

Food Systems and Nutrition

A revised version of the draft VGFSyN will be circulated by mid-March (language versions by mid-April) in view of negotiations to take place in May and July. The document incorporates suggestions provided during the OEWG meeting held on 29 January, and written inputs submitted by CFS stakeholders (66 contributions).

The next OEWG meeting will take place on 14 April (14.00-17.00, Red Room), with the goal of sharing initial views on the next version of the draft VGFSyN circulated for future negotiation.

All background documents, including the Chair's Summary of the last OEWG meeting and the Work-plan, as well as relevant information regarding this workstream, are available on the [CFS website in the "Working Space" section](#).

Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches

At an open meeting held on 27 January 2020, CFS stakeholders provided inputs to inform the development of the Zero Draft policy recommendations. Additional written comments were received up to the deadline of 3 February 2020.

The Zero Draft CFS policy recommendations on "*Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable food systems that enhance food security and nutrition*" was shared with CFS stakeholders and posted on the CFS working space on 19 February 2020. Language versions will be available by the first week of March 2020.

CFS stakeholders are invited to submit written inputs on the Zero Draft to cfs@fao.org, focusing on the substance of the document and concrete proposals for its improvement by 18 March 2020.

Following a request from the CFS Bureau to organize an additional open meeting to discuss the Zero Draft before the First Draft is released, the CFS Secretariat, in consultation with the Rapporteur, is seeking a suitable date for such meeting to be announced in the coming days.

Monitoring: Update on Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises

The CFS Secretariat encourages timely responses from Bureau and Advisory Group members to its two calls for inputs on the "CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises" (FFA). These inputs are intended to gather information on FFA-relevant events, and how the Framework is being utilized by CFS members and partners. A reminder email was sent out to member states on the Members Gateway on 11 February 2020.

While some submissions have been received so far through the SurveyMonkey on the actual use of the CFS-FFA, no submissions have yet been received on events organized to discuss this CFS product. As a follow-up to the CFS Secretariat mission to Geneva in December to raise awareness about CFS, and FFA in particular, a side event is being co-organized in Geneva at the Human Rights Council entitled "The Right to Food and Nutrition in Protracted Crises" by FIAN International, Habitat International Coalition, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN Food and Agriculture Organization, Committee on World Food Security, and the Swiss

Confederation. The CFS Secretariat encourages you to remind your capitals and constituencies of this event, scheduled to take place 31 **March 2020**. Inputs received will contribute to the realization of a successful Global Thematic Event (GTE) monitoring session during CFS 47 in October 2020.

A Technical Task Team meeting will be held in March to review a draft outline of the summary report and a session outline for the GTE.

HLPE

Report #15: "Food Security and Nutrition: Building a Global Narrative toward 2030"

e-Consultation on the V-0 draft opened from 27 January 2020 until 26 February 2020. 73 contributions were received.

HLPE is now preparing the V-1 draft for peer-review, set to take place from 31 March 2020 until 22 April 2020.

A report launch event is tentatively scheduled to take place on 17 June 2020 at FAO headquarters.

More on: http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/cfs-hlpe/discussions/global_FSN_narrative-v0

Report #16: "Promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems"

An e-Consultation on the scope of this report was opened from 6 December 2019 until 26 January 2020. 99 contributions were received.

More on: http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/cfs-hlpe/discussions/youth_engagement_employment

Outreach

The CFS Chair traveled to Thailand and Lao PDR to accompany the FAO Director-General to a mission in South-East Asia. The trip offered an opportunity for the CFS Chair to discuss CFS ongoing policy convergence work and future workstreams with various local stakeholders and FAO senior leadership.

The Final Communique of the January 2020 Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) held in Berlin, Germany, in which both the CFS Chair and Secretary participated, was circulated in late February. In the Communique, the CFS and its most notable policy products are mentioned several times, along with other topics of relevance to the CFS MYPOW 2020-2023. The Communique is at: <https://www.gffa-berlin.de/en/programmuebersicht-gffa-2020/berliner-agrarministerkonferenz-2020/>

On February 10, the Chair met with Ms Agnes Kalibata of Rwanda who was named by the UN Secretary General as Special Envoy for the 2021 Food Systems Summit. Accompanied by their respective staff, this introductory meeting explored how and where the CFS and its policy instruments might be deployed in terms of preparing for the summit. Mr. Martin Cole, Chairman of the HLPE Steering Committee joined the meeting by video connection. The meeting followed upon an open meeting at FAO with member state delegations earlier that morning, and just prior to Ms Kalibata's participation in a meeting of the Farmers Forum later that afternoon at IFAD.

The CFS Chair delivered closing remarks at an event - "Bridging the Data Divide: Reaching Zero Hunger Requires Better Agricultural Statistics". This open event, organized by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, highlighted work underway on bridging the data gap, and will contribute to future discussions of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) for its approved Programme of Work item on data systems, including a forthcoming report to be prepared by the CFS High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE). BMGF President Rodger Voorhies delivered remarks,

along with FAO ADG Máximo Torero, the CFS Chair, and representatives of the 50x2030 Initiative, Action Aid, and the UN Foundation. Their written remarks can be found on the CFS webpage under “events.”

On February 28, the Chair briefed the African Regional Group’s general plenary meeting, describing the ongoing work-streams of the CFS, plans for a CFS side event at FAO’s African Regional Conference in Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe), and efforts to raise awareness and generate commitments the group for work of the Committee.

The CFS Chair and Secretariat will participate in all five scheduled FAO Regional Conferences. CFS Secretariat has been requested to prepare CFS-themed events at all of the Regional Conferences.

The CFS Chair and Secretary have been invited to UAE for the Global Forum for Innovations in Agriculture (9-10 March). During the Forum, the CFS Chairperson is expected to deliver a keynote address, and will participate in a plenary event focused on CFS’s work to address Water for Food Security and Nutrition.

Upcoming Activities

FAO Regional Conferences

The Chair and Secretariat staff will be participating in FAO’s Regional Conferences:

- Regional Conference for Africa (ARC)
Opening Statement by Chair. CFS Side Event. 23-27 March
Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
- Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC)
Pending. 27-29 April
Managua, Nicaragua
- Regional Conference for Europe (ERC)
Opening Statement by Chair. CFS Side Event. 5-7 May
Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC)
Opening Statement by Chair. CFS Side Event. 17-20 May
Thimphu, Bhutan
- Regional Conference for Near East (ERC)
Opening Statement by Chair. CFS Side Event. TBD
- Chair’s travel to Thailand with FAO Director-General 17-18 February
Bangkok, Thailand
- Chair’s and Secretary’s travel to the Global Forum for Innovations in Agriculture 8-10 March
Abu Dhabi, UAE

Other news

The Secretariat has been asked to provide comments on a draft G20 Framework to enhance implementation and reporting on responsible investment in agriculture and food systems. The

Framework, promoted by the Saudi Arabian G20 Presidency for 2020, references the CFS-RAI, CFS VGGTs, and the FAO-OECD Guidelines on Sustainable Value Chains. This discussion offers an important opportunity to promote two of CFS's most practical and important policy products for which significant action is required to meet the relevant SDG goals and indicators by 2030.