

**Draft CSM Contributions to  
CFS Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting  
12 September 2016**

**Agenda item 1: CFS 43 and Workstream Updates**

- The CSM would like to highlight the importance of the upcoming Outreach Event for the operationalization of the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security in protracted crises, to be held next week, 19 September in Nairobi. We also appreciate that the CFS was able to fund a significant participation of civil society organizations from the selected African countries and look forward to the outcomes of this important event.
- Evaluation: we have a serious problem with the fact, that no translation of draft versions of the evaluation will be provided, as the Evaluation team informed. This excludes a significant part of civil society from reading and commenting it, which is concerning, taking into account the considerable budget of the Evaluation. We request the CFS Secretariat to re-assess the situation with the Evaluation team and the concerned offices of the RBA.

**Agenda item 2: Forum Women's Empowerment**

- We welcome the proposal to select the theme of the CFS workstream on "Women's empowerment for food security and nutrition" as the topic for the next Global Thematic Monitoring event during CFS 44 in 2017, based on the previous CFS decision on "Gender, Food Security and Nutrition", approved in 2011, following an HLPE report on this topic.
- The CSM considers that the workplan for this process should be drafted by the OEWG on Monitoring, based on the experiences with the first Global Thematic Event during CFS 43 on the use and application of the VGGT. The process proposal submitted for today should be seen as preliminary and submitted for discussion to the OEWG meeting in November.
- It is important that the process of preparation of this Global Thematic Event should be conducted under the responsibility of the OEWG on Monitoring, with the assistance of a Technical Task Team that is open to members of the Advisory Group.
- One of the important question to be discussed by the OEWG will be, if future CFS Global Monitoring Events on CFS decision should also aim to draw lessons learned and conclusions from the monitoring exercise. We believe that this should be included, in order to make the monitoring efforts as useful as possible.

**Agenda item 3: CFS approaches to policy convergence**

- The CFS is a unique space with the mandate to promote Policy Convergence on those issues that are highly relevant for food security and nutrition. Some of these issues are complex and conflictual, by their very nature. Policy convergence efforts are not needed, when we all have the same opinion. They are needed, when we

- have divergent point of views. The CFS should not shy away from difficult themes, but address them if they are highly relevant to address food security and nutrition.
- The CFS is known and appreciated worldwide because of those decisions and products that have gone through intense and complicated negotiation processes, on topics that were clearly relevant and contentious. It is important to positive value what was achieved through these difficult negotiations and the legitimacy that was reached through a participatory approach. We believe that the upcoming monitoring event on VGGT and the CFS evaluation will support this assessment. We do not support an approach to be less ambitious and to go the more easy way. This would lower and damage the political profile of the CFS.
  - What is needed is a thorough analysis of all policy convergence experiences in the CFS so far. The document falls short on this aspect: It should take into account also the experiences on the decision boxes negotiated in the CFS. The list of contentious issues is uncomplete and biased. It would be an interesting question to precisely analyze: Which are the contentious issues, and why are they actually contentious?
  - The methodological question needs to be addressed: what has worked best in negotiations? What has not worked and has sometimes blocked progress in certain occasions? It is important to assess the different experiences, before entering the next negotiations.
  - Time is a factor: all important international negotiations on complex and challenging issues need their time, particularly when they follow participatory, inclusive and consensus-building principles.
  - In summary: The CFS should strengthen, not weaken its role on policy convergence, prioritize even more the themes that should be taken up in future, and conduct serious negotiations on those issues based on sound methodologies and its participatory and inclusive approach.
  - The debate on policy convergence and the role of the CFS in complying with this function is part of the evaluation. We suggest to discuss this topic again only after seeing the results of the evaluation, in April or May 2017.

#### **Agenda item 4: CFS meetings content planning**

- The new schedule for the CFS Evaluation states that the first version of the evaluation for comments of the Bureau and Advisory Group will be ready on 31 January. However, the discussion of the evaluation by the Bureau/AG meeting is already scheduled for 6 February, only six days after the release of the first draft. If this is kept, there won't be adequate time to assess it, aggravated by the fact that according to the evaluation team, no translation of draft versions will be provided. The date of the Bureau/AG meeting should therefore be postponed to the second half of February.  
In addition, we suggest to involve into the discussion on the first draft of the evaluation report also other members of the CFS who are usually not participating in the meetings of the Bureau and Advisory Group.

- The idea to take a decision on policy convergence process on 10 February by the Bureau is not appropriate, as it would completely de-link this discussion from the evaluation process.