

**Draft CSM Contribution to the CFS Advisory Group and Bureau meeting
3 May 2017**

Comment on the Draft Agenda:

The severe food emergency and famine situation in South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen and North-East Nigeria and the worsening situation in the whole Eastern Africa region is of high concern to the CFS. The extraordinary meeting of the CFS Advisory and Bureau meeting, convened by the CFS Chair upon request of CFS members, clearly underlined the urgency and importance for the CFS to act within its mandate. CSM therefore would suggest to start the meeting today with this agenda item, and therefore move agenda item agenda item 9a to agenda item 1.

a) CFS Response to worsening of food security situation in the world

The situation in Somalia, South Sudan, Yemen and North-East Nigeria is dramatic. The severe food crises, however, goes far beyond the four countries. It is important and urgent that the CFS takes action and contributes to international efforts to prevent a huge, human and humanitarian catastrophe.

The actions agreed by the Bureau on 12 April are all important. The CSM supports these efforts. But more is needed. We know that the CFS is not an entity to operate humanitarian action. The CFS is the broadest global platform on food security and nutrition that should provide and in-depth analysis of the situation and its root causes, support comprehensive and coherent policy responses to the crises and provide a particular space and attention to the voices and human rights of the people most affected and most at risk.

Experiences in Western Africa demonstrate that effective regional mechanisms to prevent crises situations can be very effective. The regional Network for the Prevention of Food Crises includes all actors (governments, UN institutions like FAO and WFP, regional organizations like ECOWAS, civil society and particularly small-scale food producer organizations like ROPPA.) They put special attention to the support of smallholder production at an early stage, support their access to markets, within inclusive governance models.

The CFS has produced important policy instruments in these areas, including on food security in protracted crises, on water and food security, smallholders access to markets, tenure of land, investment in smallholder agriculture etc. It is now the time to effectively use and apply them, to ensure that the humanitarian action and the human rights based action on long-term development go hand in hand.

The CSM has suggested to hold an Extraordinary Hearing of the CFS to give particular voice to the people most at risk, particularly to women affected by conflict, war, emergency and disaster situations, to hear from them their analysis of the situation and their causes, and their suggestions for comprehensive policy responses. We still believe that such approach is urgently needed, and a particular strength and added value of the CFS. We urge the CFS to consider this proposal.