of the report as part of the panel of that day.**

Specific comments on 3rd Day:

- *See a detailed proposal in Annex below*

Side events:

- As only a few Side-Events are possible around the CFS Special Event, the selection of them will be different and more difficult than in the case of October Plenaries of previous years. However, **CSM expects to have the possibility of at least 1 Side event organized by our constituencies.**
- In this perspective, we would like to solicit a **CSM Youth Side Event** to present and discuss the specific contributions from Youth delegates from CSM, governmental delegations, UN agencies and private sector on the main topics discussed during the CFS Special Event in October, especially the Youth responses to Covid-19 and their demands and proposals for policies for recovery and resilience building of sustainable food systems.

Annex: Detailed Proposal for 3rd Day:

CSM proposal for the CFS Special Virtual Event on 15th of October – International Day of Rural Women:

“The CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, the CFS Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches, and their relevance to the objectives of the UN Food Systems Summit”

Objectives:

- Deepen discussions on both processes, while also addressing their synergies, in view of negotiations
- Critically discuss the process toward the UN SG’s Food Systems Summit from the perspective of the CFS and previous Food Summits
- Strengthen the voices of the Global South
- Bring in the perspective from rural women to highlight their role in paving the way towards sustainable food systems

FRAMING OF THE EVENT: International Day of Rural Women

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.

Speaker from Women’s smallholder food producer constituency from the Global South

FIRST PART OF THE SESSION – Contribution of the two ongoing CFS policy processes to the transformation towards sustainable food systems

The first moment of this event would be on the synergies between **the two ongoing CFS policy processes and their contributions to the transformation towards sustainable food systems**

The **main part of the session would be dedicated to the discussion of some selected contentious/controversial issues** between Member States that came evident in the two policy processes.

Possible Format:

A presentation by the Chair of the FSyN OEWG and by the Rapporteur on agroecological and other innovative approaches would be given so that they can discuss on how these two processes can complement each other and which are the most contentious issues of the two processes, followed by a comment from the HLPE and an Open discussion with CFS members and participants.

Guiding Questions:

- a) How can both processes cross-fertilize each other? What are the common points/synergies to stress?
- b) Which have been the most critical issues and contentious ones and how can the two processes address them to contribute to the transformation of food systems? Given the latest affirmations by the SOFI report, as well as from the HLPE report #15, how these critical/contentious issues touch upon the radical transformation needed to eradicate hunger and malnutrition in all its forms by having a Right to Food framework for food systems?

Desired Outcomes:

- a) Role of rural women for transformation of food systems is highlighted
- b) Overlaps between AE and FSN processes are visualized
- c) Understanding of pathways for transformation of food systems is deepened

SECOND PART OF THE SESSION: Process towards the UN SG's Food Systems Summit

The discussion would **critically assess the process toward the UN SG's Food Systems Summit** and discuss it from the perspective of the principles that guide the reformed CFS and the legacy of previous UN Food Summits. In this context, it is important that the **plurality and diversity of existing opinions** can be expressed and that **a CSM representative is included in the panel.**

Possible Format

- 1) A presentation by a representative of the UN SG' FSS, the Chair of the FSyN OEWG and the Rapporteur on agroecological and other innovative approaches would be given so that they can build on previous discussion and address what would be the role of the CFS in the FSS as a unique intergovernmental and international FSN platform
- 2) Response by panelists
 - a. 2 Member States from the Global South
 - b. UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food
 - c. CSM
 - d. PSM
 - e. RBA

Open discussion with Members and Participants

Guiding Questions

- a) How to ensure an active and central role of the CFS in the UN SG FSS?
- b) What would it mean to apply the CFS principles to the Summit?
- c) How can the UN SG FSS respond and address the critical issues raised in the previous discussion?
- d) What can the CFS policy processes and the CFS in general deliver for the preparation of the UN SG FSS?

Desired Outcomes

- a) Formulation of concrete demands from CFS for the UN SG FSS process
- b) Content proposals from CFS for the UN SG FSS

CLOSING REMARKS BY THE MODERATOR

Possible Moderator: Liliane Ortega, previous Chair of the CFS Food Systems and Nutrition process