



## Bureau Meeting 20 September 2019

Issue: Structure and Renewal of CFS Advisory Group

Doc No: CFS/Bur/2019/20/09/03

### Background information:

At its 44<sup>th</sup> session, in the context of the response to the independent evaluation of the CFS, the Committee provided the following guidance to the Bureau: *“It is important to revisit the composition of the Advisory Group to fulfil its substantive role, remaining open to all relevant actors within existing parameters in the CFS Reform Document (CFS 2009/2 Rev.2).”*

The Bureau discussed the issue of the Advisory Group composition in several of its meetings during the biennium, including in meetings where this was the sole agenda item, as well as in an open meeting exclusively dedicated to this issue, and in several meetings dedicated to the CFS Evaluation.

At its meeting of 25 July 2019, the CFS Bureau was presented with the following proposal, with a request for its approval:

“FAO, IFAD and WFP to become **ex-officio** and **extra-quota** members of the AG, thus freeing three seats in the CFS Advisory Group.”

As the Bureau was informed, on this proposal, the CFS Chair consulted with the FAO Legal Office, who responded that the proposal (i.e.; *elevating the status of the RBAs to ‘ex-officio’ and ‘extra-quota’ members of the Advisory Group thus freeing three seats for other potential AG members*) could be implemented on a provisional basis, subject to agreement of the RBAs and absence of objection from Bureau members. Amendments could be prepared to the Rules of Procedure (RoP) for adoption at the next CFS session in October 2019. CFS may, either by consensus or by a two-third majority of votes cast, amend its RoP provided such amendment is consistent with the FAO Constitution and the CFS Reform Document (Rule XIII).

In addition, as the Bureau was informed in its meeting of 25 July 2019, senior representatives of the three RBAs communicated in writing to the CFS Chair on behalf of their organizations expressing support for the Chair’s proposal (see attachments).

### Options for an informed Bureau decision:

#### OPTION 1

The CFS Bureau agrees with presenting to CFS 46 a draft decision to amend the membership of the CFS Advisory Group by elevating the status of the RBAs to ‘ex-officio’ and ‘extra-quota’ members of the CFS Advisory Group, thus freeing three seats for other potential AG members.

### Draft decision

*The Committee decides to amend paragraphs 1, Rule IV, of the CFS Rules of Procedure (RoP), as follows:*

*The Bureau shall establish an Advisory Group from among representatives of ~~the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and other organizations~~ allowed to participate in the proceedings of the Committee under paragraph 11 of the CFS Reform Document and paragraph 3 of Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. **Representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development take part in the Advisory Group ex-officio.** The members of the Advisory group shall be appointed for a term of two years. The number of members of the Advisory Group shall not exceed that of the members of the Bureau including the Chairperson, unless otherwise decided by the Committee.*

### OPTION 2:

The CFS Bureau agrees with presenting to CFS 46 a draft decision to amend the membership of the CFS Advisory Group (Option 1) along with specific recommendations on how, and by which organizations, those three seats would be filled. In this case, CFS Bureau members could consider re-assigning the new three seats to:

- 1) A farmers' cluster, comprised of a critical mass of farmers' organizations, of different sizes, autonomous, and self-organized.

This newly established farmers' cluster could include farmers' organizations that do not consider themselves adequately represented within existing CFS mechanisms (CSM and PSM) and that partake in the Farmers' Forum of IFAD, such as: Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA); Confederation of Family Farmers Organizations of the Extended Mercosur (COPROFAM); Inter-Continental Network of Organic Farmers Organizations (INOFO); Pan African farmers' organization (PAFO); La Via Campesina (LVC); Network of Farmers Organizations and Agricultural Producers of West Africa (ROPPA); World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF); World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP); World Rural Forum (WRF); and World Farmers' Organization (WFO).

- 2) Organizations, associations or institutions that have expressed interest in partaking in the CFS Advisory Group and which can substantively contribute to the implementation of the MYPoW 2020-2023. Such organizations could represent the following categories: legal and juridical organizations; media organizations; academia; action-oriented organizations; faith-based organizations; regional intergovernmental organizations; parliamentarians; and innovators. For

example, the following organizations/institutions have already expressed interest in partaking in the CFS Advisory Group and could contribute to implementing the MYPoW 2020-2023: the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), and/or the Central American Secretariat for Social Integration (SISCA).

OPTION 3:

The CFS Bureau agrees with presenting to CFS 46 a draft decision to amend the membership of the CFS Advisory Group (Option 1) and suggests re-assigning all fourteen seats of the CFS Advisory Group, following criteria to be established.

OPTION 4:

The CFS Bureau does not agree with the proposal of amending the membership of the CFS Advisory Group and refers the matter to CFS 46 Plenary.

Attachments:

From: **Muthoo, Ashwani Kaul** <[a.muthoo@ifad.org](mailto:a.muthoo@ifad.org)>

Date: Fri, 26 Apr 2019 at 5:48 PM

Subject: FW: On the CFS Advisory Group

To: [mario@marioarvelo.com](mailto:mario@marioarvelo.com) <[mario@marioarvelo.com](mailto:mario@marioarvelo.com)>

Cc: ES-ADG <[ES-ADG@fao.org](mailto:ES-ADG@fao.org)>, McGuire, Mark (ESD) <[Mark.McGuire@fao.org](mailto:Mark.McGuire@fao.org)>, HOCHSTETTER Stephanie <[stephanie.hochstetter@wfp.org](mailto:stephanie.hochstetter@wfp.org)>, Mathur, Shantanu <[s.mathur@ifad.org](mailto:s.mathur@ifad.org)>, Blankman, Jordana <[j.blankman@ifad.org](mailto:j.blankman@ifad.org)>

Dear Ambassador Mario,

IFAD agrees with your proposal as outlined in para 5 of your email below. Best wishes.

Ashwani Muthoo

Director

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**Subject:** Re: On the CFS Advisory Group

Dear Ambassador Arvelo,

FAO and WFP would like to join IFAD in supporting your request for the RBAs to become **ex-officio** and **extra-quota** members of the CFS Advisory Group as outlined in para 5 of your email of 18 April 2019.

We would also like to take this opportunity to suggest that we arrange a meeting with you to discuss our collective opinions as to how to fill the three vacated posts [newly created posts].

Best regards,

Maximo and Stephanie