

What is your constituency?_CSM (Civil Society Mechanism for relations with the CFS)

1. CONTRIBUTION TO REGULAR CFS ACTIVITIES

- a) Describe work carried out (including number of meetings attended) in support of the various CFS intersessional activities

CSM has facilitated the **participation of civil society organizations to all CFS workstreams, and all related meetings and events during the intersessional period**. This included the participation and contributions to the CFS Workstreams on Nutrition, SDGs, Urbanization and Rural Transformation, Women’s Empowerment, Monitoring, CFS Evaluation, MYPOW, Sustainable Forestry, GSF and future HLPE reports. For each of these CFS workstreams, there is a Policy Working Group of the CSM. Inputs from the CSM to workstream and meetings during the intersessional period can be found in three languages on the respective subpages of the CSM Website

<http://www.csm4cfs.org/policy-working-groups/>

The CSM attended and **contributed to all Joint Meetings of the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group**. These contributions are as well publicly accessible in three languages on the respective subpage of the CSM website:

<http://www.csm4cfs.org/csm-contributions-to-the-cfs-agbureau-meeting/>

The **CSM Forum 2017** was held on the weekend before the CFS 44 Plenary. It was attended by more than 215 participants from all CSM constituencies, Working groups and regions. The CSM Forum discussed and **finalized the contributions to all items on the agenda of the CFS 44** which are as well documented on the CSM website in three languages: <http://www.csm4cfs.org/csm-opening-statements-famines-crisis/> ; <http://www.csm4cfs.org/csm-plenary-statements-cfs-44/> ; <http://www.csm4cfs.org/csm-final-statement-cfs-44/>

2. INVOLVEMENT OF THE CONSTITUENCY IN THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

- a) Describe activities carried out to promote the flow of information and inputs between your constituency and CFS to:
- Provide inputs from your constituency to CFS processes;
 - Represent interests of different entities of your constituency in CFS discussions;
 - Assist the Bureau in the identification of important developments in the area of food security and nutrition at global, regional and national levels.

Inputs from constituencies: The CSM comprises 11 global constituencies: smallholder and family farmers, indigenous peoples, fisherfolks, pastoralists, food and agricultural workers, landless, women, youth, consumers, urban food insecure, and NGOs. The inputs from the CSM to CFS processes are mainly discussed and formulated through the CSM Working Groups dedicated to each of the specific CFS workstream. In addition, the CSM Advisory Group facilitates the contributions from the CSM Working groups and Coordination Committee to the CFS Advisory Group and CFS Bureau. The CSM Forum finalizes the CSM contributions to the CFS Plenary and discusses and agrees on the more long-term CSM proposals for priorities of the CFS agenda.

Interests of constituencies: The interests of the 11 constituencies are facilitated through a) the CSM Policy Working Groups which are open to all global, continental and national participating CSOs. These Working Groups have numerous members, some of them more than 100 members; b) the CSM Coordination Committee (CC), composed by these 11 global constituencies and delegates from 17 sub-regions; c) the CSM members to the CFS Advisory Group, elected by the CC; and d) the Annual CSM Forum which gathers more than 200 delegates from participating CSOs.

Identification of important developments: CSM co-organized with CFS members (Norway, Brazil, Switzerland and South Africa) an event in January 2017 on how the CFS should advance the Right to Food and accountability agenda. CSM also supported strongly the CFS Chair’s initiatives for making the CFS more responsive to famines and severe food crises, and presented a concrete proposal to the CFS 44 and the CFS Bureau. Moreover, the CSM dedicated three well attended Side events at CFS 44 to key issues for the CFS to address: the potential impact of megamergers in the agrobusiness sector on FSN; the role and rights of women in conflict and food crises; and the Global Hearing of the Landless which outlined the global issue of increasing landlessness as a challenge for FSN and the CFS.

b) Suggestions for how your constituency could be further involved in the work of CFS?

The CSM constituencies have involved themselves in a very active and intense way. Many members and participants of the CFS explicitly acknowledged and supported these remarkable efforts. This involvement could be further improved if translation of CFS and HLPF documents could be better funded and if interpretation could be provided to more CFS meetings. The CSM itself would as well warmly welcome financial contributions to support CSO participation and interpretation to CFS meetings, and translation of documents.

3. CONTRIBUTION TO THE DISSEMINATION OF CFS OUTCOMES AND DELIBERATIONS

a) Describe the main elements of outreach activities undertaken to disseminate the results of CFS work within your constituency

- The **permanent tools** for sharing and disseminating information about of CFS policy processes and outcomes are: the regular CSM Updates http://www.csm4cfs.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/EN_CSM-Update-November-2017.compressed.pdf; the website <http://www.csm4cfs.org/>; the continued communication within the CSM Coordination Committee, whose members share this information regularly with the global constituencies and the sub-regions; and the information shared within each of the CSM Policy WG.
- **Particular global opportunities** for dissemination and knowledge sharing on CFS policy outcomes are the global CSM Constituencies meetings and the annual CSM Forum (*see more information below*);
- The major CSM dissemination work is usually done by the respective CSM Working Group and its participating organizations. In 2017, the focus was on promoting the use of the CFS Policy recommendations on Smallholder to Markets (*see more information below*);
- **Participation to and realization of dissemination events:** CSM participating organizations participate in national, regional or global events and promote CFS policy outcomes at those occasions, including the CFS Side event to the HLPF in July, promoting the use of the Framework for Action on FSN in Protracted Crises;
- The **CSM Monitoring WG** and its participating organizations promote the use, application and monitoring of CFS policy outcomes, focusing in late 2017 on the Right to Food Guidelines (*see more information below*)
- **Joint events with Members** on use, application and monitoring of CFS Policy Outcomes: Event co-organized by CSM and Germany in April 2017, on: "Bringing Rome home – strengthening the use and application of CFS policy outcomes".

b) What activities did you undertake to make CFS products known/assist in the use of CFS products at regional and national levels?

Knowledge sharing, assessment and capacity building on CFS policy outcomes in the context of global CSM constituency meetings:

- Constituency Meeting of Indigenous Peoples, Panama, February 2017
- CSM Constituency Meeting of the Landless, Tunis, March 2017
- CSM Women Constituency Meeting, Rome, September 2017
- CSM Youth Constituency Meeting, Rome, December 2017

Specific efforts for dissemination, use and application of the CFS Policy Recommendations on Connecting Smallholders:

- Civil society actors have diffused the recommendations widely through their own bulletins and networks and have taken action to ensure that they have been publicized in more official sources like the AGRIVEST network and the Inter-Réseaux bulletin. This divulgation has been backed up the 'Analytical Guide' to the recommendations (*see link below*), and other materials like a two-page brief prepared by Terra Nuova.
- Civil society training and sensitization workshops featuring the recommendations have been organized in all regions, for example at the Nyéleni Europe conference in Romania in October 2016, the ROPPA Peasant University in West Africa in January 2017, La Via Campesina's International Conference in July 2017, and Focus on the Global South workshops in Asia. Civil society actors have brought the recommendations to the attention of the worlds of academics and practitioners in events like the CIRAD conference on Agri-Chains & Sustainable Development in Montpellier.

- The recommendations have been brought to bear on other relevant UN processes. Urgenci has introduced them at expert meetings on SDG2 and Habitat III and the UN Interagency TF on Social and Solidarity Economy. Action Aid and ROPPA have pushed for their application in the context of the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP). They have also been used in advocacy work at national and regional levels targeting policies and programs such as the South African Small-Scale Fisheries Policy and the EU External Investment Plan.
- Small-scale producer organizations are joining hands with FAO in a project addressing the CFS recommendation to fill the data gap on markets embedded in local, national and regional food systems which will be launched in February 2018.
- See also the CSM strategy for the use and application of the SH/Markets Policy Recommendations: http://www.csm4cfs.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/2016-csmSH_markets-draft-strategy-implementation-CLEAN.pdf,
- Publication of the CSM Analytical Guide to foster the use and application of the CFS Policy recommendations <http://www.csm4cfs.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/English-CONNECTING-SMALLHOLDERS-TO-MARKETS.pdf>

Promotion of the nexus use-application-monitoring in preparation of the global monitoring event on the Right to Food Guidelines at CFS45:

- promotion of national and regional monitoring events, based on the CFS TOR for these event, including dialogues with governments and international organizations
- start of a comprehensive process for an independent CSO Report on the use and application of the Right to Food Guidelines, including the elaboration of methodological tools adapted to CSO needs and capacities, an Open Call for contributions, and a global CSO consultation to be held in 2018, see more on the CSM Website: <http://www.csm4cfs.org/share-experiences-right-food/>

4. STRENGTHENING THE LINKAGES BETWEEN ADVISORY GROUP CONTITUENCIES AND THE COMMITTEE

a) What activities should be implemented to enhance the interaction between CFS and the different relevant actors on the ground?

According to our experience, specific activities aimed at strengthening the link between CFS in Rome and relevant actors at country level could be:

- Defining a **CFS Focal Point** in each capital, placed in one of the Ministries, as the contact point as well for information on the CFS and its outcomes, which could help to inform other governmental entities and other actors on CFS.
- If there is an **existing platform or national mechanism** of governments with other actors from civil society, research institutions, UN bodies and private sector, like a national food security and nutrition council or platform, it is important that the link of CFS with this mechanism is strengthened.
- A specific activity each CFS member could do to foster the information on the CFS at the country level, could be an **open information meeting in the country after each annual CFS Plenary**, to inform about the outcomes of the plenary and to jointly discuss their possible use and application in the country.
- A lesson learnt from the VGGT monitoring exercise is that **governments should seek the cooperation with small-scale food producers and other constituencies whose living conditions should be improved** by using CFS outcomes. In the case of the VGGT, several governments have engaged with organizations of smallholder and family farmers, indigenous peoples, pastoralists and fisherfolks, and have also supported their own efforts on capacity building and use of the CFS policy outcomes.
- In this context, **members should also consider requesting the support from the Rome-based Agencies** for an improved use, application and monitoring of the CFS policy outcomes. The VGGT case shows that the support from FAO has been important in several countries to promote the knowledge on a CFS policy outcomes, and to support their use and application.

b) What can Advisory Group members do to increase the knowledge about CFS work and results at country level to their constituencies?

- CSM knows from the experience of its participating organizations that effective dissemination, use and application of CFS policy outcomes always needs to be **linked with ongoing policy discussions and process on the national and regional level**. The CFS policies will be of interest in so far as they are relevant to these ongoing processes. In that sense, a good methodology to promote the use and application of CFS policy outcomes starts with the needs and political realities in the country. Our recent work with the CFS Policy recommendations on smallholders to markets confirms that their uptake works whenever they speak to key debates of interest for smallholders, governments, and also Rome-based Agencies.
- As shown by the VGGT monitoring exercise, the **use and application of CFS policy outcomes require action on different levels**, including: dissemination and awareness raising; capacity building and development; creation and consolidation of multi-actor policy dialogue spaces; contribution to reforms of policy and legal frameworks; effective participation of civil society, particularly people's organizations, social movements, and community-based organizations in the operationalization process; monitoring and evaluation.
- **CFS AG members should be requested to elaborate a plan for their contribution to the dissemination, use and application of CFS policy outcomes**, which also should indicate the roles and responsibilities they see for themselves in such endeavor, and the potentials for cooperation with members and participants in the CFS. The CSM has done this kind of plans so far for individual CFS policy outcomes, but not systematically and comprehensively for all of them. The CSM has included this task as a matter of priority in its own workplan 2018.
- The Concept note drafted for the joint event of CSM and Germany in April 2017 on "*Bringing home the results from Rome – Strengthening the use and application of the CFS policy outcomes*" provides **more elements for reflection** on this topic, see <http://www.csm4cfs.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Concept-Note-CFS-Outcomes-6-april-2017-1.pdf>. Specifically, the event strongly underlined the **outstanding roles and responsibilities of FAO, IFAD and WFP for a strengthened dissemination, use and application of CFS policy outcomes**. The RBAs should be particularly requested to

c) Suggestions on how links can be further strengthened?

- **Strengthening the link dissemination-use-application-monitoring:** the upcoming GTE on the Right to Food Guidelines offers a great opportunity for strengthening this link and learning process on the use and application of a CFS policy outcome, as the GTE in 2016 on the VGGT did. Members and participants should contribute to this exercise through national or regional events, or written contributions that will feed into the CFS 45 and the learning and improving process of the CFS in general.
- **Link with other UN bodies:** the experiences of 2017 show that the cooperation with other UN bodies working on similar topics from their own perspective, have been important for the CFS deliberations and the quality of the outcomes. CSM has suggested continuing and fostering the cooperation particularly with UN Women, CEDAW, the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights and other related UN bodies.
- **Link to the regional level:** The regional level is important as Members and participants can link the CFS policy outcomes to ongoing initiatives and agendas of regional platforms, organizations and conferences. Members could advocate a CFS segment in conferences of these regional bodies, and particularly the future FAO conferences, to foster the knowledge about the CFS and the link between its policy outcomes and the relevant policy processes at the regional level.