



CSM Update

October and November 2019

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Reports from CFS 46th Plenary Session and CSM Forum

CFS 46th Final Report and main highlights from the CFS Plenary week

The CFS 46th Plenary Session took place in Rome from 14 to 18 October. Several topics of high relevance for CSM were address at this Plenary, such as Agroecology, Food Systems and Nutrition, the upcoming CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW), Youth and the Monitoring of the CFS policy recommendations on Smallholders.



CSM welcomed the celebration of the International Day on Rural Women and the fact that this important moment has been included as a regular agenda item in the CFS Plenary week agenda. Moreover, this year the session included the participation of the UN Deputy High Commissioner of Human Rights, Ms. Kate Gilmore, which strongly linked the struggle for women’s empowerment and gender equality to the full realization of women’s rights. The UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food (SRRTF), Ms. Hilal Elver, presented in her keynote speech during the SDGs session the findings of her latest report “Realising the Right to Food in the time of the SDGs”. The possibility to have the SRRTF addressing the CFS Plenary Session during its opening day is important to put in practice the Right to Food vision of the Committee and should be considered to become a standing agenda item for the future Plenary Sessions.

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One of the outstanding and powerful highlights of the week was the CFS Special Event on Youth that was jointly prepared by PSM and CSM youth constituencies. CSM Youth delegates were able to present their vision, demands and expectations towards the upcoming CFS workstream on youth. Youth participants urged CFS members to meaningfully involve youth voices within policy decision making processes at national, regional and global level. A brief summary of the session can be found [here](#).

On 16 October a substantial and lively policy debate on the outcomes and findings of the HLPE Report on Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition took place in the Plenary Session. CSM delivered its key messages and vision on the topic. Right before the Plenary discussion, US based organizations launched a statement to publicly denounced the US attempts to block the process and presented the letter personally to the US Ambassador in Rome before the Plenary session on the topic.

CSM expressed concern about the fact that the CFS 46th Final Report does not fully reflect the richness of the debates, as no conclusions and summaries of the sessions were included. It is a merely descriptive report, and only verbatim transcriptions were included to substantiate the content of the different sessions as a compromise agreed by CFS members. Originally, a series of brief summaries was supposed to be included for each agenda item but some countries were not willing to go in this direction. In this sense, the CFS lacked ambition and capacity to produce a strong and solid report to be shared as productive evidence of a strong CFS.



On Food Systems and Nutrition, the working group expressed disappointment concerning the fact that the proposed CSM speaker in the panel was not accepted in September without a proper justification and process. The Plenary session could have been better used for engaging into a more substantial debate on the upcoming Guidelines, taking on key outcomes, even if partial, of the regional consultations that had taken place before October in Asia, Africa, Near East and Europe. In more general terms, an important learning was that the previous practice, that the politically relevant parts of the Plenary Agenda, including the composition of panels in Plenary, should all be discussed by the Joint meetings of the Advisory Group and Bureau, and decided by the Bureau, with a supportive role of the CFS Secretariat.

The 46th CFS Plenary Session endorsed the MYPoW 2020-2023, which foresees four important new policy workstreams, such as Women's empowerment and gender equality,

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youth, inequalities and data. The sequence between inequalities and data in the second term of this MYPoW is still to be clarified. CSM urged the plenary to prioritize the inequalities workstream as a fundamental contribution to the common struggle towards zero hunger, the rights to food and the overarching SDG claim to not leaving anyone behind.

This Plenary Session also realized its first monitoring exercise on CFS Policy Recommendations. The CSM presented from the Panel its own independent Report “Towards Smallholder-oriented Public

Policies. Monitoring the use and implementation of CFS Policy Recommendations on Smallholders”. The session was vibrant and demonstrated that also CFS more specific policy outcomes have a huge potential in generating concrete and positive impacts and changes on the ground if used, applied and monitored.

Finally, the CFS 46th Plenary Session endorsed a change in the CFS rules and procedures, appointing the three Rome-based agencies as ex-officio members of the Advisory Group. More details on this item under the section “CFS Updates”.



CSM contributions to CFS Plenary week

CSM working groups actively engaged throughout the Plenary Session week. Please visit the related policy working group pages to read a brief summary of the working groups activities in October: agroecology, food systems and nutrition, youth, women, global food governance, SDGs, MYPoW, monitoring, urbanization and rural transformation.

You will find at this link all Plenary Statements made by CSM and the key contributions delivered as panelists to some of the sessions.



- CSM Opening Statement on SOFI
- CSM contribution on the SDGs CFS Panel
- CSM Plenary Statement on SDGs
- CSM Plenary Statement on the International Day of Rural Women
- CSM Plenary Statement on Food Systems and Nutrition
- CSM Plenary Statement on Urbanization and Rural transformation
- CSM contribution on CFS Panel on MSPs
- CSM Plenary Statement on MSPs
- CSM Plenary Statement on Agroecology and other innovations
- CSM Contribution on CFS Monitoring Panel

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- [CSM Contribution on CFS Monitoring Panel](#)
- [CSM Plenary Statement on Monitoring](#)
- [CSM Plenary Statements on Youth \(Jessie, Margarita, Nzira, Nasmin\)](#)
- [CSM Plenary Statement on MYPoW](#)
- [CSM Closing Plenary Statement](#)
- [CSM Plenary Statement on the CFS Launch of the UN Decade of Family Farming](#)

Summaries from CSM side events at CFS 45

This year CSM was granted 4 side events and one side event which was organized jointly with the Private Sector Mechanism. Please find below the side events realized and the summary of the discussions!



- [Fighting hunger between rights and inequalities: Too many left behind! How can human rights be used to reduce inequalities and overcome discrimination for achieving food security and nutrition for all?](#)
- [Re-thinking and Re-shaping Food Systems through Agroecology: CFS policy convergence on Agroecology and Food Systems & Nutrition as the key opportunity to chart the transition to a truly sustainable future](#)
- [The impact of extractivism on women's right to food and the struggle for a just transition: Addressing root causes of violence against women and the way ahead for concrete solutions towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda](#)
- [The future of food and the visions of the youth: "We don't inherit land from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children" \(Native American Saying\)](#)
- [Food Systems & Nutrition Guidelines: Proposed Pathways by the Private Sector and Civil Society: Perspectives and proposals by civil society and the private sector on how to reshape food systems to ensure sustainable and healthy diets.](#)

New CFS Chair, Vice-Chair and new Bureau appointed

Mr. Thanawat Tiensin from Thailand was elected by the CFS Plenary on 18 October 2019 as the new CFS Chair for the upcoming biennium 2019-2021. A new Bureau was also nominated and is composed as follows:

- **African Region:** Mali and Ecuatorial Guinee (*Alternates: Cabo Verde and Senegal*);
- **Asian Region:** India and Indonesia (*Alternates: Bangladesh and Republic of Korea*);

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- **European Region:** France and Russian Federation (*Alternates: Spain and Switzerland*);
- **Latin America and the Caribbean** Brazil and Dominican Republic (*Alternates: Argentina and Costa Rica*);
- **Near East Region:** Afghanistan and Mauritania (*Alternates: Iran and Oman*);
- **North America:** United States (*Alternate: Canada*);
- **South West Pacific:** New Zealand (*Alternate: Australia*)

The CFS Bureau elected during its first meeting on 28 October 2019 Mr. Don Syme, the Permanent Representative of New Zealand, as CFS Vice-Chair for the biennium 2019-2021.

CSM Forum highlights and conclusions

Almost 200 participants attended CSM Forum on 13 and 14 October. The theme of the public opening session of this year was “10 years after the CFS Reform. What role for the CFS in the future architecture of Global Food Governance?” The recently elected Director General of FAO, Dr. Qu Dongyou was invited to provide the keynote speech and CFS Chair



Mario Arvelo was invited to bring his perspectives on the theme. CSM substantially contributed to the panel with its diverse analyses and visions, highlighting particularly the youth and women’s perspectives and demands. The CSM Forum of this year also dedicated significant time and space to the two main policy convergence processes upcoming in CFS agenda, Food Systems and Nutrition and Agroecology.

CSM Women’s working group also presented, within the debate on Agroecology, their paper on Feminism and Agroecology which intend to inform CSM positions on this process, as there cannot be any agroecology without feminism. CSM youth constituency also had a specific section in the CSM Forum where they were able to present and discuss their draft vision and expectations.

As usual, the CSM Forum offered a space for strategic thinking and policy analysis of the global food governance agenda as well as a moment of accountability and presentation of the newly elected Coordination Committee for the biennium 2019/2021.

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Interviews and communication work during October

Please find below a list of articles and radio interviews gathered during October activities on Agroecology! Thanks once again to the work of CSM participating organisations!

- [Real World Radio](#), reporting on the start of CFS 46 and the demands of CSM this year.
- [Rome Summit takes bold step toward Agroecology](#) by Timothy Wise
- [Real World Radio](#), A step closer to Agroecology.
- [Agroecology recognised as the transformative solution for a food system in crisis by experts at UN](#)



Updates on CFS processes

CFS Bureau Meeting of 28 October

The newly appointed CFS Bureau gathered on 28 October for [its constitutional meeting](#), its and [to appoint the Advisory Group](#) for the upcoming biennium, and therefore discuss its composition and role. The CFS 46th Plenary session agreed to amend CFS Rules and Procedures by appointing the three Rome-based agencies as ex-officio members of the Advisory Group. As a consequence, the Bureau had also to reflect on how to use the new free spaces left by the RBAs within the AG. According to the CFS Rules and Procedures, the number of Advisory Group members should not exceed the one of the Bureau and CFS Chair. A total of six new expression of interests were submitted to join the Advisory Group. Nevertheless, the discussion on the AG composition is complex and the Bureau was not able to find agreement on its composition. The CFS Chair established an ad hoc Bureau Working group on the subject, and requested the CFS Vice-Chair to lead the process aimed at identifying a viable proposal for Bureau attention. Please find at this [link](#) CFS Bureau Outcomes. The Bureau working group reported to the Bureau meeting of 29 November its work. We will circulate CFS Bureau Outcomes as soon as ready.



CFS Advisory Group and Bureau Meeting of 26 November 2019

As the CFS Bureau was not able to appoint a new Advisory Group, the members of the previous biennium Advisory Groups were invited as ad hoc members for the [first joint meeting](#) of the Advisory Group and Bureau on 26 of November. The meeting [assessed CFS 46th Plenary Session](#), revised the [timeline and workplans](#) of the upcoming policy processes and will look into

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CFS financial update and mobilization strategy for next year. In the same day the Advisory Group and Bureau also hold a joint meeting with the new HLPE Steering Committee. Please find at this [link](#) CSM Contributions to the CFS Advisory Group and Bureau Meeting.

CFS OEWG on Food Systems and Nutrition on 29 November 2019



On 29 November, a meeting of the OEWG on Food Systems and Nutrition took place. The focus of the session was on the outcomes of the six regional consultations and the e-consultation in preparation of the next draft (Draft One) of the Guidelines. In the following links, you find the Chair's summaries of all consultations (the summary of the North American consultations will be ready soon): Africa; Latin America; Europe; Near East; Asia.

The working group participants to the OEWG were successful in advocating for an additional OEWG meeting before the policy negotiation starts. A brief summary of the CSM working group activities during October can be found at this [link](#)!

Updates on Agroecology and Other innovations

The Rapporteur of the CFS policy convergence process on Agroecology and other innovations, Ambassador Emadi of Iran, shared a letter on the upcoming policy process at the end of October 2019. The first open meeting on Agroecology and other innovations is expected to take place on January 27th. You can find the draft workplan of the process that was discussed in the upcoming Advisory Group and Bureau meeting of 26 November here. CFS members and participants are invited after CFS 46 to provide structured inputs to feed an initial zero draft of a CFS Policy Convergence process, taking into account the



main findings and recommendations of the HLPE Report and Plenary discussion. All inputs will be made available online, and will be consolidated by issues and shared in advance on the CFS first open meeting. The CSM Working Group on agroecology is currently finalizing their input to be delivered by 29 November. Keep tuned on CSM Agroecology's webpage!

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Updates on CFS special event on Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition



On 17 September CFS special event on Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition took place in the Red Room, at FAO HQs. The event focused on the relation between commercial tree plantations and food security and nutrition. The CSM delegation also included the voices of the Amazonian communities threatened by the dramatic fires of September 2019 and the impacts of the monoculture plantations in the region. Please find at this [link](#) the CSM presentation from the panel and at this [link](#) the intervention from the floor. [Here](#) you will find the video message of the UN Special Rapporteur on the

Right to Food, Hilal Elver and here . Unfortunately, as agreed by the CFS Bureau before, no official outcomes and conclusions of the event were produced.

Updates on CSM Information Session on 19 September 2019

The last Advisory Group and Bureau meeting of the previous biennium, scheduled for 20 September, was cancelled without proper justification or consultation by the former CFS Chair, CSM and other members and participants received this news with great concern, as the joint AG and Bureau meetings before Plenary Sessions usually had been important moments for fine tuning the inclusive preparations of the Plenary, also for assessing the inter-sessional period and in this case also of the biennium, and have always provided a space to discuss substantive issues of relevance for CFS. Against this background, CSM organized a very well attended autonomous information session the day before the Bureau meeting, to share views on some agenda items such as the CFS 46th Plenary Session and its expectations related to the policy convergence process on Agroecology and other innovations. The CFS Bureau meeting was kept in place and you can find [here](#) CFS Bureau Outcomes of 20 September.

New appointment of HLPE Steering Committee

A new HLPE Steering Committee was appointed and established. They will meet with CFS Advisory Group and Bureau members in a joint meeting for presentations and exchange on 26 November. The list is not yet available on HLPE website.

Overview of the CFS calendar for the inter-sessional period 2019/2021

Please find at this link the [draft workplans and timetable](#) of the upcoming CFS processes for the year 2019/2020, as shared before the AG and Bureau meeting of 26 November 2019.

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The CFS Bureau meeting on 29 November shall take a decision on the final workplans for 2020.

Updates on CSM internal issues

New CSM Coordination Committee appointed for biennium 2019-2021

From 9-11 October the new Coordination Committee of the CSM gathered in Rome to prepare CSM activities and engagement with CFS 46th Plenary Session. This was the first meeting of a newly appointed CC, that will be in charge for the upcoming biennium 2019-2021. 17 new members were welcomed! Gender balance has significantly improved among constituencies and sub-regions, and now all constituencies and sub-regions are facilitated by a focal point, for a total of 41 members. Please find [here](#) the new Coordination Committee!



New CSM Advisory Group to CFS appointed for biennium 2019-2021

The Coordination Committee meeting of 9-11 October 2019 appointed the new CSM Advisory Group members for the upcoming biennium. As usual, constituency, gender and regional balance criteria were taken into account and also the possibility to have members renewing a second mandate in the AG to ensure continuity. Please find here the new CSM AG composition:

- Elmira Mabetowa, International Union of Food Workers (IUF), Agricultural and food workers constituency, Kyrgyzstan
- Emeline Siale Ilolahia, Pacific Islands NGO-Network (PIANGO), Pacific subregion, Fiji
- Azra Sayeed, International Women Alliance (IWA), Women's constituency, Pakistan
- Nettie Wiebe, National Farmers Union (NFU), Subregion North America, Canada
- Christiana Louwa, World Forum of Fisher People (WFFP), Fisherfolks constituency, Kenya
- Saúl Vicente, International Indian Treaty Council (IITC), Indigenous Peoples constituency, Mexico
- Musa Sowe, Western Africa Small Scale Farmers Network (ROPPA), Western Africa subregion, Gambia
- André Luzzi, Habitat International Coalition (HIC), Constituency of the Urban Food insecure, Brazil

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- Alberto Broch, Confederation of Family Farmers in the amplified Mercosur (COPROFAM), Smallholder Family Farmers Constituency, Brazil
- Ramona Duminicioiu, La Via Campesina (LVC), Smallholder Family Farmers Constituency, Romania
- Ruth Gaha-Morris, Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance (AFSA), Subregion Australasia, Australia
- Khalid Khawaldeh, World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples (WAMIP), Pastoralist constituency, Jordan

Invitation to join the CSM working group and actively engage to CFS policy processes during the 2018//2019 inter-sessional period.

In the upcoming period several of CSM Working Groups will be actively engaged in CFS policy process. Join one of them by writing an email to cso4cfs@gmail.com



- CSM Policy Working Group on Food Systems and Nutrition
- CSM Policy Working Group on Agroecology
- CSM Policy Working Group on Monitoring
- CSM Policy Working Group on FFA
- CSM Policy Working Group on Women
- CSM Policy Working Group on Global Food Governance