

CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meeting

Dates: 22 and 25 July 2019

Iraq & German Room, FAO

Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting Outcomes - With Bureau Decisions

Agenda

1. CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) for 2020-2023, with draft decision
2. Update on the preparations for CFS 46, Drafting Committee Chair and composition
3. Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition follow-up meeting – Draft Concept Note and Agenda
4. CFS policy convergence process on agro-ecological and other innovative approaches - Facilitator
5. CFS Advisory Group composition
6. Workstream Updates
7. Any other business

The CFS Chair proposed, and participants agreed, that Alternate Members be allowed to speak. During the open meeting on MYPoW 2020-2023, everyone was invited to speak, ensuring the inclusivity of the process.

The CFS Chair welcomed Ms Francesca Distefano, noting that, from 1 August 2019, she will support the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food and represent her at CFS Advisory Group meetings. At the request of the CSM, three items were added to the agenda of the joint meeting:

- CFS involvement in the UN Food Systems Summit, planned for 2021;
- Updates on the financial situation of the CSM;
- Comments of the CSM on CFS Advisory Group's composition.

1. CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) for 2020-2023, with draft decision

At an open, extraordinary meeting on the morning of 22 July, CFS Chair introduced a background document (MYPoW 2020-23 – Second Draft), recalling the inclusive process leading to the prioritization and selection of CFS activities for the next quadriennium. He underlined the primary objective of the meeting, which was to have an inclusive discussion particularly on the proposals on (i) Data collection and analysis tools; and (ii) Reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition – both of which had been substantively revised since the previous joint meeting. Short presentations were delivered by WFP, CSM/PSM, FAO, and the World Bank on each of the new thematic proposals for 2020-2023, namely: (i) Gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition; (ii) Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems; (iii) Data collection and analysis tools; and (iv) Reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition. Broad support was expressed for all four thematic workstreams being included in the work plan, although differences were expressed on their relative order/prioritization. All four topics were deemed relevant to the CFS and for advancing progress on SDG2, and general support was expressed for the draft MYPoW 2020-23, in its entirety. Efficient work methods and good planning were emphasized as key to ensuring high quality of CFS outputs and broad participation by CFS stakeholders. Specific comments on the text were noted

by the CFS Secretariat and incorporated into a revised version, which was circulated on July 24 in advance of the Bureau meeting.

Bureau meeting (with decisions)

Considering the document “CFS MYPoW 2020-2023 Second Draft – Revision 24 July”, which incorporated comments made at the joint meeting and inputs received in writing, the Bureau:

- Agreed to the proposed content and timeline of the MYPoW, noting the preference to avoid – where possible - overlap between negotiation processes, and recognizing that the “rolling section” of the MYPoW allows for annual review and flexibility in implementation;
- Agreed on a text for the CFS MYPoW 2020-2023 “Draft Decision” for submission to CFS 46, with minor edits reflected in Annex 1;
- Agreed to include in the MYPoW 2020-2023 an event (either in Plenary session or as an inter-sessional, stand-alone event) to take stock of, and foster the further uptake of, the CFS’s policy recommendation documents on “Water for food security and nutrition” and “Climate change and food security”;
- Decided to hold two inter-sessional events under “Objective 1 – Inclusive Discussions” on: (i) Data collection and analysis tools; and (ii) Reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition. These events will be scheduled between CFS 46 and CFS 48, and will aim to provide substantive input toward the preparation of HLPE reports and subsequent policy recommendations and convergence processes on these two important topics;
- Emphasized that negotiation of policy recommendation documents do not necessarily require a full calendar year and that, presuming any respective HLPE report is published by March, sufficient time exists to complete negotiations in time for Plenary to endorse those policy recommendations and discuss their uptake.

2. Update on preparations for CFS 46, Drafting Committee Chair and composition

The joint meeting expressed appreciation for the document “Guide to CFS 46,” which gives a strategic overview of the CFS plenary week and specifies how each session will be captured in the final report. With regard to CFS 46 side events, the CFS Chair noted that the Secretariat had received a record 106 applications, and was awaiting news on several potential mergers of side events with similar themes. Applicants/organizers will be notified shortly whether their applications are accepted. The Chair mentioned that incoming Director General Qu would need to decide whether World Food Day celebrations on October 16 would feature a morning session and mid-day side event only, as done regularly up to last year, or whether the event would be expanded into the late afternoon as in 2018, likely pushing the CFS session on “Agro-ecology and other innovations” into an evening session that runs the risk of not meeting the legal quorum (as happened during CFS 45), and whose expense would be substantial. An evening session is a possibility that the Bureau has repeatedly requested should be avoided. The CFS Chair and Secretary have requested a meeting with the new DG in early August to discuss CFS planning. Other comments and suggestions will be captured in updated versions of the Guide. As regards a youth-themed “Special Event” on October 18, the Secretary stated that a coordinating team comprised of youth participants would be involved in designing the session, and encouraged Member States to include relevant youth representatives/spokespersons among their delegations, to be actively involved with the session.

Bureau meeting (with decision)

The Bureau agreed on the proposal made by the Secretariat, to send a message from the Secretariat to all Regional Groups requesting Drafting Committee nominations, along with nominations for the Chair of the Drafting Committee. As per the practice of recent years, the Secretariat will informally convene a pre-Plenary briefing in mid-September for the committee members. The CFS Secretary noted that, for both budgetary and efficiency reasons, the Secretariat is planning only one evening session of the Drafting Committee during Plenary in line with the experience of CFS45. The CFS Chair noted, for information, that Brazil chaired the Drafting Committee of CFS45, and praised the brilliant work done by Brazilian delegate Mr. Sá Ricarte.

3. Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition follow-up meeting – Draft Concept Note and Agenda

During both meetings participants expressed their views on a draft concept note and provisional agenda for the CFS forestry-themed event scheduled for 17 September at FAO. The Secretary mentioned that stakeholders had been invited to provide inputs into the document which had also benefited from substantive support of the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF) - two CGIAR Research Centers. Likewise, the Secretary noted he had met with the ADG of Forestry (FAO) and his senior staff to discuss the substance of the event, and to request the ADG's participation in the discussion. Some participants requested that the event remain squarely focused on the relation between commercial plantations, food security, and nutrition. Participants requested only one technical presentation at the start of the meeting, which FAO Forestry staff agreed would be done by CGIAR. CSM requested that the panel contain two CSM representatives, so as to strengthen the voice of populations impacted by commercial plantations. They also sought clarity on the potential participation of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. The CFS Chair, noting that Indonesia had proposed a speaker, encouraged members of the Bureau to reach out to their regional groups to explore whether any other countries wished to nominate a panel member.

Bureau meeting

Following background comments on the reasons for having this inter-sessional event on forestry and the CFS's 2017 policy recommendations on 'Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition', it was proposed that CSM be more involved in the preparation of the event, and that the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food be invited. The Secretary reiterated that all stakeholders had been invited to submit inputs for the event planning phase, which were being incorporated into event planning. The Special Rapporteur has been invited to the 17 September event and will participate in the panel discussion. Likewise, the FAO ADG of Forestry and the Chair of COFO have also been invited to participate.

4. CFS policy convergence process on agro-ecological and other innovative approaches – Facilitator (Bureau only)

The CFS Bureau took note of the recent change in the title of the HLPE's latest report and agreed, strictly for practical purposes and ease of reference, that the short title "Agro-ecological and other innovative approaches" would be used to update the Plenary Agenda and Timetable. The Bureau deferred a decision on the nomination of a rapporteur for the policy convergence process on 'Agro-ecological and other innovative approaches' until its next meeting in September.

5. CFS Advisory Group composition (Bureau only)

Following a lengthy discussion on the history and rationale of reviewing the present composition of the Advisory Group, the CFS Bureau deferred a decision on amending the basic texts to accept the decision of the three Rome agencies to become Ex-Officio members until its next meeting in September. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to prepare a background document with appropriate options on how those seats on the Advisory Group might be filled, taking into account that the Advisory Group has no permanent (i.e. ex-officio) members, and which could help inform a debate on the topic during CFS46. The Secretariat will circulate the document among Bureau members in advance of its September meeting for comment.

6. Workstream Updates

Participants welcomed the extension of the deadline for the e-consultation on the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition until early September, as well as the news that invitation letters for the regional consultation for Latin America and the Caribbean would be transmitted by the end of the week.

7. Any other business

Responding to a question posed by CSM, the Secretary informed attendees that – according to senior FAO staff in attendance - a decision had been reached, in principle, during the High-Level Political Forum in New York that a Food Systems Summit would be held in 2021, possibly in the margins of the UN General Assembly. The role of CFS in this Summit was not yet clarified, as such detail was not yet available. However, the Secretary added, the CFS work to promulgate Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition should form an important contribution to any summit on that topic. Given the key organizing role for the Rome-based Agencies in any such summit, the CFS role would - presumably - be well considered during planning.

CSM informed attendees that IFAD had informed them that they had changed their grants policy and the CSM will no longer receive the funding it had previously been promised by IFAD. This situation might impact their participation in the Plenary and other CFS meetings from November onwards. The CFS Chair expressed his profound concern about the information provided, and asked the CSM to share all written communications between CSM and IFAD on this matter.

Last, in the name of inclusiveness, openness and transparency, the CFS Chair granted CSM the possibility to share its views on the composition of the Advisory Group, ahead of the Bureau's anticipated discussion and possible decisions regarding the topic.

The CFS Chair and Secretariat wish to dedicate this report to the memory of Ms Christine Tonnu, former French Deputy Permanent Representative to the Rome based Agencies, friend of CFS and committed CFS Bureau member, who passed away last week.

MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee considers document CFS2019/46/7 “CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2020-2023”, as presented by the CFS Chair.

The Committee:

1. [Placeholder text on SOFI key message and SDG summit outcome document]
2. Endorses the CFS MYPoW for 2020-2023 which, through its prioritized thematic workstreams - Food systems and nutrition; Agroecological and other innovative approaches; Gender equality and women’s empowerment for food security and nutrition; Promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems; Reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition; Data collection and analysis - provides a comprehensive framework for accelerating progress towards meeting SDG2 targets by 2030;
3. Expresses its appreciation for the broad, inclusive nature and strategic vision of the new streamlined MYPoW process resulting from the follow-up to the CFS Evaluation, as outlined in Annex B of the CFS Evaluation Implementation Report (CFS 2018/45/3);
4. Notes that the implementation of the MYPoW will be contingent on sufficient financial and human resources;
5. In line with the CFS Evaluation Implementation Report, requests:
 - a) the Bureau to approve a robust resource mobilization strategy to help support the Plenary and Workstreams, the HLPE and the CSM to support CFS priorities as identified in the MYPoW, with clear safeguards, in line with FAO guidelines, to prevent potential conflict of interest regarding funding;
 - b) the Secretariat to continue its efforts towards expanding and diversifying the CFS financing base, including by reaching out to CFS Member States, philanthropic foundations, the private sector and financial institutions.

Annex 2: List of attendees of the joint Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting

CFS Bureau Members:

Mr Mario Arvelo (CFS Chair / Dominican Republic); Mr Nazareno Montani (Argentina); Mr Luis Fernando Ceciliano (Costa Rica); Mr Gustaf Daud Sirait (Indonesia); Ms Anne-Marie Moulton (South Africa); Mr Sid Ahmed Alamain (Sudan); Ms Liliane Ortega (Switzerland); Ms Emily Katkar, Ms Silvia Giovanazzi (USA).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Mr Felipe Carlos Antunes (Brazil); Mr Oliver Mellenthin (Germany).

Advisory Group:

Mr Máximo Torero, Mr Mark McGuire (FAO); Ms Jordana Blankman (IFAD); Mr Jacopo Valentini (WFP); Ms Stineke Oenema (UNSCN); Mr Alberto Zezza (World Bank); Mr Ronald Cooke (CGIAR); Mr Fabrizio Moscatelli (Gates Foundation); Mr Martin Wolpold-Bosien, Ms Ramona Domicioiu, Ms Nicole Maria Yanes, Mr Juan Martín Drago, Margoritz Petronz Gomez, Mr Luca Bianchi, Ms Teresa Maisano (CSM); Mr Brian Baldwin (PSM); Ms Giulia de Castro (WFO).

Observers:

Mr Thanawat Tiensin, Ms Ratchande Sangpenchan (Thailand).

CFS Secretariat:

Mr Chris Hegadorn (Secretary), Ms Françoise Trine, Ms Cordelia Salter, Ms Giorgia Paratore, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Chiara Cirulli.

Annex 3: List of attendees of the Bureau Meeting

CFS Bureau Members:

Mr Mario Arvelo (CFS Chair / Dominican Republic); Mr Nazareno Montani (Argentina); Mr Luis Fernando Ceciliano (Costa Rica); Mr Gustaf Daud Sirait (Indonesia); Mr Don Syme (New Zealand); Ms Anne-Marie Moulton (South Africa); Mr François Pythoud, Mr Jacopo Schürch (Switzerland); Ms Emily Katkar, Ms Silvia Giovanazzi (USA).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Mr Felipe Carlos Antunes (Brazil); Ms Mi Nguyen (Canada); Mr Oliver Mellenthin (Germany).

Observers:

Ms Diana Infante, Ms Liudmila Kuzmicheva, Ms Julia Vicioso, Ms Patricia Rodríguez (Dominican Republic); Mr Thanawat Tiensin, Ms Ratchande Sangpenchan (Thailand); Mr Damien Kelly (EU Delegation).

CFS Secretariat:

Mr Chris Hegadorn (Secretary), Ms Françoise Trine, Ms Cordelia Salter, Ms Giorgia Paratore, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Chiara Cirulli.