

CFS OEWG-Monitoring #1

Date: 26 January 2017

Time: 14:00-17:00

Location: Lebanon Room, FAO (Building D, 2nd Floor)

Drawing lessons from the Global Thematic Event at CFS 43

- Background and guiding questions -

(11 January 2017)

1. Background

(i) Most relevant CFS decisions:

At **CFS 43 in October 2016**, the Committee (CFS 2016/43, Para. 25):

- b) *Endorsed the document ([CFS 2016/43/7](#)) that provides guidance to food security and nutrition stakeholders on sharing their experiences and good practices in implementing CFS decisions and recommendations, as a contribution to the incremental development of an innovative monitoring mechanism. The document also serves as a framework for food security and nutrition stakeholders to contribute to global thematic events that are planned to be organized on a regular basis, subject to available resources, within CFS Plenary Sessions for taking stock of the use and application of CFS decisions and recommendations, starting with CFS major, strategic and catalytic products¹. The document was prepared in accordance with the CFS decision at CFS 42 (CFS 2015/42 Final report);*
- c) *As endorsed at CFS 41, CFS encouraged stakeholders to continue to share their experiences and best practices on a voluntary basis through organizing events at global, regional and national levels, applying the recommended approach in document CFS 2016/43/07, subject to available resources;*
- d) *Recommended that the OEWG on Monitoring continues its work in 2017 to agree on how to continue monitoring the implementation of CFS products on a regular basis, drawing lessons from the Global Thematic Event at CFS 43.*

At **CFS 42 in October 2015**, the Committee (CFS 2015/42, Para. 35):

- f) *As endorsed at CFS 41, encouraged CFS stakeholders to continue to share their experiences and best practices and requested the CFS Secretariat, in collaboration with the OEWG on Monitoring for the monitoring aspects, to explore and promote ways to achieve this, including within CFS sessions and through organizing events at global, regional and national levels, subject to available resources;*
- h) *Moreover, the Committee agreed, with respect to the events mentioned in paragraph f), that the OEWG shall develop basic terms of reference in 2016, to be approved by the Bureau and adopted by the CFS Plenary, to ensure participation, inclusiveness and regional representation in these events. In this sense, the Committee also agreed to hold a global thematic event during the CFS 43 Plenary to share experiences and take stock of the use and application of the VGGT.*

¹ As at March 2016, those are: Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security (RtF); Global Strategic Framework for FSN (GSF); Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT); Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI); Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA).

At CFS 41 in October 2014, the Committee (CFS 2014/41, para. 43):

- b) *Acknowledged document CFS 2014/41/11 "Towards a framework for monitoring CFS decisions and recommendations". In particular, the Committee:*
- iv) *Encouraged CFS stakeholders to continue to share their experiences and best practices, and requested the Secretariat to explore and promote ways to organize events, subject to available resources.*

At CFS 40 in October 2013, CFS endorsed all recommendations of the OEWG on Monitoring (CFS 2013/40), including (CFS 2013/40/8, Para. 5):

- c) *Monitoring mechanisms should build on existing mechanisms at global, regional and national level. Key characteristics of monitoring mechanisms include: local ownership, rights-based, inclusiveness and multi-stakeholder participation, be grounded in multisectoral policy frameworks, ensure adequate country capacities and resources and include both qualitative and quantitative aspects. They should be in line with the five principles set out in the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF). They should primarily be useful to policy makers and all actors involved in programme implementation in order to assess implementation and results of policies and programmes.*

(ii) **Principles set out in the CFS Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF) for monitoring and accountability systems.** They should:

- Be human-rights based, with particular reference to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food;
- Make it possible for decision-makers to be accountable;
- Be participatory and include assessments that involve all stakeholders and beneficiaries, including the most vulnerable;
- Be simple, yet comprehensive, accurate, timely and understandable to all, with indicators disaggregated by sex, age, region, etc., that capture impact, process and expected outcomes;
- Not duplicate existing systems, but rather build upon and strengthen national statistical and analytical capacities.

(iii) **CFS role in monitoring as per GSF, VGGT and RAI²**

GSF, Chapter 5, Section E, Point d): *"In line with the CFS mandate, some way should be found to monitor the state of implementation of the Committee's own decisions and recommendations, so as to allow for the reinforcement of the coordination and policy convergence roles of the CFS. To this end, the Secretariat was tasked with reporting, in collaboration with the Advisory Group and based on information made available by the relevant stakeholders, on the state of implementation of numerous CFS decisions and recommendations, including the VGGT" (CFS 37 Final Report, para. 29 (xi), 44 and 52).*

VGGT Section 26.4: *"The Committee on World Food Security should be the global forum where all relevant actors learn from each other's experiences, and assess progress toward the implementation of these Guidelines and their relevance, effectiveness and impact. Therefore, the Secretariat of the Committee on World Food Security, in collaboration with the Advisory Group, should report to the*

² No monitoring role for CFS in the FFA.

Committee on World Food Security on the progress of the implementation of these Guidelines, as well as evaluate their impact and their contribution to the improvement of tenure governance. Such report should be universal and include, inter alia, regional experiences, best practices and lessons learned”.

RAI Para 62: *“The Committee on World Food Security should promote the dissemination and use of the Principles, and include them in its ongoing work on monitoring, relying as much as possible on existing mechanisms. CFS should provide a forum where all relevant stakeholders can learn from each other’s experiences in applying the Principles, and assess the continued relevance, effectiveness and impact of the Principles for food security and nutrition.”*

2. VGGT Global Thematic Event (GTE) at CFS 43 in October 2016

(i) Preparatory process (CFS Secretariat):

- Call for inputs from CFS stakeholders from 1 March to 15 April 2016
- Analysis of the contributions received with identification of key recurrent issues
- Preparation of an outline for the GTE discussed in the Bureau/AG meeting and agreed by the Bureau in July 2016
- Contacts with CSM, PSM and selected permanent representations (Colombia, Indonesia, Senegal), on the basis of the inputs received, to identify panelists to present experiences in implementing VGGT at different levels
- Identification of a moderator

(ii) Plenary session (as per outline agreed by the CFS Bureau – Annex 1):

- Moderator summarizes the “monitoring aspects” based on the contributions received
- 5 selected panelists present their country/constituency experience in implementing VGGT, including the constraints and challenges met and the results obtained (qualitative and quantitative aspects)
- CSM presents CSOs experiences documented in a report specially prepared for the VGGT plenary session
- Interventions from the floor
- Conclusions read by the Chair, agreed and included in the report (**Annex 2**)

(iii) Follow up

- Conclusions are included in the CFS 43 report and posted on the CFS Website

3. Results:

- 62 contributions received from stakeholders documenting experiences in implementing VGGT in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean, 36 of which are country-specific, 11 regional and multicountry and 15 global. Contributions were submitted by 31 bilateral and multilateral development partners, 9 governments, 20 civil society organizations and 2 private sector organizations.
- Analysis of the contributions documented in: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mr218e.pdf>. The document summarizes good practices and “monitoring aspects” (What? Where? Who? How? How much?).
- CSOs’ report documenting CSOs’ perspective presented.
- Five selected experiences (Colombia, Indonesia, Senegal, CSM and PSM) presented and discussed in Plenary; PSM and CSM present their constituency’s experience (CSM presents the CSOs’ report) during the plenary; interventions from the floor contributed to enrich discussion.

- Conclusions highlighting the results in terms of monitoring and good practices agreed in Plenary.
- Two important limitations in terms of monitoring mentioned in the Conclusions:
 - Lack of standardized indicators across countries/ initiatives: Most submissions provided quantitative information on the results obtained but the information was not always comparable due to lack of standardized indicators.
 - Lack of baseline for future monitoring: The contributions provide useful information on what is being done, where and by whom, constraints and challenges, good practices and the results obtained but are unlikely to show the full coverage of the use and application of the VGGT, as they are submitted on a voluntary basis, and therefore do not provide a baseline for future monitoring.

4. Guiding questions:

- In general, to what extent do the results meet expectations (*referring to the CFS decisions, principles set out in GSF and monitoring role of CFS as per the information provided in the Background section above*) in terms of:
 - Sharing experiences and good practices?
 - Monitoring CFS decisions and recommendations?

[What are the positive/negative aspects?]

- Specifically, what do you think should be improved to better meet expectations (considering the preparatory process, plenary session and follow-up of the first GTE at CFS 43)?

ANNEX 1: CFS 2016/43/Inf.17/Rev.1

Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT) - Global Thematic Event

Outline of the Event

Opening remarks

Mr Robert Sabiiti, Chair of the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Monitoring, introduces the Global Thematic Event on the Voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security (VGGT).

SETTING THE STAGE

1. Mr Gregory Myers³ (moderator) outlines the event objectives, expected results, agenda and overview of the information provided in the submissions.

SHARING EXPERIENCES AND GOOD PRACTICES

Panel Presentations

2. The panellists⁴ outline their experience, with special attention to the challenges met, the results obtained and the good practices that have contributed to make their experience successful. They discuss how the design and results of their experiences have contributed to the VGGT's objective of improving governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests for the benefit of all, with an emphasis on vulnerable and marginalized people, and to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food. They also discuss how their experience resonates with the findings of the submissions that have adopted a similar approach in implementing the VGGT. The Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) presents an analysis of the use and application of VGGT.

Panellist		Approach
Mr Ali Mohamed Camara, Executive Secretary of the National Council of Food Security, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on Food Security, Senegal	Government Representative	Reform of legal and policy frameworks and development of multistakeholder platforms
Ir. Wiratno, Director of Social Forestry Preparation, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia	Government Representative	Operationalization
Mr Juan Pablo Díaz Granados Pinedo, Vice Minister of Rural	Government Representative	Awareness raising and capacity development

³ Gregory Wilson Myers chaired the negotiations of the OEWG on VGGT that led to the VGGT endorsement in 2012.

⁴ The proposed profiles for the panellists is based on the relevance of the submissions, the intent to showcase different levels of the submissions (national, regional and global) and to reflect the diversity of experiences of CFS Members and stakeholders.

Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Colombia		
Mr Naseegh Jaffer, General Secretary, World Forum of Fisher Peoples, Coordinator of CSM Monitoring Working Group	Representative of the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM)	All approaches
Mr John Young Simpson, Director of Agribusiness of Duxton Asset Management	Representative of the Private Sector Mechanism (PSM)	Operationalization

Plenary Discussions

3. Participants are invited to ask panelists questions and comment on the presentations based on their experiences.

WRAP UP

4. The moderator summarizes the session, focusing on progress made in implementing the VGGT and achieving their main objective, including successes, limitations, challenges and good practices.

5. H.E. Amira Gornass, Chair of CFS, closes the event and presents the conclusions that will be included in the Final Report.

ANNEX 2: Conclusions of the VGGT Global Thematic Event (CFS 2016/43, para. 26 and 27 – Item IV.B Monitoring the implementation of CFS decisions and recommendations)

26. The Committee:

- a) Welcomed the Global Thematic Event as the first opportunity to share experiences and take stock of the use and application of the VGGT, as a contribution to monitoring progress towards their implementation;
- b) Acknowledged the overview provided in the documents CFS 2016/43/8 “Experiences and Good Practices in the Use and Application of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) – Summary and Key Elements” and CFS 2016/43/INF/17 Rev.1 “Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure – Global Thematic Event”.

27. The Committee concluded the following:

- a) The contributions received from CFS stakeholders show that the VGGT have been used and applied in many countries since they were endorsed by CFS in 2012.
- b) Based on the contributions received (http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/Docs1516/OEWG_Monitoring/3rd_Meeting/Compilation_of_VGGT_Submissions_30_June_2016.pdf), the use and application of the VGGT may have directly affected some 2 million individuals. The legal and policy frameworks, which have been reformed in line with the VGGT, will have a large impact on a high proportion of the population once implemented. The standardization of the quantitative indicators used across countries to measure the results would improve the quantitative analysis in the future.
- c) The use and application of the VGGT should be monitored on a regular basis, in line with the “Terms of reference to share experiences and good practices in applying CFS decisions and recommendations through organizing events at national, regional and global levels” endorsed at CFS 43, which recognize the value of qualitative and quantitative monitoring.
- d) Some members underlined the importance of a robust, evidence-based and inclusive monitoring mechanism and the involvement of the Rome-based agencies (RBAs).
- e) The voluntary contributions received for the event are unlikely to show the full coverage of the use and application of the VGGT and do not provide a true baseline for future monitoring. They were however useful to provide some insight into what has been done, where and by whom and the results obtained.
- f) Main challenges included, but were not limited to:
 - Difficulty in ensuring the effective representation of the main beneficiaries in multistakeholder dialogue;
 - Limited knowledge and understanding of VGGT by stakeholders;
 - Violence against human rights defenders involved in securing land ownership.
- g) Good practices emerging from the discussion and contributions included, but were not limited to:
 - Empowering all stakeholders, especially women and youth, the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, and people affected by all types of conflicts, including protracted crises, enabling them to effectively engage in securing tenure rights, ensuring gender equality and women’s empowerment;
 - Establishing inclusive multistakeholder platforms which brought together all relevant stakeholders, in particular those whose livelihoods depend on access to land and other natural resources, and ensured their regular, transparent and open participation in decision-making processes related to tenure governance;

- Promoting sustained and strong political engagement, at national and local level, ensuring national ownership;
- Mainstreaming the VGGT in national policies, laws and systems, as appropriate, as well as integrating and aligning the VGGT with national efforts and priorities; and
- Sharing experiences within and across countries, leading to raising awareness, mutual reinforcement and consolidation of expertise and implementation mechanisms and developing capacities.