

**Draft CSM Contributions to the Advisory Group and Bureau Meeting  
31 January 2018**

**Agenda Item 3: CFS Evaluation – Response to the remaining recommendations**

We understand that the consultation on the responses to the CFS evaluation processes is now concluded and congratulate the two Co-Facilitators for their moderation of discussions in November and January.

Now, on the way forward in the implementation of the responses to the evaluation report, we see several challenges: how can a transparent, effective and consultative process be ensured without a further proliferation of meetings and without extensive paper piles which make true participation very difficult?

The general feeling after the first meetings this week is that the discussions need their time, and that possibly more than the scheduled meetings might be needed. However, we believe that the number of meetings in the current large format should not be increased. Holding a series of bilateral meetings does not seem to be enough or appropriate to ensure transparency, effectiveness and the broad participation that is required.

Therefore, we would suggest the facilitators to convene, in addition to the already scheduled evaluation meetings in the larger format, a “*group of friends of the facilitators*” that would be open to all CFS participants and members and would have function to support the facilitators’ work in preparing the larger meetings. They would also have the task to facilitate inputs and communication between their constituencies and the process. We believe that this could be a feasible mechanism that could ensure inclusiveness, transparency and efficiency at the same time.

**Agenda Item 6a: CFS Advisory Group reporting exercise – January –December 2017**  
**Agenda Item 6b: Discussion on implementing response to CFS evaluation recommendation 4**

On agenda item 6a:

With regards to our own activities as CSM, the constituencies and participating organizations, we would like to underline that the new CSM Annual Report for 2016/17 provides a more comprehensive overview about our activities in the reporting period.

With relation to the linkages to be strengthened, we suggest to add the proposals to strengthen the relations between the CFS and the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, CEDAW and UN Women, but also to regional platforms, organizations and conferences.

With regards to the report of WFO, we would like to make a factual correction: the Pan-African Farmers Organization (PAFO) is not a member of WFO. This is not a minor mistake, as PAFO is a very broad continental platform. Two of the regional member networks of PAFO, the Network of peasant’s and farmers’ organizations in Western Africa (ROPPA) and Central Africa (PROPAC) continue to be very active in the CFS through the CSM smallholder farmers constituency.

From the reports of most AG members, it becomes quite clear how much is already being done to participate in the CFS, and how much is done to foster the use and application of CFS policy outcomes. However, this is not enough, as others point out, how little knowledge exist about the CFS and its policy outcomes on the country but also the UN level.

Once again, we would like to stress the pivotal role of RBAs in supporting the CFS constituencies in disseminating, using and applying CFS outcomes through their work and country programs.

More in general, we strongly believe that all members and participants of the CFS should be invited to present a concrete plan on how they will foster dissemination, use and application of CFS policy outcomes within their areas of work.

On agenda item 6b:

Our understanding of the agreed CFS evaluation process is that the upcoming meeting on the CFS evaluation on 5 February will discuss Recommendation 4 (role and composition of the CFS Advisory Group).

A second and concluding moment of this discussion will be during the CFS evaluation meetings on 19/20 March. After these deliberations, the CFS Bureau can take an informed decision on the matter.

We therefore do not see the need to discuss this topic today further, it would unnecessarily duplicate the discussions scheduled for next Monday.

We appreciate all efforts to ensure a good process on this matter. We anticipate that a Bureau meeting will be scheduled for the end of March to take the decision on the composition of the CFS Advisory Group until October 2019. We are looking forward to learning about the date of that meeting.