



Open Ended Working Group (OEWG)

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

CFS OEWG-SDGs Meeting # 5

Date: 7 September 2016

Time: 9:30-12:30

Location: German Room, FAO

Outcomes

Fifth meeting of the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Agenda

1. Opening
2. 'Guidance Note for CFS Contribution to the 2017 United Nations High Level Political Forum' (CFS 2016/43/Inf.16) – explanations and discussion
3. Initial reactions to the five questions posed in the 'Guidance Note'
4. AOB : Country objection to final agreement on Proposal: way forward

Outcomes

1. Opening

The Chair of the OEWG-SDGs welcomed OEWG participants, and explained the Bureau decided to amend the CFS 43 annotated agenda to include a Plenary discussion on the Committee's contribution to the 2017 HLPF, and asked for an additional OEWG meeting in September to prepare this discussion. The objective of the OEWG meeting was to prepare an effective Plenary discussion within the limited plenary time available, resulting in concrete guidance from plenary to the OEWG and Bureau.

- The Secretariat informed the meeting of the adoption by consensus on 26 July 2016 of Resolution A/70/L.60 titled "Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level", which decides on the themes for global review in the HLPF for 2017, 2018 and 2019, as well as the subset of goals reviewed each year. The Resolution confirms the theme "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world" for the 2017 review, as well as the goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 (and 17) as the goals under direct review.
- The Secretariat also informed the OEWG on CFS activities during the HLPF in July 2016 in New York. These included the participation as lead discussant in the session "Ensuring that no one is left behind - Food security and sustainable agriculture, climate action, sustainable oceans and terrestrial ecosystems – adopting a nexus approach"; the organization of a side-event "Leaving No One behind in Food and Nutrition Governance - The inclusive process and policy of the Committee on World Food Security", co-hosted by Bangladesh and Switzerland and moderated by David Nabarro with a keynote from the CFS Chair; the participation of the Chair and Secretary as panellists in various side-events, and a number of bilateral meetings with UN senior officials.
- The discussions of the HLPF meeting resulted in a negotiated Ministerial Declaration which will be discussed in the 71st General Assembly.

The Secretariat will circulate the Resolution and the Ministerial Declaration with OEWG participants.

2. 'Guidance Note for CFS Contribution to the 2017 United Nations High Level Political Forum' (CFS 2016/43/Inf.16) – explanations and discussion

The Chair introduced the Information document “Guidance Note for CFS Contribution to the 2017 United Nations High Level Political Forum” (CFS 2016/43/Inf.16) produced by the CFS Secretariat in consultation with the taskteam, which was prepared to support Plenary discussions. The document includes some background, 5 methodological questions to help plenary consider the guidance it wishes to give to the OEWG and Bureau and a preliminary draft outline of the 2017 contribution.

The Chair clarified the status of the guidance note, already issued as an Information document for CFS 43. The draft outline it contains will further evolve, based on guidance from the Plenary on expectations for the Committee’s contribution to the 2017 HLPF review. OEWG participants asked questions pertaining to the organization of the 2017 review (one review, or reviews per SDG?), the guidance note (particularly question c) proved difficult to understand) and the process for the discussion in Plenary. Plenary is expected to endorse a decision box in which its own guidance for the CFS contribution to the 2017 HLPF review is captured in a few bullet points.

The Chair clarified that, although the Guidance Note would not be modified, additional steering for members and participants to prepare for the Plenary discussion would come through the conclusions contained in the meeting outcomes and through an accompanying email from the Chair.

3. Initial reactions to the five questions posed in the 'Guidance Note'

Participants shared reactions to the methodological questions contained in the guidance note.

- They agreed that the Plenary discussion would benefit from interventions prioritizing the last question, as other questions were essentially subsets of that, adding any elements delegations wished.
- The Plenary discussion should result in clear guidance for the OEWG to carry on its work effectively in 2017, while allowing enough flexibility for the contribution to be tailored to HLPF subsequent guidance or needs, given the lack of clarity on how the 2017 HLPF would be organised.
- Participants agreed that work mandated in the Plenary (via the MYPoW) but not yet completed could be referred to, but without pre-empting its outcomes.
- To be useful, CFS contribution should be introduced by a small number of short, key messages. Moreover Member States could use these messages, which would increase the impact of CFS’ contribution on HLPF discussions and on the final declaration.
- Participants made a number of suggestions for key messages, stressing a.o. the importance of the CFS multistakeholder approach and its coverage of nexus-issues, as well as highlighting (inclusive) rural development needs. Moreover, a call for countries to take up CFS products in their national policies, plans and legislation could be included.
- While generally supporting the proposed outline, many participants mentioned that section B should not be a mere list of CFS products, but rather explain why the CFS developed the products and explain the core content of the CFS response.
- Participants also called for a sustained engagement of CFS in New York, through advocacy of CFS members and stakeholders, participation in intersessional activities throughout the year, continued efforts to make CFS products better known in NY and in particular during the HLPF, following this year’s example.

4. AOB : Country objection to final agreement on Proposal: way forward

The OEWG-SDG Chair updated the OEWG participants on the status of the Proposal for CFS engagement in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: The Russian Federation raised an objection due to two references to human rights in the text which they deemed to be overstepping CFS' mandate on food security and nutrition, as well as an objection on the expected Plenary decision to mandate the Bureau to finalize the contribution to the HLPF in 2017, for calendar reasons. Following this communication, the OEWG Chair has attempted to reach an acceptable compromise over the summer, unsuccessfully.

The OEWG Chair announced that a Friends of the Chair meeting would be convened very shortly, open to all OEWG-SDG participants, with the objective to solving outstanding issues before Plenary.