

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

Agenda item 1 – CFS 44 Draft Timetable and Agenda

Regarding the CFS 44 draft timetable and agenda, the CSM made the following points related to the Forum on Women's Empowerment:

- 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 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;

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.