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## CFS Policy Convergence Process on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition

Dear CFS stakeholders,

I am pleased to inform you that the two-day session to agree on decision text representing policy convergence related to *Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition* will take place on 5 and 6 October 2017 in the Red Room of FAO in Rome, Italy. The objective is to find consensus on decision text to submit to the CFS Plenary for endorsement in October 2017.

As established by the CFS Bureau in July, the deadline to provide comments on the content and the nature of the future CFS policy outcomes is 15 September. After that day, no new thematic issues can be introduced and by then the purpose of our efforts will be to refine and finalize the text to be presented in plenary. A meeting in English to discuss the different written comments provided by CFS stakeholders will take place on 19 September (9.00-12.30, German Room, FAO), in view of the finalization of the Rapporteur's proposal which is expected to be circulated on 25 September. The language versions of the Rapporteur's proposal will be made available by 29 September, meaning that CFS stakeholders will be given almost two weeks with the Rapporteur's proposal and almost one week with its language versions before the two-day session on 5 and 6 October.

I strongly urge all CFS Members and Participants to review the Rapporteur's proposal in detail and share in advance of the October two-day session any key issues requiring changes with the CFS Secretariat ([cfs@fao.org](mailto:cfs@fao.org)), no later than 2 October.

I propose the following approach to reaching consensus:

**Procedures:** The process will follow the rules of procedure established by CFS. It will be facilitated by the Rapporteur and will be supported by the Technical Focal Point and the CFS Secretariat. The Rapporteur may request the assistance of Members to facilitate Friends of the Rapporteur discussions, if they are needed.

**Format:** In the interest of time, I ask CFS stakeholders to abstain from opening or general statements for which there will be space during the CFS Plenary session. Instead inputs should be targeted on substantive topics or issues that need to be amended. Intervention should be limited to any change to be made with concrete text proposal, and a concise clarification on meaning.

**Modalities:** The proposed modalities for debate are as follows:

- Regional Groups and Participant constituencies are strongly encouraged to form collective positions;

- In the interests of time and efficiency, the Rapporteur might indicate how many interventions will be heard before coming up with a Rapporteur's proposal, or use his right to stop the intervention;
- Proposals from Participants that do not find Member state support, will not be further considered;
- Based on the round of interventions, a Rapporteur's proposal will be then formulated on which the Rapporteur will ask for agreement;
- If there is still no agreement, the Rapporteur will call for one additional round of short and focused interventions, after which a new Rapporteur's proposal will be formulated and presented for agreement;
- If no agreement can be reached after this second round, the Rapporteur will request bilateral or smaller group discussion and/or when appropriate he will call for a Friends of the Rapporteur discussion to resolve outstanding issues. Those discussions will be held either over lunch time or in the evening after the end of session.

**Sessions:** There will be two sessions each day (9.30-12.30 and 14.30-17.30) and, if needed, the Rapporteur might decide to continue the session in the evening. CFS stakeholders are strongly invited to be on time at each meeting. The sessions will be interpreted in the six official UN languages (English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese and Russian).

All delegations are encouraged to be ready to reach consensus on a policy outcome on *Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition* to be presented in plenary for endorsement.

I am confident that in spirit of cooperation and partnership we will be able to reach a successful conclusion by 6 October.

Many thanks and looking forward to seeing you.

Ambassador François Pythoud  
*Rapporteur, Policy Convergence Process*  
*Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition*