

**Agenda Item 4 – Process for Agroecological Approaches and other innovations**

Regarding the discussion at the Joint meeting of the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group on 14 May on this topic, CSM is deeply concerned about attempts to avoid discussions on the process that will follow the HLPE report on agroecology and other innovations before its launch. This approach is unprecedented in the CFS: discussions about the follow-up of an HLPE report were always held before an HLPE report was launched, to make sure that the policy convergence process after the launch is clear to everybody. We also note that in all previous processes, the offer of diplomats to facilitate a policy process was warmly welcomed.

Along with other delegations, CSM supports the proposal from Switzerland to agree on the Policy Convergence process on agroecology and other innovations as soon as possible, the latest by end of July, so that a proposal for decision about the policy convergence process can be presented to Plenary. It would be very useful that the facilitator was involved in the elaboration of the process proposal. For this reason, it would be advisable that the facilitator of this policy process is appointed by the Bureau at its meeting on June 7.

The proposed schedule for the policy convergence process, as presented to the AG-Bureau meeting, is generally appreciated by the CSM, with a few important comments and suggestions:

- The process on agroecology and other innovations is strongly interconnected with the other policy convergence process on food systems and nutrition. The fact that they are now running in parallel should be taken as an opportunity to seek the best dialogue and synergies among both processes.
- The dialogue between the two process might require a specific methodology which allows that both processes can speak to each other and benefit from the discussions held in the other workstream. We suggest that such methodology should be developed between the two workstreams.

Regarding the more technical aspects of the proposed timetable:

- We suggest clarifying that the basis for the written comments procedure after October 2019 will be the summary and recommendations of HLPE report and the discussions during the CFS Plenary.
- It is also need to clarify the nature of the documents to be circulated on 15 January and 28 February 2020: at that stage, it cannot be anymore a draft proposal for a policy convergence process, it should rather be a draft outline for the policy recommendations (on 15 January) and then a zero draft for the policy recommendations on 28 February to which then CFS members and participants are invited to provide comments. This approach would allow for a proper consultation with capitals and is required if the timeline for conducting negotiations in May should be realistic.