

CSM Comments on the Annotated Outline of the Zero Draft Proposal on CFS Engagement in Advancing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

March 4, 2016

Overall Comments

- The proposed structure in four sections is agreeable, though the CSM proposes to revise some of the actual titles of the sections (see specific input below);
- The CSM proposes to re-organize the structure of the third section (currently named “Means of Engagement”) for it to correspond to the CFS Roles as articulated in the Reform Document. The rationale of this proposal lays in the fact that the SDG OEWG is not meant to generate a separate future workstream, but rather to explore how the CFS can engage in advancing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda through its ongoing processes and modalities. Following the CFS role in the Reform document is therefore the easiest, clearest and least contentious way to organize the content of the proposal.

Comments on Section II – Points of Departure

- The title of the section is not appropriate. The CSM proposes to rename it as “Guiding Principles” or (second best) “Guiding Elements”;
- In addition to the respect for the CFS mandate (first item mentioned), the CSM proposes the following additional principles: (1) Centrality of human rights; (2) Primacy of the depth of CFS past and future policy products; (3) Subsidiarity in the relations between CFS and HLPF/UNGA; and, (4) Primacy of the direct engagement of both the primary contributors to food security and those primarily affected by food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms. While some of these elements are referred elsewhere in the document, they should be clearly spelled out in this section. The full rationale for this proposal can be found in the CSM February submission (attached for easier reference);
- This section should also acknowledge that the main contribution of the CFS to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda is provided by the Global Strategic Framework and the other major CFS decisions/products, and their dissemination, use and application;
- This section could also elaborate on existing links between the Agenda 2030 and CFS to underpin the legitimacy and need of CFS involvement.

Comments on Section III – Means of Engagement

- The title of the section is not appropriate. The CSM proposes to rename it as “CFS Roles with respect to the 2030 Agenda” or (second best) “Ways of Engagement”;
- As mentioned in the overall comment, the CSM proposes that the structure of this section follows the CFS Roles as articulated in the Reform Document (see above), with the current activities in point 1 and 2 to be reorganized under the respective CFS roles;

- By structuring the document along the lines of the Reform Document, it immediately becomes evident that the role of the CFS in promoting policy coherence and policy convergence should be significantly enhanced (the normative domain). While this is articulated in terms of supporting countries in the design of policies, the following value added by the CFS should be strengthened more in the document: a) providing the space to undertake a full comprehensive appraisal of the food security and nutrition situation across the world; b) identify the gaps and challenges that impede the proper achievement of the FSN-related goals; and c) develop those international norms and policies that would create the conditions and policy convergence/coherence for many of the concerned SDG targets to be met;
- In addition to Policy Convergence (covered by the previous item), a dimension which is not properly integrated in the outline is the “Coordination” function of the CFS, both at global level and for the national/regional level;
- More concrete proposals regarding the policy convergence, coordination and monitoring dimensions can be found in the CSM February submission (attached for easier reference).

Comments on Section IV – Implications for the Organization of CFS Work

- We strongly agree that no change of the CFS mandate is required. All the practical implications in terms of agenda setting, timeline and ways of working of the CFS should be discussed within the MYPOW, which is the legitimate CFS space for the discussion of the CFS biennium workplan, taking into account that the multi-actor, inclusive and participatory character of the CFS work should be fully preserved;
- However, at this stage the CSM does not endorse the proposed alignment of the CFS plenary dates to the HLPF, nor the proposal to adjust the multi-year planning cycle to the 4-year HLPF cycle. These proposals involve significant changes in the procedures, timeline and governance of the CFS and the way in which they are brought forward does seem to be neither substantiated nor appropriate;

In line with the principle of subsidiarity and the guiding ideas presented by the UNSG Report, the CSM proposes that the CFS invites the HLPF to host the substantive session primarily devoted to FSN and its interrelated goals in July 2018 (rather than the proposed July 2017). This would allow the proper unfolding of the CFS cycle, as CFS 44 could approve the CFS submission to the HLPF, rather than a weaker intersessional report with no formal plenary endorsement. In this respect, the GSF review, which is planned to be concluded at CFS 44, provides an excellent opportunity to provide to the HLPF a complete and comprehensive intergovernmentally-agreed framework. The CSM cannot imagine any better start for the ongoing relation between the CFS and the HLPF.