

**CSM Draft Contributions to the CFS Bureau/AG meeting
– February 6, 2017**

Comments on the draft agenda:

- We propose that we first address agenda item 5 on the Forum on Women’s Empowerment given its importance and possible implications for agenda item 1 on the CFS 44 Draft Timetable and Agenda.
- We would like to ask the Chair for the floor during agenda item 8 on Any Other Business so that we may extend an invitation to all Bureau and AG members to attend the CSM information meeting tomorrow.

Agenda item 1 – CFS 44 Draft Timetable and Agenda

Regarding the CFS 44 draft timetable and agenda, we wish to make the following points:

- We propose to invite the newly appointed United Nations Secretary General to give the keynote speech at the CFS 44 opening session. His presence would raise the political profile of the CFS session and attract the media. Should he not be able to attend, we suggest that the Deputy Secretary General Amida J. Mohamed or the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein be invited.
- The CSM supports the proposal for an interactive opening panel with the CFS Chair, the heads of the three Rome-based agencies and the HLPE Chair. One of the questions for the panellists could be: what actions will be taken to respond to the findings of the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report?
- The CSM proposes several changes in the CFS draft timetable:
 - We believe that it would be more appropriate to dedicate three quarters of a day to the SDGs, rather than a full day. We think that, on Monday, it would be pertinent to link the Contribution to the High Level Political Forum 2018 to the GSF.
 - We also believe that one full day on nutrition should suffice. In this respect, we propose that the session on Good Practice and Lesson Sharing for Improved Nutrition be held during the intersessional period, as no political decision of the Plenary 2017 is requested.
 - The Forum on Women’s Empowerment is very important, and the forum conclusions should be included in the CFS44 final report. Therefore, it should take place earlier during the week, before Friday morning.
 - On Friday morning, Critical and Emerging Issues for Food Security and Nutrition could be presented, followed by a debate on a global emerging issue that is deemed relevant by the CFS, as concluded during the last Bureau/AG meeting on November, 29.
- We therefore propose the following re-structured agenda (please see the attached table):
 - Monday: Opening, SDGs and GSF;
 - Tuesday morning: HLPE report on nutrition;

- Tuesday afternoon: Update on ICN2 Reporting and CFS Advancing Nutrition including the Decade of Action on Nutrition;
- On Wednesday morning the Forum on Women's Empowerment could take place. Given the fact that it is the main workstream of MYPOW 2017, this would allow for a stronger profile and for the forum conclusions to be included in the CFS44 final report;
- The session on Policy Convergence: Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition could be moved to Wednesday afternoon.
- Wednesday's evening session (18:30 - 21:30) could be on MYPOW and shortened to 18:30 - 20:00;
- The Evaluation of the CFS could be discussed during the first half of Thursday morning and the CFS plan on monitoring during the second half;
- On Thursday afternoon there would be no change regarding the discussion on urbanization and rural transformation;
- The HLPE's report on Critical and Emerging Issues for Food Security and Nutrition could be presented during the first half of Friday morning, followed by a debate on a global emerging issue that is deemed relevant by the CFS during the second half.
- On Friday afternoon there would be the Election of Chair, Bureau & Alternates, Arrangements for CFS 45 and Adoption of Final Report, as proposed in the draft timetable.

Agenda item 2 – CFS 44 Side Event Proposal

- Side events are considered to be of great value as they mirror the plurality and diversity of perspectives at the CFS. They reflect the multi-stakeholder nature as well as the CFS principle of self-organisation. There is no need to introduce additional phases of classification, with two separate selection processes, as this could entail more work and unnecessary bureaucratization.
- Should the necessity arise for a possible CFS session on an emerging issue, we suggest that a space be opened for this matter on Friday morning, following the presentation of the HLPE report on Critical and Emerging Issues for Food Security and Nutrition. We suggest that the specific issue be debated and agreed upon by the AG and Bureau during the first half of 2017.

Agenda item 3 – CFS 44 Policy Convergence Process – Sustainable Forestry

- The proposal follows in the footsteps of the previous process on Sustainable Agricultural Development and Livestock in 2016 and builds on that experience, which, overall, we consider in a positive light. We particularly welcome the fact that interpretation will be provided at the negotiations in September, which is a lesson learned from last year.
- Even though the goal is to complete negotiations before the plenary, this may not necessarily be the case. It is worth reminding ourselves that it is the plenary which has the mandate to finalise the policy convergence

process, and it is not possible at this moment to pre-determine that such engagement of the plenary won't be needed.

- In this sense, we do not think that it is recommendable to agree on a detailed agenda for the plenary session on this matter. At this stage, we can define the general agenda of the session, which includes a presentation on the HLPE report followed by a multi-stakeholder discussion on the findings and draft policy recommendations stemming from the negotiations.

Agenda item 4 – Forum on Women's Empowerment

Regarding the content of the concept note:

- The CSM believes that the draft concept note is a good starting point supports the holistic approach to women's empowerment which includes a strong link to the full realization of women's rights. In this sense, the mentioning of women's rights in the introduction of the objectives' section as an overarching framework of the forum and their mentioning in the expected results is very important.
- It is also important to us that the forum does not limit itself to the identification and sharing of good and best practices, but it also identifies the challenges, gaps and persisting barriers, as foreseen in the current MYPOW.
- We also support the link with CEDAW, and in particular art. 14 and the related General Recommendation 34 on the rights of rural women, as part of the holistic approach mentioned above.
- We just would like to add three specific important references to the note: a) the mentioning of indigenous women's rights, related to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; b) the reference to SDG 8 on decent work and productive employment which is very relevant for women workers in the agricultural and food sector; and c) ILO Convention 100, equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value, to show that discrimination in pay is a barrier.

Regarding outcome and process:

- The CSM Women constituency, composed by women's organizations, from smallholders, fisherfolks, indigenous people, consumers, pastoralists and other constituencies has high expectations towards the outcome of this CFS process.
- We recall that this workstream was agreed to be a major workstream for CFS in the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2016-2017. The current proposal does not adequately reflect this priority setting. As said before, the Forum must not be allocated on Friday morning of the CFS plenary schedule, but earlier in the week, to allow for an inclusion of its conclusions into the final report of CFS 44.
- Our preference is to hold a full day Forum in the week before the plenary which would allow that CFS members and participants engage more deeply with the contents, followed by a 3-hour session during the first half of the CFS plenary week. This would allow for the needed visibility and effectiveness of the workstream, including through specific policy conclusions that would be then be reflected in the CFS 44 Final Report.

- If this preferred option was not acceptable to all, we would suggest as a second option to hold the Forum during plenary as an intermediate step in a process that would end in 2018 with the adoption of a substantial policy recommendation at CFS 45. If that second option was perceived as a better option, this should be further discussed in the Open-Ended Working Group on MYPoW today in the afternoon. The specific proposal would be to agree on the continuation of one year, to guarantee the substance, quality and added value of this important workstream, being concluded with CFS 45.

Agenda item 5 – Advisory Group Composition

- The Advisory Group composition is one of the more complicated CFS issues on which there seems to be no straightforward consensus.
- The CSM believes that the discussion on the functioning and composition of the Advisory Group should be based on the principles established during the CFS reform.
- In this sense, it is worth noting that the CFS principle of inclusivity means that all relevant actors on food security and nutrition should be invited to participate in the CFS. Special attention and respective space should be given to organisations of the people most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition, recognizing as well that they are the most important contributors to food security and nutrition worldwide.

Agenda item 6 – Workstream updates

- There are no comments by the CSM on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 7 – Budget update

Regarding the CFS budget, we wish to reiterate some key points for the CSM.

- The HLPE budget deficit is a matter of much concern. Should there be no translation of the HLPE report due to a budget deficit, the CSM would consider this a disaster for the CFS, as it would have serious implications for this year's processes and work. How can we guarantee inclusivity in processes that follow up on HLPE reports if the reports are only accessible to English speakers? We urge member states and RBAs to make an additional emergency effort to back the HLPE!
- The CSM still has a considerable financial deficit, which is now affecting participation in OEWDGs. As an emergency measure, the CSM has reduced the number of funded participants in OEWDG sessions to one person. This measure will be in place until we receive positive news on the additional funds requested by the CSM. Further information on this matter will be shared during the CSM information meeting tomorrow.
- We appreciate the fact that the Bureau has convened a special meeting on the financial sustainability of the CFS, as proposed during the previous AG meeting. During the last Bureau/AG meeting, the CSM presented several concrete

options (please see below) for discussion. We look forward to receiving your comments and to the concrete proposals of all CFS members and participants at the meeting on March, 9.

The CSM proposed to the last AG/Bureau meeting on 29 November 2016 that the following options be explored:

- 1) A first option could be that CFS is fully funded by its members through a Scale-based suggested contribution of all its members.
- 2) A second, mixed model could be to maintain the current support from RBA to the CFS and to cover the missing part through a Scale-based suggest contribution of all its members.
- 3) A third, combined-mixed option could combine the support from RBA and members countries in a Scale-based model in which the RBA cover the contributions of the low-income countries.
- 4) A fourth option would be to increase the contribution of each of the three RBA to the CFS by 1 million per year. For such a decision, CFS members should agree to propose such solution jointly in the governing bodies of the RBA.

Agenda item 8 – Any other business

- The CSM wishes to invite you their annual information meeting tomorrow, February 7, from 9:30 to 12:00 in Mexico Room. During the meeting, members of the CSM Advisory Group present the CSM 2015-2016 annual report, and the 2017 work plan, priorities and budget. All CFS members and participants are welcome to join!