



Open Ended Working Group (OEWG)

Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW)

Document No: CFS OEWG- MYPoW/2016/03/18/04

CFS OEWG-MYPoW Meeting # 01

Date: 18 March 2016

Time: 9.30 – 12.30

Location: IFAD, Oval Room

OUTCOMES

The Chair of the OEWG, Dr Md Mafizur Rahman opened the meeting and invited opening remarks from Ms Josefina Stubbs, IFAD Associate Vice-President, who welcomed the initiative of having the MYPoW OEWG meeting in IFAD and underlined the important task of this group in identifying the topics and activities to be included in the CFS agenda for the next biennium.

1. Approval of the OEWG Workplan

At the Chair's invitation, the CFS Secretary presented the draft MYPoW workplan for 2018-2019. Following discussion on the workplan, the Chair noted the following changes would be incorporated in the revised version that would be presented for discussion at the next Bureau and Advisory Group meeting on 31 March:

- One of the expected outcomes of this process will be to prepare a MYPoW which is in line with anticipated resources rather than to secure the resources needed to carry out the planned activities;
- Deadline for OEWG members to provide written inputs concerning possible HLPE themes has been postponed to 15 April;
- The consultation among OEWG participants on the proposals for CFS activities will take place between September and December 2016.

There was some discussion on whether the HLPE themes for both 2018 and 19 should be agreed in 2016, in line with the guidance note. It was decided to maintain the process to agree on themes for both years, but to revisit the decision once the proposals for HLPE themes were submitted by OEWG members.

In line with the idea that work undertaken by the HLPE should have a stronger connection to the policy convergence products of CFS than is presently the case, the OEWG discussed the importance of developing the MYPoW with good links between HLPE reports and subsequent workstreams of CFS. This raised the possibility of considering a longer term MYPoW in the future.

2. Presentation of the initial proposal and discussion on the themes of the HLPE reports for 2018-2019

The CFS Secretary presented the initial proposal prepared by the Secretariat and the OEWG Chair in consultation with the three Rome-based agencies by providing an overview of the past and current CFS activities and the proposed topics and activities for next biennium, with particular attention to

the work of the HLPE. OEWG members welcomed the background note as a positive innovation enabling a solid and focussed starting point for the MYPoW discussions.

It was recognized that climate change is an important topic that would deserve to be included in the CFS agenda for the next biennium. However, it was noted that in light of the HLPE report already produced on this topic in 2012, a different follow-up activity, rather than another HLPE report, might be more appropriate.

Initial ideas on potential themes for HLPE reports were presented by OEWG members, such as the issue of sustainable consumption which could also open the discussion on food trade policies and value chains for food security and nutrition. Agroecology, genetic resources and school feeding connected to local procurement were also brought up as possible topics. The increasing role of financial markets in FSN, a topic identified by the HLPE in its 2014 note on critical and emerging issues was also raised. Some of the topics that were presented as possible future CFS workstreams in the background note, such as financing investment and trade, were also suggested as potential themes for the HLPE.

There was general convergence towards the need to request the HLPE to produce a new note on critical and emerging issues to be presented by end 2017/early 2018 in order to inform the work of the next MYPoW OEWG from the beginning of its mandate. There was recognition the nature of the request to the HLPE, and possible themes for future HLPE work, could be influenced by the work in the OEWG on SDGs, which should be at an advanced stage before the MYPoW OEWG needed to conclude its 2016 tasks.

In inviting OEWG members to submit any proposals for HLPE themes by 15 April 2016, the Chair reminded OEWG members that they needed to elaborate clear proposals that addressed all the criteria in the agreed guidance note for selection of CFS activities (annex 1 of the 2016-17 MYPoW) and present a strong justification in order to facilitate discussions on prioritisation. The content and the structure of the initial proposal presented by the Secretariat could also be used as a guide.

Next steps

- OEWG participants to submit proposals addressing the agreed criteria to cfs@fao.org by 15 April 2016;
- A compilation of the inputs received will be circulated by the Secretariat by 25 April;
- OEWG members to indicate their preferred proposal/s, in ranked order of priority by 20 May;
- Chair's proposal circulated by 3 June;
- OEWG to meet and reach agreement on proposal for CFS plenary by 20 June;
- Bureau and Advisory Group to endorse decision box and proposal by 8 July.