

CSM Talking Points for CFS Open Meeting on SDGs – Advanced Draft

Overall comments:

- The CSM supports the continued engagement of the CFS in the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda as it offers critical opportunities to establish a stronger role of the CFS in the governance architecture, under the aegis of the United Nations, that is required to truly advance the agenda for sustainable development in all its dimensions and build systemic policy coherence beyond the silos that have artificially separated indivisible dimensions of life and its ecology;
- In this respect, the CSM would encourage a CFS discussion on how to attract key policy dialogues and initiatives in the context of the CFS Plenary Session and its intersessional programme of work, in addition to strengthening the CFS contribution to the NY-based process;

CSM comments on the CFS draft submission to the UN SDG Summit in September 2019:

- Regarding the first message (Faster progress in reducing hunger and malnutrition is needed to ensure that “no one is left behind”), the three-year trend in rising world hunger calls for the need to discontinue current policies and change course. The CFS should therefore call for policy change rather than acceleration of implementation;
- Regarding the second message, the CSM appreciates the emphasis on the progressive realization of the RTF as the cornerstone for the pursuit of SDG2. This should be absolutely retained. However, the CFS should call for the “highest commitment” rather than simply a “stronger commitment” to implement the VGRtF, also in accordance to the Global Thematic Event at CFS 45 (which should be mentioned);
- In the second message, it is also essential to make explicit reference to the “structural causes” of food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms. The CSM would propose to use the following GSF Language: “Understanding the structural and underlying causes of food insecurity and malnutrition is required to identify and prioritize actions to promote food security and nutrition and the right to adequate food for all people”. Furthermore, while the emphasis on gender inequalities and discrimination is appreciated and should be retained, it is also essential to state that gender discrimination undermines the realization of women and girls’ rights, rather than simply referring to “women and girls’ nutritional status”;
- The third message focused on Smallholders is certainly appreciated and should be retained. However, it is also essential to highlight that smallholders are the primary contributors to food security (as highlighted in key message 1 of the CFS Contribution to the July HLPF), rather than exclusively describe them in their condition of food insecurity.

CSM comments on the CFS draft submission to the HLPF in July 2019:

- As recalled by the CSM Working Group on SDGs the CFS contribution should align with the United Nations agreed language, in order to change "indigenous people" to "indigenous peoples", in line with the United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Peoples, of which article 42 reads: "The United Nations, its bodies, including the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and specialized agencies, including at the country level, and States, shall promote respect for and full application of the provisions of this Declaration and follow up the effectiveness of this Declaration."

- The CSM appreciates the four key messages as currently formulated. However, the CSM objects to the inclusion on the term “sustainable intensification” in key message 3 as it represents a contradiction in terms. Considering the current levels of food losses and waste as well as the unsustainable ecological footprint that aggregate agricultural production exercises on the planet’s ecosystem, the term “intensification” does not appear to be consistent with the term “sustainable”.