



CFS 45 - CRITICAL AND EMERGING ISSUES SESSION

HLPE ACTIVITIES IN 2020 – BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND DRAFT DECISION

This document is based on the draft proposal prepared by the CFS Secretariat, in collaboration with the HLPE Coordinator, which was shared on 1 August for comments. The current version of the document takes into account the inputs and suggestions provided by CFS Members and Participants as well as by the HLPE Steering Committee.

The document which is expected to be presented for consideration by the CFS Plenary also includes the draft decision concerning the session on Critical and Emerging Issues taking place at CFS 45.

Bureau and Advisory Group members, in preparation of their joint meeting on 24 September, are invited to carry out informal consultations as a way to facilitate the decision to be taken by the Bureau on 25 September.

MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee:

- a) Takes note of the views expressed and the potential issues suggested during the session on critical and emerging issues for future consideration by CFS as an important element for the upcoming discussions on the preparation of the next CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW);
- b) In line with indications included in Annex B of the Implementation Report of the CFS Evaluation, recommends that the CFS Bureau, in collaboration with the Advisory Group, and with the support and participation of interested CFS stakeholders, work on the preparation of the CFS MYPoW 2020-2023 to be presented for consideration and endorsement at the 46th Session of CFS in October 2019;
- c) Requests the HLPE to undertake the following study to be presented by the first semester of 2020: “Food Security and Nutrition: Building a Global Narrative towards 2030”, as per the proposal below.

INTRODUCTION

In October 2019, during its 46th Plenary Session, the Committee is expected to consider and endorse its Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) for the period 2020-2023.

As defined in Annex B of the Implementation Report of the CFS Evaluation, the first step of the proposed MYPoW process is represented by “*a session in the Plenary dedicated to discussion on critical and emerging issues in the field of food security and nutrition to feed subsequent discussions*”

on the preparation of MYPoW proposals. The purpose of the session is to allow CFS stakeholders to share views and come up with potential issues to be addressed by CFS”¹.

This document also states that *“on exceptional basis, the session taking place at CFS 45 in 2018 is expected to take a decision on HLPE 2020 report”*. This clause has been added considering that, for the HLPE to deliver a report in 2020, a request has to be presented for endorsement by the CFS Plenary this year (October 2018).

Therefore, this agenda item at CFS 45 aims at: setting the stage for the preparation of the MYPoW 2020-2023, and also taking a decision regarding the activities to be undertaken by the HLPE in 2020.

THE HIGH LEVEL PANEL OF EXPERTS ON FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION (HLPE) OF THE CFS

The HLPE, science-policy interface of the CFS, was established, in October 2009, as an essential element of the CFS Reform. Since its creation, the HLPE has already produced 13 reports and 2 notes on *“Critical and emerging issues for Food Security and Nutrition”*.²

HLPE reports provide structured evidence-base to inform CFS policy discussions drawing on existing research and knowledge, as well as on concrete examples of best practices, experiences and policies at different scales and in different contexts. The HLPE strives to clarify contradictory information and knowledge and identifying gaps in knowledge and emerging issues. HLPE reports are based on a sound, scientific and inclusive process building on a continuous dialogue between HLPE experts and a wide range of knowledge-holders across the world, combining different forms of knowledge, scientific disciplines and professional experiences (see the HLPE project cycle in Annex I).

HLPE publications are generally acknowledged by stakeholders for their holistic and cross-sectoral approach, of critical importance for the elaboration of comprehensive and integrated strategies at different levels, *“breaking the silos”* between scientific disciplines and sectoral policies.³

Collectively, these HLPE publications are progressively building a global, structured, transdisciplinary, cross-sectoral narrative on food security and nutrition (FSN). They demonstrate, from different perspectives, the critical importance of enhancing FSN for all, now and in the future, as both a necessary condition and a cross-cutting challenge to achieve not only Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG2) to *“end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”*, but also the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a whole. The HLPE reports also show how the realization of FSN for all, now and in the long-term, depends on the realization of multiple SDGs.

The Bureau, in consultation with the Advisory Group, at its meeting on 25 July 2018, *“highlighted the relevance of the HLPE and its importance for the work of CFS. It also reiterated that HLPE activities*

¹ CFS 2018/45/3. “CFS Evaluation: Implementation of the response to the Evaluation – with Draft Decision”. Annex B, “MYPoW Structure and Process”

² All these publications are available on the HLPE website in the six UN languages. See: <http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe/en/>

³ For more details on the recent impacts of HLPE publications, see: http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/hlpe/hlpe_documents/Donors/Doc_2b_-_HLPE_draft_impact_note_on_2017_vf_CLEAN_REV1.pdf

should be functional to the work of CFS and that CFS requests should provide specific indications on how HLPE inputs are intended to be used”⁴.

On 25 July 2018, “most Bureau members expressed an interest for requesting the HLPE to carry out a holistic review of previous reports to analyze how the HLPE and CFS are contributing to the realization of the zero hunger and the advancement of the 2030 Agenda”⁵.

PROPOSAL FOR HLPE ACTIVITY IN 2020 AND CFS FOLLOW-UP

In this context, ten years after the CFS Reform, it is suggested to take stock of what CFS has done with the contribution of the HLPE. The HLPE could produce a “stocktaking analysis”, articulating the findings of its previous publications, updated as appropriate, in a coherent narrative around FSN and sustainable development.

The objective of this report is not to do a summary of all the previous HLPE reports but to elaborate a global narrative on FSN, enlightened by previous HLPE publications and considering the recent developments of knowledge on FSN. This narrative should reflect the current state of knowledge, highlighting the main areas of consensus or controversy, as well as the major challenges, gaps or uncertainties.

2020 will be a milestone in the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with only ten years left before the 2030 deadline. Such a report could be useful in promoting strategic guidance towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

The objectives of this activity and the expected contribution to future work of CFS could include:

- Articulating the links between the different HLPE reports in a comprehensive way for decision-makers and non-experts readers;
- Highlighting, using concrete examples, the pathways through which the CFS policy recommendations built on those reports have contributed or could contribute to the advancement of the 2030 Agenda, of its goals and targets, at different scales (local, national, regional and global);
- Informing the preparation of future CFS contributions to the HLPF, starting from 2021 (pending the UN General Assembly decision on the content of future reviews, expected in September 2018);
- Identifying the main factors affecting FSN that have not been considered so far and that could deserve more attention to inform future discussions towards the preparation of future CFS MYPOWs;

The stocktaking analysis should be framed within the CFS vision and take into account the perspective of the most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition as a way to define the actual and potential relevance of CFS and HLPE products.

The title of this “stocktaking analysis” could be “Food Security and Nutrition: Building a Global Narrative towards 2030”.

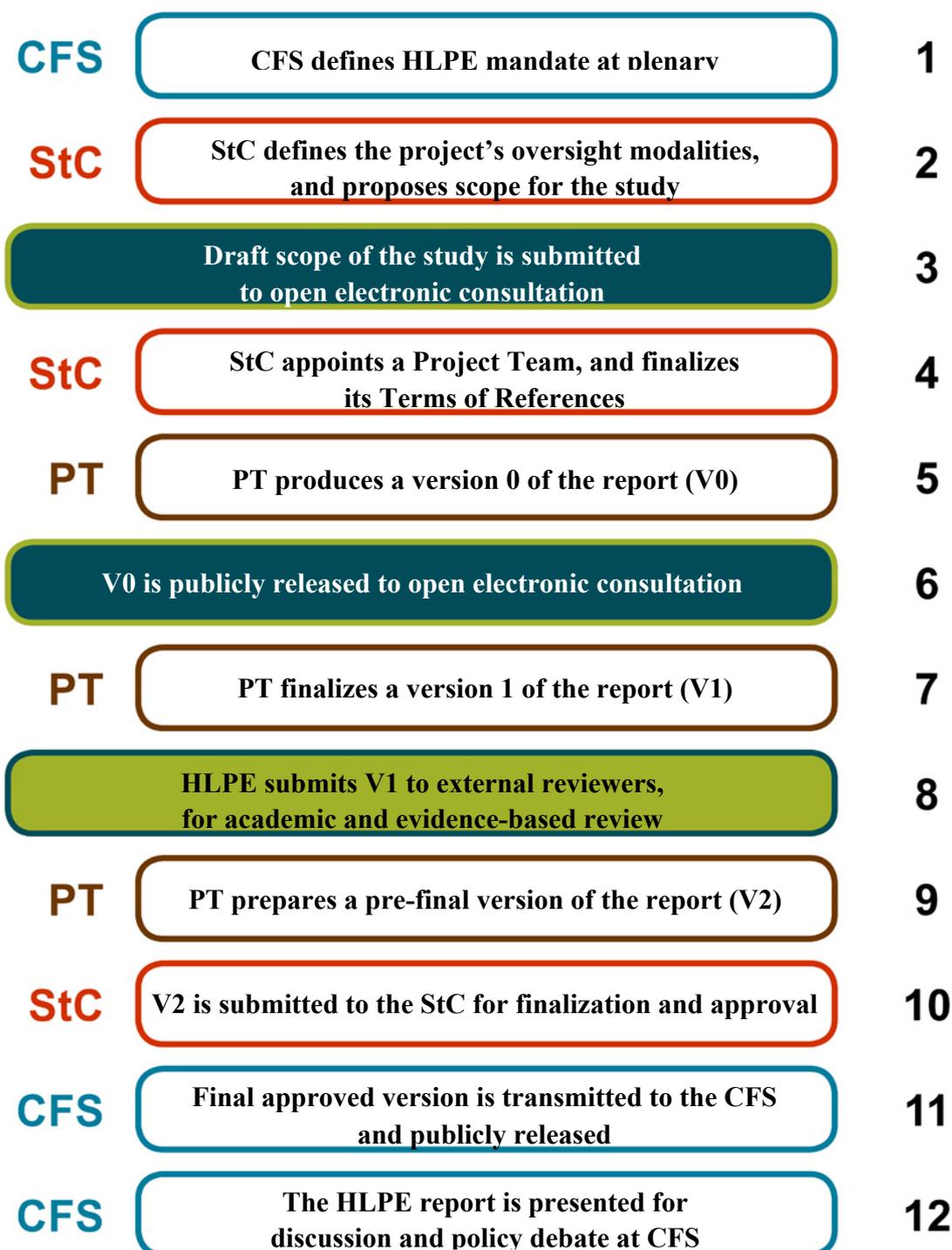
⁴ CFS/BurAG/2018/07/23_25. Outcomes of the Bureau meeting held on 25 July 2018

⁵ Ibid.

This document could be shorter than usual HLPE reports (around 20 pages, approximately 20.000 words) and the HLPE Steering Committee is invited to pay specific attention to the format and readability of this document for non-expert readers.

Building on the HLPE project cycle (see Annex I), the Steering Committee will design an appropriate, rigorous and inclusive process to produce this synthesis report, exploring the opportunities to reduce the related costs wherever possible. The HLPE Secretariat will provide a budget update as the process unfolds.

Annex I: the HLPE project cycle



CFS Committee on World Food Security
HLPE High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition
StC HLPE Steering Committee
PT HLPE Project Team