

**CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meeting  
and Bureau meeting**

**Dates: 18 September 2020 (09:30 – 12:30) / (14: 00 - 17:00)**

**Venue: virtual meeting (via ZOOM)**

**Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting Outcomes  
- With Bureau decisions**

**Agenda**

1. Debrief on planning for 13-15 October Special Event
2. Discussion on CFS virtual negotiations
3. Work-stream Updates
4. Presentation on UNCBD, biodiversity
5. CFS workstream on Agroecological and other innovative approaches – Appointing a new Rapporteur (*Bureau only*)
6. Any other business
  - a) Introduction of new CFS staff member, Elise Benoit
  - b) Debrief on FAO Asia and Pacific Regional Conference and on other Regional Conferences
  - c) Updates on Gender work-stream and HLPE Issues Paper

CFS Chairperson, Mr Thanawat Tiensin, opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. Before the agenda was adopted, CFS Chair informed that under AOB he would ask Ms Lassila Satu, Finnish Perm Rep and co-Chair of the Gender OEWG, to provide an update on the ‘Gender’ work-stream; and, that the HLPE Coordinator would provide a short update on the status of the HLPE’s Issue Paper on COVID-19. .

**1. Debrief on planning for 13-15 October Special Event**

In his introduction, CFS Chair highlighted the hard work done by the CFS Secretariat throughout the summer to organize the Special Event and take into account all feedback and suggestions received from Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group members.

Before passing the floor to the CFS Secretariat to brief on the planning for the Special Event, he noted he was proud to see a high-level and representative list of participants, with several ministers and numerous heads of agencies already confirmed.

Several Members and (ad hoc) Advisory Group members congratulated the CFS Secretariat for a robust draft programme for the three day Special Event, with a high caliber of speakers in the Special Event, and an impressive selection of Partners Events to accompany the main plenary sessions. The Secretariat was requested to consider time management and effective moderation, given the large number of speakers.

Requests were made to consider adding a rural woman farmer speaker in the plenary agenda, in recognition of the International Day of Rural Women on 15 October. The Secretary noted the numerous ways the International Day would be celebrated throughout that day’s proceedings, including a Partners Event on Gender that morning, a high number of senior women speakers in that day’s agenda, and references to be made to the Day by the CFS Chair and others.

Some meeting participants requested, during the second day of the Special Event, to discuss the policy response of CFS to COVID-19, including recommendations included in a revised HLPE Issue Paper on COVID-19.

Regarding Partners Events, meeting participants acknowledged the challenge for the CFS Chair to select only 12 events out of 70+ submissions received, recognized there will be additional opportunities for those not selected to be considered in upcoming CFS events such as CFS-47 scheduled for 8-12 February, 2021.

**Bureau discussion:**

In reaction to Bureau's questions, the CFS Secretary informed that the meeting will be conducted as a Zoom "webinar" with open registration for interested participants. A note announcing registration details would be shared soon via the FAO Members Gateway. To a question regarding national statements, the Secretary clarified that the event was not a CFS plenary session, and national statements were not foreseen. Ministers confirmed as speakers, however, would likely speak to their national commitment to CFS and its products, and during the interactive sessions speakers would have 2-3 minutes to make interventions. Should delegations have longer, written statements they wish to share, the CFS Secretariat will post them to the Working Space website.

With regard to the International Day of Rural Women, the CFS Chair invited the Secretariat to review the draft programme to assess whether it would be possible to include on Day Three brief remarks by a rural woman farmer.

## 2. Discussion on CFS virtual negotiations

Bureau and Advisory Group members expressed satisfaction with the convening of a first round of negotiations of the draft CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, which were conducted smoothly via virtual means, without any major technical hitches.

Several questions were made on the methodology of the next steps of the process, namely the organization of "Friends of the Chair" (FoC) sessions. It was clarified that the objective of FoC meetings would be to prepare proposals on different paragraphs, especially the most controversial ones that will be presented for discussion during a second formal round of negotiations (for which dates still have to be confirmed). It was also clarified that the basis for discussion during FoC meetings will be a Chair's proposal being prepared by the OEWG Chair and the CFS Secretariat, based on inputs received during the first round of negotiations. Meeting participants were informed that this Chair's proposal will be circulated to CFS stakeholders approximately one week before the first FoC meeting (on 9 Oct), to allow enough time for CFS stakeholders to analyze it.

The CFS Secretariat was requested to share an updated schedule for the FoC meetings, including the agenda for the first two meetings, and to translate FOC proposals ahead of the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of negotiations.

CFS Bureau and Advisory Group members were reminded of the deadline to nominate their representatives to the FoC (18 September). In this regard, it was requested to allow a certain degree of flexibility for rotation during meetings between nominated representatives and their alternates.

Some members requested interpretation during FoC meetings. Bureau and Advisory Group members were reminded that there is no budget allocated for interpretation for such informal meetings, in line with standard practice related to FOC meetings. However, the CFS Secretariat is discussing the issue, including possible extra-budgetary funding from members, and will share any conclusive information on this matter as soon as possible.

Lastly, concerns were expressed on accuracy of translations of the current version of the VGFSyN. CFS stakeholders were reminded to send specific requests for corrections to the CFS Secretariat which will be forwarded to the Translation Unit at FAO.

### **Bureau discussion:**

The CFS Secretariat was requested to share additional information on interpretation costs/availability for FoC meetings. In this regard, Bureau members reiterated that, if interpreted, FOC meetings should be interpreted in all six official languages.

CFS Secretariat confirmed that full-day interpretation costs for six languages amount to USD 12,460 per day. Considering that eight FoC meetings are scheduled, the cost estimate for interpretation services of those meetings would be roughly USD 100,000.

CFS Secretariat will also share the schedule for FoC meetings, the agenda for first two meetings, as well as information on working modalities.

It was requested that the document resulting from these FoC meetings should be translated into FAO's six official languages prior to the second round of formal negotiations.

### **3. Workstream Updates**

A document was provided as background paper to update the CFS Bureau and its (ad hoc) Advisory Group of all activities carried out since the last CFS Bureau meeting took place in July.

CFS Chair highlighted his participation in all FAO Regional Conferences, starting with the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific in early September.

He also informed about his participation in the African Green Revolution Forum, the largest continental event for agriculture, where he joined a ministerial roundtable to highlight the CFS work on VGFSyN and share some policy reforms recommended to transform unsustainable food systems.

### **4. Presentation on UNCBD, biodiversity**

Ms Julie Belanger, an FAO technical officer for Biodiversity and Environment with the Secretariat of FAO's Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, presented the key points of the State of Biodiversity report (2019), of which she led its preparation.

She then pointed at some opportunities for highlighting CFS products at the upcoming UNCBD COP-15 now rescheduled to Q2-2021, to be held in China (Kunming), and other key events leading up to UNFCCC COP-26 in Glasgow next December.

### **5. CFS workstream on Agroecological and other innovative approaches – Appointing a new Rapporteur (*Bureau only*)**

CFS Chair informed of the resignation of Ambassador Emadi from the role of Rapporteur, after he retired from the Permanent Mission of Iran.

CFS Chair informed that a new candidate is actively sought, and a period for submission for candidacies would be extended by two weeks.

### **6. Any other business**

#### **a) Introduction of new CFS staff member, Elise Benoit**

CFS Secretary introduced Elise Benoit, senior WFP staff and newest member of the CFS Secretariat. Elise comes with several years of experience in WFP operations in country offices. She is also an expert in evaluation.

#### **b) Debrief on FAO Asia and Pacific Regional Conference and on other Regional Conferences**

CFS Chair informed about the CFS-led side event at APRC35, with the participation of FAO DG, the vice-Minister of Agriculture of Japan, the Advisor to the Samoan Agricultural Minister, Ms

Erin Sweeney of Grow Asia who spoke to ASEAN's efforts to adapt the CFS RAI Principles in that region, and speakers from both CSM and PSM (details, bios, etc. on the CFS website). The event, including a lengthy introduction by the FAO DG, was an opportunity to discuss the CFS work on VGFSyN and promote its uptake once adopted at CFS 47.

### c) Update on the Gender Workstream

Ms Sattu, Perm Rep of Finland and co-Chair of the GEWE workstream, informed that the work of the Gender workstream had started with a meeting of the two co-Chairs, the CFS Secretariat and the members of the Technical Task Team (TTT). She noted the challenge for CFS to find its niche to add value on this topic – gender equality and women's empowerment. In this respect, she highlighted that it will be important for the VGs on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) to be strategic and solution-oriented, noting the importance of clear ToRs for the VGs. Last, she called for more male members in the TTT for ensuring diversity and gender balance.

### d) HLPE Update

HLPE Coordination unit informed that the updated report on COVID-19 will be published during the week of 28 September and will serve as an information document for the CFS Special Event in October.

## Annex 1: Attendance list Bureau and Advisory Group meeting

### CFS Bureau Members:

Mr Thanawat Tiensin (CFS Chair / Thailand); Ms Wajiha Qazizadah (Afghanistan); Mr Felipe Carlos Antunes (Brazil); Ms Maria Laureano, Ms Liudmila Kuzmicheva, Ms Julia Vicioso, Ms Patricia Rodriguez, Ms Diana Infante (Dominican Republic); Ms Delphine Babin-Pelliard (France); Mr Bommakanti Rajender (India); Mr Çaka Awal, Ms Ida Ayu Ratih, Ms Agnes Rosari (Indonesia); Ms Traore Halimatou Kone (Mali); Mr Don Syme (New Zealand); Mr Sean Cox (United States).

### CFS Bureau Alternates:

Mr Guillermo Spika (Argentina); Mr Manash Mitra (Bangladesh); Ms Mi Nguyen (Canada); Ms Paula Peraza Aguilar, Mr Federico Zamora (Costa Rica); Mr Rafael Osorio (Spain); Mr Tim Kränzlein (Switzerland).

### Advisory Group:

Mr Mark McGuire, Ms Trudy Wijnhoven (FAO); Mr Shantanu Mathur, Ms Jordana Blankman, Mr Sundeep Vaid (IFAD); Ms Stephanie Hochstetter, Mr Jacopo Valentini (WFP); Ms Stineke Oenema, Alessandra Mora (UNSCN); Mr Andre Zandstra, Mr James Garrett, Mr Rodney Cooke (CGIAR); Mr Fabrizio Moscatelli (Gates Foundation); Mr Martin Wolpold-Bosien, Ms Ramona Domicioiu, Ms Cristina Brovia, Mr Luca Bianchi, Ms Emeline Siale Ilolahia, Mr Marion Girard Cisneros, Ms Teresa Maisano (CSM); Mr Brian Baldwin (PSM); Ms Giulia De Castro (WFO); Ms Marzella Wustefeld (WHO).

### Observers:

Mr Hans Hoogeveen (Netherlands/ VGFSyN OEWG Chair); Mr Damien Kelly (EU delegation); Ms Satu Lassila (Finland / GEWE OEWG Chair); Ms Silke Stralkamp (Germany); Mr Jose' Luis Delgado (Mexico); Ms Federica Veschi, Ms Supajit Sriariyawat (Thailand).

### CFS Secretariat:

Mr Chris Hegadorn (Secretary), Ms Françoise Trine, Ms Giorgia Paratore, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Ms Elise Benoit, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Mr Waiganjo Njoroge, Ms Sylvia Orebi, Ms Tatiana Moruz, Ms Maryam Rahmanian, Ms Paola Termine (HLPE).

## Annex 2: Attendance list Bureau meeting

### CFS Bureau Members:

Mr Thanawat Tiensin (CFS Chair / Thailand); Mr Felipe Carlos Antunes (Brazil); Ms Patricia Rodriguez, Ms Diana Infante, Ms Maria Laureano, Ms Liudmila Kuzmicheva (Dominican Republic); Ms Delphine Babin-Pelliard (France); Mr Bommakanti Rajender (India); Ms Agnes Rosari (Indonesia); Ms Traore Halimatou Kone (Mali); Mr Don Syme (New Zealand); Mr Ilya Andreev (Russian Federation); Mr Sean Cox, Mr Paul Welcher (United States).

### CFS Bureau Alternates:

Mr Guillermo Spika (Argentina); Mr Manash Mitra (Bangladesh); Ms Mi Nguyen (Canada); Mr Baye Mayoro Diop (Senegal); Ms Hyojoo (South Korea); Mr Rafael Osorio (Spain); Mr Tim Kränzlein (Switzerland).

### Observers:

Mr Hans Hoogeveen (Netherlands/ VGFSyN OEWG Chair); Mr Damien Kelly (EU Delegation); Ms Silke Stralkamp (Germany); Ms Satu Lassila (Finland / GEWE OEWG Chair); Ms Federica Veschi (Thailand).

### CFS Secretariat:

Mr Chris Hegadorn (Secretary), Ms Françoise Trine, Ms Giorgia Paratore, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Elise Benoit, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Mr Waiganjo Njoroge, Ms Sylvia Orebi, Ms Tatiana Moruz, Ms Maryan Rahmanian, Ms Paola Termine (HLPE).