

**CSM Preliminary Remarks on CFS Evaluation
Workshop on Preliminary Findings
CFS AG/Bureau Meeting 29 November 2016**

On the Timeline:

Due to the fact that the preliminary findings arrived only last Wednesday, translations were only ready by the weekend. Therefore, our comments are very preliminary, and time should be given for internal consultation and to hand in comments in written.

This also calls attention again on the fact that the meeting date of 10th of February for the discussion of the first draft evaluation report is very soon, if the draft is released only on January 31. There will be not time for translation and consultation. Therefore, we propose that the meeting of the AG/bureau on the draft evaluation to take place one week later, around the 17 of February.

Some preliminary comments on the preliminary findings:

The mandate of the evaluation is about the question if the CFS is effectively advancing in line with the vision and roles established in the CFS Reform 2009. So, it does not evaluate the reform, but if it has been effectively implemented and how to improve the CFS in the spirit of its reform.

The document is quite descriptive, and documents the responses to the questions of the evaluation, but does not really analyse or assess them. So, possibly the document is rather meant to share with CFS members and participants the first impressions of the Evaluation team and to generate comments on them.

We have seen and appreciate that, in this sense a number of remarks and concerns from our side have been incorporated in the document, for further discussion and analysis.

Some key aspects are however still missing and should be included in the further work:

- the question if the CFS does achieve its vision includes the contribution to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food. This important part and all the dimension of rights is missing in the analysis so far.
- the assessment refers to the six roles of the CFS, this is important, but does not systematically analyze them.
- the aspect of gender is missing: it is very important to analyze the way how gender equality, women's empowerment and women's rights have been discussed in the CFS and what have been the outcomes of it.
- the role of the member states and their involvement in the CFS in Rome is not sufficiently considered. Given their essential key role as the members and decision-makers in the CFS, it is important needs to assess achievements but also limitations of their participation.
- the topic of possible conflicts of interest is also missing yet.

Some facts need to be corrected. For example the commitment of other UN bodies outside the RBA is indeed there, through SCN or the HLTF which are strongly involved. Also the fact that the four seats of the CSM refer to the CFS Advisory Group only, not to the participation in OEWG.

Some aspects need a more comprehensive analysis, particularly the parts on monitoring, policy convergence and coordination. They should be assessed against what was foreseen in the Reform and should consider both the progress achieved and identify the obstacles.

Regarding CSM itself: we will further work with the Evaluation team and continue to provide the needed information. But we also would expect that the evaluation assesses the contributions of the civil society organizations through the CSM to the CFS in a more comprehensive way. We also expect recommendations that help strengthening and broadening the participation of all CSM constituencies in the CFS process.

Key CSM positions as presented to the CFS 43 final plenary session include the following considerations:

The CFS is at the crossroads: We have seen during the past two years and also during this session, that there are two possible pathways for the CFS: either it goes in the direction of erosion of the CFS Reform, or in the direction of strengthening the CFS in the spirit of its Reform. The eight actions here are:

- Affirming the Vision of the CFS: the CFS is committed to contribute to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food. The centrality of human rights, particularly the indivisibility, universality, interdependency and interrelatedness of all human rights are fundamental for the CFS. There is no way to comply with the right to food without respecting, protecting and fulfilling women's rights.
- Preserving the Focus of the CFS. Everybody is invited to contribute to the CFS. But special attention is given to the organizations of smallholders and small-scale food producers, agricultural and food workers, who are the most important contributors to world food security and nutrition, and often the groups most at risk of food insecurity. This focus must not be lost.
- Strengthening the use and application of CFS outcomes: without a much stronger commitment of governments and all actors in the CFS to actually put into practice the CFS decisions and instruments, the CFS will lose its relevance.
- Developing and activating the monitoring mechanism of the CFS, including encouraging the realization of national and regional monitoring events and promoting regular Global Thematic monitoring events during CFS Plenaries.
- Addressing the most relevant issues for food security and nutrition, and of particular interest to the small-scale food producers, agricultural and food workers and other rights holders. The policy convergence and policy coherence functions of the CFS require that members and participants do not shy away from topics that are controversial or complicated, and from serious negotiations on these topics. We strongly hope that this attitude will prevail in the upcoming MYPOW discussions.
- Ensure that any organization that is interested to participate in the CFS has to choose to which category of participants it belongs, according to the CFS Reform Document, and then participate through the respective Mechanism.
- Clarifying the terms of participation of the private and corporate sector within the CFS and developing robust safeguards to protect the space from undue conflict of interest to ensure that the concerns of rights-holders are always considered above and before those of other actors pursuing private interests. Actions within this space must always be aligned with the primary mandate of CFS to ensure food and nutrition security.
- Establishing a solid and sustainable funding structure of the CFS which reflects the support of all members and the RBA to the CFS, and ensure the full implementation

of the agreed MYPOW. The CFS must be funded by public funds. The integrity of the MYPOW is important, a donor-driven CFS would be a weak CFS.