

## CSM Evaluation Intervention

We very much welcome this evaluation as an important opportunity to revisit the founding aspirations of the reformed Committee on World Food Security. We all remember that in a moment of high crisis the CFS took the opportunity to reform international and intergovernmental food governance. This was the exceptional context in which member states courageously and ambitiously committed to creating a unique space in the UN system to address the root causes of hunger and malnutrition. This ambition is expressed clearly in the CFS's reform document.

It is expressed in the status assigned to the CFS as 'the central United Nations political platform dealing with food security and nutrition'. It is also clearly expressed in the six key roles assigned to the CFS, and in the centrality given in the CFS's work to the 'progressive realisation of the right to food'. The reform document also commits the CFS to the pursuit of an unprecedented inclusivity, stating that *"Its composition will ensure that the voices of all relevant stakeholders – particularly those most affected by food insecurity - are heard."* The 43<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the CFS has reaffirmed this commitment, because we are at the same time the most important contributors for food security and nutrition worldwide. This makes the CFS unique amongst global level institutions.

To be successful, we strongly feel that the evaluation must not lose sight of these essential characteristics. Indeed, we very much hope that the evaluation will be an important step in our collaborative efforts to bring the unprecedented ambition of the CFS's reform blueprint, into reality, and by so doing, enable the CFS to play its part in the global struggle against food insecurity.

We note that the inception report still leaves many fundamentally important methodological issues to be worked out. It is not clear for example how the evaluation will ensure that in its process special voice and space is given to the constituencies of the most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition. We caution against an unspecified use of multi-stakeholder language, that does not differentiate between members, distinct kind of participants, and observers and that can create confusion about how their contributions will be handled in a way that respects the centrality of human rights approach and the voice of those affected.

The CFS should embark on a self-critical, in-depth learning process on progress and shortcomings regarding effective compliance with its roles. Evaluating the CFS is not however just about capturing effectiveness. Promoting policy convergence, coordination, implementing and monitoring outcomes and recommendations, promoting accountability of the CFS participants, if done on a voluntary basis depends in the first place on political will. The effectiveness of the CFS, and the political will of its members, are inseparably linked.

Through our engagement, we believe we have significantly contributed to the substance and the legitimacy of the CFS. We look forward to contributing to the evaluation and are ready to support the evaluation team as requested, as they move forward.