

Agenda Item 1: CFS 46 Planning – Provisional Agenda

We appreciate the proposed content and clear structure of this first provisional agenda.

We welcome the idea of making a renewed attempt to invite the UN SG to the opening of CFS Plenary.

This invitation could also be linked to the fact that CFS 46 marks the 10th Anniversary of the CFS Reform. This overarching reference should be made explicit in the program and should inspire its debates.

We welcome the inclusion of the commemoration of the International Day of Rural Women into the agenda, and we suggest that the profile of the key note speaker should be of course a rural women who would bring in the perspective of the huge majority of rural women in this world: the perspective of female small-scale food producers who are key actors for food security and nutrition, as well among the most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition in their rural, peasant or indigenous communities and territories. Indeed, their voice should be heard on that day in the CFS!

We appreciate that three hours are foreseen in the proposed provisional agenda for an in-depth and substantial discussion on the upcoming HLPE report on agroecology and other innovative approaches.

In addition, we have some suggestions to enrich the draft agenda and the impact of the CFS week:

- Following the assessment of last AG/Bureau meeting in November, an early agreement should be found with FAO regarding World Food Day activities, that are going to take place in the middle of the CFS Plenary week. In our view, the WFD commemoration should not take more than the Wednesday morning session from the CFS week.
- We would like to support a proposal made by Switzerland and others to include a keynote address from the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food in the CFS Plenary agenda. Such a report on the realization of the Right to Food in the world could give added value to the Plenary and could for example be included in the SOFI or SDG session.
- Since 2019 is the starting year of the UN Decade on Family Farming, we suggest devoting a separate agenda item to the Decade in the Provisional Agenda and propose that the recently adopted “UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Living in Rural Areas” be presented in this context.
- Finally, as it has been stated in many past CFS meetings, it is time to reinforce CFS synergies with New York and Geneva. In addition to the invitation to the UN SG and the importance of the SDGs, we would propose to also invite the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights to this year’s CFS Plenary to address the nexus between Food Security and Nutrition, SDGs and human rights.

Agenda Item 2: Proposal for piloting a more efficient Side Events Request process for CFS 46

We welcome the idea of improving the side events' selection procedures. As assessed in November AG/Bureau meeting, the side events are a rich and vibrant complementary part of the Plenary. One of the problems was that the transparency of the process of selection should be enhanced.

So, we would stress:

- To enhance the transparency of the selection process, the CFS Secretariat and Chair could share with the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group the list of all Side-event requests, including those which were not approved, indicating the reasons for disapproval.
- Side-event organizers should be further encouraged to merge side events, but they should not be forced to do so: it should be left to the organizers if they wish to merge or not.
- It is worth noting that the multi-actor nature of Side-events is already a criterium for selection and has contributed in the last year to making the side events vibrant and dynamics.
- For CSM, being the largest platform worldwide of civil society and indigenous peoples' organizations working on food security and nutrition, it is already a huge effort to merge the many diverse interests of the 11 global constituencies and the 17 subregions into the five Side event slots that we usually propose.
- All these steps of consultations need time and a good process. Therefore, we don't think the proposed tight timeline and related two-steps process is feasible and appropriate.

Agenda Item 3: Sustainable Forestry and Food Security and Nutrition – Follow-up

- We welcome the proposal of the Chair to include a follow-up of the CFS Policy Recommendations on Forestry and FSN in the agenda of the regional Commissions of the Committee on Forestry.
- However, this proposal should not replace the discussion within CFS on the relation between commercial tree plantations and FSN.
- After the last AG and Bureau meetings, several concrete proposals and suggestions for the scope, content and expected outcomes of this event were presented by Switzerland, Germany, Costa Rica, France and CSM. There was no objection to the substance of the proposed event of anybody, only doubts about its financial feasibility were expressed by the US delegation. However, none of the proposals made included a major financial burden for the CFS or suggested a workstream. We recall that the Secretary *ad interim* clarified at the last Joint Meeting that this single event would not pose a problem for the CFS Budget in 2019.
- In this sense, we regret that the CFS Secretariat and Chair did not present a proposed format and scope of the event that would build on the proposals received.
- We therefore suggest that the CFS Secretariat and Chair draft such a proposal for discussion at the next AG/Bureau meeting. If additional suggestions are required from those who submitted feedback, the Secretariat could contact them.

Agenda Item 4: Agroecological approaches and other innovations for sustainable agriculture and food systems – Follow-up

We take note of the update on the delayed launch of the HLPE Report and share the following suggestions for the follow-up:

- If the HLPE report is launched in early July and then made available in all languages at the beginning of September, the CFS Plenary Session will be an important occasion to have a first substantial debate on the report, as an inclusive and participatory first step towards the subsequent policy convergence process.
- It is essential to make sure that a meaningful and substantial policy convergence process will be conducted on the topic. If this ongoing workstream cannot be concluded by the end of 2019, a placeholder for this policy convergence process should be included into the CFS planning for 2020 and hence in the MYPOW discussions in March.

Agenda Item 5: Workstream Updates

We would like to thank the Facilitator of the MSP process for his report and welcome his follow-up proposal. We would support the idea of a policy outcome with a light process. In our opinion, the focus should be on recommendation 1 on policy frameworks, as the overriding condition to make sure that MSPs contribute to meet public interests and to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food. This is also the most appropriate focus for the CFS as an inclusive inter-governmental body dedicated, in the first instance, to providing voluntary policy guidance to member governments.

With reference to the background documents, we have the following questions and remarks:

- How is the follow-up process of the Urbanization and Rural Transformation workstream foreseen to take place? Is a follow-up proposal on this going to be included in the list of the ongoing workstreams to be presented at the MYPOW discussions on 4th of March?
- Concerning the regional consultations for the process on Nutrition and Food Systems, we would like to know,
 - if there is clarity about where and when these consultations will take place?
 - how the CFS-like multi-actor participation will be ensured to these consultations?
 - How this multi-actor participation will also be ensured in the preparation of these consultations?
- On the Budget, it would be good to see at the next meeting a complete update of the situation for 2019/2020. We would also like to encourage countries from all regions to contribute to the CFS budget with specific contributions to the regional consultations of the Nutrition and Food Systems process, which also then should be reflected in the CFS Budget.

AOB

Yemen: We believe that the CFS Letter on the situation in Yemen is a timely and important contribution to call global awareness and actions to address the terrible situation of food insecurity and malnutrition in Yemen. The CSM has distributed the letter through our website and large

networks. It would be good to hear which kind of outreach was done by the CFS Secretariat and another members and participants of the CFS, and to hear about possible reactions and impact.

Regarding distribution, we propose to share the final CFS letter with the UN Secretary General who has shown his personal commitment in the Sweden peace talks; with the UN Special Envoy for Yemen, Martin Griffith; the President of the UN General Assembly; the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; the UN Security Council, and the concerned parties involved in this conflict.

This matter is still a very timely and urgent issue. Only two days ago wheat silos in Yemen's port city of Hodeidah have been damaged by a fire caused by artillery fire. The silos at the Red Sea Mills holds 51,000 tons of (WFP) wheat — enough to feed 3.7 million people for a month in the war-torn country.

UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other People Living in Rural areas:

For many of the constituencies of the CSM, the adoption of the UN Declaration is a milestone in the global recognition of our rights. We warmly welcome the adoption of the Declaration and suggest that CFS members and participants carefully consider the Declaration and explore ways to support its implementation.

The Declaration contains a huge potential for addressing root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition worldwide. This is particularly true because this new UNGA declaration provides an unprecedented recognition of our rights as peasants and other people living in rural areas, and important means for a better protection of our rights in the future.