

**Proposal on basic terms of
reference for monitoring events at
national, regional and global levels**

**CSM Working Group on Monitoring
Rome, January 19, 2016**

Our starting points

1. Decision box CFS 2015/42/10 stated:
“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.**” (para. 35h)

Our starting points

2. The CFS reform document called for an “**innovative mechanism**” to promote accountability that would be based on the input of a **wide range of actors**, involve and benefit from **existing frameworks** and partners and be flexible enough to benefit both **global level** (CFS and other) as well as **regional/national/local** planning and **monitoring** requirements (CFS: 2009/2 Rev.2, para6ii).

Events focused on monitoring...

**... are the first step in building the CFS
innovative monitoring mechanism.**

Developing basic ToR for monitoring events

- A. Framework for monitoring developed so far by the OEWG
- B. Understanding of monitoring
- C. Basic ToR: a proposal

A. OEWG framework for monitoring - 1

Key elements and principles (CFS 2013/40/8):

- Monitoring efforts should focus on major, strategic and catalytic products, such as VGGT, as well as the outcome of major workstreams contained in the current MYPoW (para 5d).
- The CFS should be a platform to share country, regional and global best practices on monitoring work (para 5e) and to inform on progress towards the application of CFS main outputs through the organization of events (CFS 2014/41/11, para 5).

A. OEWG framework for monitoring - 2

- The key reference for policy, programs and monitoring is the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF) (para 5j).
- Key characteristics of monitoring mechanisms should include:
 - locally-owned
 - be built on existing mechanisms
 - rights-based
 - inclusive and involving the participation of multiple stakeholder
 - grounded in multisectoral policy frameworks
 - ensuring adequate country capacities and resources
 - and including both qualitative and quantitative aspects.

A. OEWG framework for monitoring - 3

- GSF principles that apply to monitoring and accountability systems should:
 - 1) be human-rights based, with particular reference to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food;
 - 2) make it possible for decision-makers to be accountable;
 - 3) be participatory and include assessments that involve all stakeholders and beneficiaries, including the most vulnerable;
 - 4) 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;
 - 5) not duplicate existing systems, but rather build upon and strengthen national statistical and analytical capacities.

A. OEWG framework for monitoring - 4

- A baseline survey should periodically assess the effectiveness of the CFS (CFS 2013/40/8 para 5h,i).
- Implementation of in-depth country level assessments should be undertaken on a voluntary basis in order to complement the baseline survey (CFS 2014/41/11, decision box biii)

B. Understanding of monitoring - 1

Diversity of approaches:

- Measuring performance in achieving results in accordance with stated goals or plans. Quantitative approach.
- Human rights-based approach, assessing fulfillment of legal obligations. Qualitative approach.
- Sharing best practices.

B. Understanding of monitoring - 2

CFS should take into account the diversity of monitoring approaches preferred by different actors and should aim at bringing them into a conversation.

A plurality of monitoring approaches should inform the ToR for events focused on monitoring that the OEWG should develop now.

B. Understanding of monitoring - 3

- National and regional monitoring events should be entirely nationally and regionally owned.
- Strengthen national and regional monitoring capacities.
- They should be organized on a voluntary basis.
- National actors in each country to decide how to implement the ToR.
- CFS Secretariat would not play a role in organizing these events. However, the Rome-based UN agencies could play a supporting role.

C. Basic ToR - 1

Overall objectives

- Contribute to sharing best practices at all levels and to promoting accountability especially for advancing the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.
- Help countries and regions to assess whether objectives are being achieved and how food insecurity and malnutrition could be reduced more quickly and effectively.
- Enable monitoring the state of implementation of the CFS's own decisions and recommendations.
- Contribute to building capacity for food security and nutrition monitoring at national and regional levels.
- Contribute to incrementally building the CFS innovative mechanism of monitoring and become themselves an important component of such a mechanism.

C. Basic ToR - 2

Overall principles for organizing events

- Participation
- Inclusiveness
- Multi-actor
- Accountability

C. Basic ToR - 3

National and regional events

Objectives:

- Strengthen national/regional capacities for monitoring progress made in the realization of the right to adequate food and in securing food security and nutrition for all.
- Foster awareness at country/regional level about the relevance of CFS and its policy recommendations.
- Take stock of and assess the use and implementation of CFS's policy recommendations and the extent to which CFS has contributed to policy coherence and convergence at the national/regional level.

C. Basic ToR - 4

Guiding recommendations for organizing national/regional events

To the national governments:

- National actors should be the main protagonists of organizing these national events.
- Ensure inter-ministerial participation
- Enlist existing national multi-actor platforms for monitoring food security and nutrition in countries where they exist. In countries where they do not exist, these national events may foster establishing such platforms.
- Accept that the initiative of organizing a national/regional event can be taken by governments or by civil society platforms, but needs to be jointly agreed among national actors. A multi-actor organizing committee might be a good option to ensure the implementation of the principles stated above.
- Use national/regional events to help prepare national input for CFS global thematic sessions such as the one that will be held in CFS 43 to take stock of the use and application of the VGGT.

C. Basic ToR - 5

To FAO, IFAD and WFP: Provide support for organizing the event. Other UN agencies might provide support as well or could be invited as observers.

To the CFS Secretariat/AG-Bureau: Reserve a space to share the reports from these national/regional monitoring events in annual CFS sessions.

C. Basic ToR - 6

Global thematic events

Objectives

- Take stock of the use and application of CFS policy documents by CFS members and participants;
- Assess the extent to which CFS policy guidance has fostered coherence and convergence and promoted accountability at national, regional and international level in the realization of the right to adequate food and in securing food security and nutrition for all;
- Agree on recommendations to improve implementation of CFS policy documents.

C. Basic ToR - 7

Guiding recommendations to organize global thematic events

- The CFS will assess the main streams of its work during its annual sessions.
- The OEWG will appoint a task team with the participation of the CSM to prepare a list of questions and identify relevant UN agencies and individuals to provide inputs on the topic to be monitored.
- The task team appointed by the OEWG will review all submissions received and draft a set of lessons learned .
- The CFS will then organize a panel discussion on the recommendations.
- Countries which organized a national event on VGGT could share their results during this global thematic event;
- An entire day of CFS 43 should be dedicated to this global thematic event.

Thank you for your attention