

CSM Submission on MYPOW Zero Draft, 29 April 2019

CSM introductory remarks to the general debate at the CFS Open consultation on MYPOW (17 April 2019):

- 1) We appreciate that four very important topics which are very relevant for civil society and indigenous peoples have been prioritized: gender equality, youth, inequalities and migration and conflict. The overall picture of these interconnected priorities shows that the CFS can become more effective in responding to the dramatic realities our peoples face in the different territories and countries day by day.
- 2) The MYPOW should define very clearly what are the political objectives and expected outcomes of each of the policy convergence processes. Not all the priorities can lead to voluntary guidelines, but all the policy processes should lead to concrete results which also can be shorter. Maybe, a new format of shorter and actionable policy guidelines could be developed and tested.
- 3) The process of sharpening the proposals and integrating them into the Zero Draft should reflect as much as possible the discussions held in January and March; shortening proposals should not lead to losing substance or reducing their level of concretion. Some essential parts were taken off in some proposals and should be restored. See more details below when discussing the concrete topics. In the case of the migration and conflict proposal, we noted that the focus was transformed into armed conflicts and forced migration, although such change of focus was not suggested by the previous discussions held in January and March.
- 4) It is important to make use of the agreed text and mandate coming from the Plenary regarding those workstreams that are now to be extended to 2020: this is particularly important for the proposed text on agroecology and other innovations, as well as for the text proposed on food systems and nutrition. We should not re-discuss these mandates here, as this might lead us to unnecessary and lengthy discussions.
- 5) As a general remark, we suggest including references along the different proposals to the Decade on Nutrition, Decade on Family Farming, the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People living in Rural Areas.

CSM response to the discussion:

We appreciate the guiding questions for the general conversation on the Zero Draft: for the CSM the guiding question to which we need to respond at this stage is: are we addressing the most pressing issues to respond to the realities from the ground, to overcome hunger, malnutrition and their structural causes?

Indeed, the workload is important, our workplan has to be feasible, the issues have to be relevant for the CFS - but ultimately the CFS has to be relevant for the world.

Therefore, it is important for us to keep the new proposals for the MYPOW, as prioritized by the Bureau of March 6th, and to dedicate appropriate and separate time for each of them. All the new proposals have different basis and come from different processes, while they are complementary, they have different scopes and nature. Taking in account that this is last open meeting on MYPOW, we should carefully discuss the issues at hand, check if in the editing process any elements of substance were lost, and discuss what need to be adjusted in the proposed scope or objectives.

We strongly believe that taking up four new workstreams should be feasible for CFS during the period 2020 - 2023. For sure, not on all of them we can aim to develop Voluntary Guidelines, this is indeed

not realistic. But in the same time, the Voluntary Guidelines are the most effective and impactful work of CFS outside CFS. CSM believes that 2 Voluntary Guidelines and 2 Specific Policy recommendations can be developed out of the new proposals on women, youth, inequalities and migration, in the timeframe of the next MYPOW. We believe that having 2 main policy products is feasible in terms of workload and budget, as the secretariat also indicated in its estimates presented in the Zero Draft.

The increase of hunger and malnutrition show us that our efforts to build new solutions and implement the existing instruments for which we already worked very hard, have to further increase, in order not leave anyone behind and comply with Agenda 2030. We have to be more focused, more strategic in order to achieve what we plan. We would add to the wise question that the Nigerian ambassador asked us - how many CFS products are used on the ground? - the other question: what are we currently doing and are we doing enough for the use and application of the products negotiated here? The answer is no, we are definitively not doing enough.

Finally, regarding the concerns on funding - they are legitimate, we all had in mind the budget when we assessed the Zero Draft, but financial estimations have to be considered for what they truly are - tools to support the political work of CFS, not obstacles to achieve solutions for hunger and malnutrition. At this stage, money cannot be the decisive factor in establishing the new priorities for the next NYPOW, we have time in the next steps to get into the details of the budget for which we then also need more precise figures, as other delegations suggested as well.

CSM Specific remarks on the different proposals

1.1.1. The FSN Global Narrative report

- It is not clear from the proposed text what will follow this report. How will this report be discussed and used?

2.1.1. Food Systems and Nutrition

- The Text should be made fully consistent with the Terms of Reference agreed by the CFS 45th Plenary Session.

2.1.2 Agroecological approaches

- Would be important to know where the proposed text comes from.
- As this workstream is an extension of the MYPOW 2018/2019, it would be logical to use the Plenary approved language for the purpose here, in order to avoid a repetition of lengthy negotiations.
- We noted that in the second version of the Zero Draft, the last paragraph of the first version of the Zero Draft was deleted. It should be restored.

2.1.3 Gender equality

- We welcome the proposal to develop Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment as suggested in the Zero Draft.
- We noted that the shortening of the text affected the substance of the previous proposal in some way, especially the women's rights dimension. At least one the paragraphs from the original proposals that speaks on this should be restored. In this line, the following paragraph from the original proposal could be reinserted:

“Therefore, developing the voluntary guidelines in the context of CFS will make it possible to raise global awareness about the importance of gender equality, women’s and girls’ rights and women’s empowerment issues in relation to achieving food security and nutrition, and will mobilize the necessary political attention, commitment and, prospectively, resources.”

- Key aspects that underline the importance of this workstream include:
 - This proposal was one of the most supported ones in the previous discussions;
 - It is fundamental for fighting one of the most important structural causes of hunger and malnutrition;
 - It can build on previous processes in CFS and Rome-Based Agencies and explains clearly the added value of the CFS;
 - Is a joint proposal of the three Rome-Based Agencies which are also committed to the implementation of the voluntary guidelines after their approval.

2.1.4 Youth Proposal

The general importance of the youth proposal is clear, and some elements are reflecting previous discussions, however important aspects from previous meetings are not included, which has been mentioned by some of the present States and very important aspects that the CSM Youth constituency had mentioned previously are still not included.

While the territorial approach is included, access, control, ownership and autonomy over land, water and other natural resources is not and needs to be spelled out as it is key for rural youth and Indigenous youth, as recalled by the intervention of Nicole Yanes from the CSM Youth Constituency.

Another thing that was very good and important before and has been removed is the aspect of political participation in decision making: this needs to be included again and strengthened through a clear focus on Youth agency and autonomy.

After the debate on this topic that took place during the 17 April consultation, we would also like to suggest a different proposal for the title of the workstream that could be a good compromise that gather all concerns and perspectives expressed in the room. The alternative title would be “Youth engagement and employment in food systems”.

What is still missing although it had been proposed by the CSM Youth constituency before, and should be included in the revised MYPOW drafts are the following elements:

- The explicit recognition of the different constituencies within youth that include smallholders and family farmers but also indigenous peoples, fisherfolks, agricultural and food workers, women, landless, consumers, pastoralists and urban food insecure.
- Any proposal on youth needs to be anchored in a strong human rights-based approach, acknowledging the participation and rights of youth as a cornerstone of public policies on food security and nutrition.
- CSM Youth would like to reiterate the importance of including a gender perspective also within this proposal, and the specific challenges faced by young women when talking about youth engagement and employment;
- We need to look and think of youth as producers and processors and not only employees in the workforce, especially if we want youth to take pride and make a dignified living with fishing, gathering, hunting, farming, pastoralism, etc.
- We cannot limit us to only the employment dimension, nor should be reduce our vision to the value chain perspective. The youth constituency is very diverse. As Nicole Yanes said during the meeting: “From my experience, as a gatherer of wild plants and medicines, ecological restoration of Indigenous Territories to its pristine ecosystem is ESSENTIAL to feeding our communities and for having sustainability in making a dignified living so when we talk about territorial approaches

and innovations it is important to keep in mind the importance of ecological restoration that have sometimes been degraded by mono-crop farming, deforestation, and the contamination of industries such as mining.”

- Youth leaders from Western African Farmers networks and from other parts of the world underline the importance of addressing the issue of youth engagement and employment by ensuring the possibility for the youth to access to and produce with the natural resources of their territories, and to process and value their works and products through the local knowledge and capacity already existing within their communities.
- Young people are strongly embedded in social relations in their families and communities. This is particularly important in considering how to promote dignified and satisfying livelihoods for rural youth and to contrast involuntary migration. In this connection the workstream should take into consideration the UN International Decade for Family Farming.
- Finally, we recall the importance of having an HLPE Report for an informed and holistic discussion of this pressing and complex policy challenge.

2.1.5 Inequalities

- We would like to highlight that the proposal regarding inequalities and FSN is fundamental for the next MYPOW. The CFS is the most appropriate forum to address social and economic inequalities as root causes of hunger and malnutrition, and to propose policies to reduce inequalities towards the progressive realization of the right to food, with a focus on people most affected of food insecurity and malnutrition. No other UN Forum can claim such added value on this relation between FSN and inequalities with a comparable degree of inclusiveness and legitimacy. The topic has received great support from members and participants in previous discussions. Inequalities are the main cause of hunger and malnutrition and not including it in the next MYPOW would be a mistake.
- We noted that the proposed political objective and expected results were reduced to a vague formulation on policy guidance. Also, the request for an HLPE report was taken off. The previous discussions had strongly supported the joint proposal of IFAD, Hungary, Indonesia, South Africa and CSM. The request for an HLPE report, and inclusive discussion in the CFS and a participatory policy process towards Voluntary Guidelines on reducing inequalities for FSN should be restored.
- Regarding the doubt mentioned by some delegates that the inequality issue might be too broad and complex for the CFS, we would recall that the scope should concentrate on the relation between reducing inequalities and FSN, with a strong focus in the realization of the right to adequate food, and that the complexity of the theme is one of the essential reasons why an HLPE report should precede the policy discussions at CFS. In this line, it might be appropriate to revise the introductory chapeau to the rather broad questions at the end of the MYPOW section on inequalities by specifically stating that they are meant to be posed to the HLPE for the elaboration of the report and do not necessarily intend to suggest such a comprehensive approach for the subsequent CFS policy convergence process.
- Two paragraphs of the previous proposal were removed between the first and second version of the Zero Draft affecting the substance of the proposal. As communicated by the CFS Secretariat during the meeting, we are aware and confident that they will be restored. - These paragraphs are:

“These inequalities impact on the governance of food systems and on unequal access to food; they raise more broadly ethical, economic (IMF, 2014), social and environmental concerns. Unequal access to food is in turn a driver of many other inequalities and instability: sustained disparities between vulnerable and other social groups can slow

growth and lead to political unrest (Stiglitz, 2012) and to low levels of investment in the provision of public goods and services (UNDESA, 2013b). The resulting social tensions, migration fluxes and political instability continue to affect many countries.

The increasing awareness that inequalities should be looked at as a serious handicap for social cohesion, economic transformation and political stability (Piketty, 2014) is generating an international mobilization, reflected in the title of the 2030 Agenda: “No one left behind,” and calls for the exploration of innovative pathways to diminish inequalities and thereby to enhance FSN. Investments for small-scale agriculture may be key to address most SDGs and the choice of development pathways can play a decisive role (HLPE, 2013; Sourisseau, 2015).”

- Other deletions of specific wording which was introduced by the original proponents after consultations with capitals and constituencies and which were not contested during previous discussions, should also be reinserted. This refers particularly to wording on inequality and access to land, decent working conditions, focus on smallholders, and the notion that corporate concentration also refers to food production and supply.
- On a more editorial note, it might be appropriate to remove the brackets indicating bibliographic references as the adjusted text is different from the original paragraphs of the HLPE note and as bibliographic references are not foreseen in other parts of the MYPOW either.
- The intended link to the UN Decade on Family Farming and the Decade on Nutrition should be reincorporated, and a reference to the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Declaration on Peasants Rights included, as inequalities are particularly affecting indigenous peoples, peasants and other people living in the rural areas.

2.1.6 Migration and Conflicts

- Debates on this topic were rather to broaden the focus of migration and seeing conflicts as one of the drivers, as it was also suggested by the HLPE note on critical and emerging issues.
- A very narrow view on only armed conflicted and forced migration is not properly reflecting these previous discussions.
- The proposal should therefore be reworked again in the direction of a broader understanding of the relations between migration and FSN, considering conflicts as one of many drivers of migration. As the original proposal stated “The workstream is intended to have a deep focus on Migration, with a special attention to conflicts as one of its main root causes (while also analyzing others). The cultural background of migration should also be taken into consideration, because migration has always existed as an integral part of people’s experience; what has changed is the way in which occurs, the fact that conflicts, poverty and inequality push people to migrate out of desperation rather than choice (SOFI 2018)”

2.1.7 Data collection

- This section seems to be very prominent taking into consideration the very limited support that was expressed to it in previous discussions.
- The topic is important but is not appropriate for a policy workstream of the CFS. It could be better included as a supporting activity in the second part of the MYPOW or in the part under Strategic Objective 1 (*Platform for inclusive discussions*)

3.1.1 Monitoring

- The GTEs are well reflected in the draft.
- The Water and Climate Change theme was originally proposed as a full workstream for MYPOW. As both topics are extremely relevant for food security and nutrition and both were topics of HLPE reports and led to CFS Policy Recommendations, we would suggest organizing a Stocktaking Event on the CFS Policy Recommendations on Water and Climate Change at the Plenary Session in 2021.

3.2.1/3.2.2 Dissemination Forums:

- The proposals for the Forum on the two new CFS products are welcome. Similar activities should be foreseen for all CFS policy outcomes after their approval. In this case, it would be important to add also a dissemination activity of this kind for the agroecology and other innovations workstream, and then as well on envisaged outcomes of the youth, migration and inequalities workstreams.

B2 1 SDG – Follow-Up

- A more strategic approach to CFS engagement with HLPF should be discussed in CFS, possibly in the SDG open meeting on 21 May. The outcomes of that should be reflected in this part of the MYPOW.
- This more strategic approach as well includes the important role of the SDG reviews and SOFI reports in the CFS innovative monitoring mechanism, as it was agreed with the response to the CFS Evaluation by the last CFS Plenary.