

### ***CSM Messages on Workstream Gender equality and women's empowerment***

- We are glad to see a proposed plan work for this workstream. As CSM we had raised this issue during our CFS Advisory Group and Bureau meeting of January 2020 in the context of the planning for the CFS47. The minutes of that meeting provide information that a Chair for the OEWG shall be appointed and a workplan established in that context.
- During the last AG-Bureau meeting of 17 April we were concerned to see, as Russia pointed out, that the CFS Secretariat had moved ahead in the process without consultation and mandate from the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group.
- We believe that the idea of having a scoping paper as a starting point is a good idea per se, but the drafting process should have been consulted and agreed collectively. We did not know that CARE was contracted for this scoping paper. In conversation with the colleagues of CARE, who are also participants to CSM, we were informed that the scoping paper was a consultancy work of CARE commissioned by FAO to serve as an input paper to the CFS process. The responsibility for the content of the paper would solely rest with FAO.
- With this clarification, we believe it is clear where the mistake in the process was. We would therefore encourage the CFS Secretary to avoid kick-starting CFS processes without due consultation as this generates tensions that consume energies undermining the quality of the content discussion.
- However, there is time to bring the process back on track and build a collective understanding and trust in the process that inform CFS activities. In this virtual period, this is even more than before. We don't need to re-invent the wheel but just apply what was already there, aligning our engagement in this Committee to our roles and responsibilities and improving what can be improved to make CFS effective and relevant.
- We welcome the establishment of a Technical Task Team that will follow-up and support the technical work needed to inform this policy process. In this sense, we understand that Technical Task Teams in alignment with CFS spirit and founding principles will comprise a variety of knowledge and expertise to support CFS Secretariat's work, as it has been the case in the last years of work. As usual TTTs are open to all Advisory Group members and relevant UN agencies, willing to contribute technically to the preparation of the process, being the CFS Secretariat the responsible for the coordination and working methods, and the Bureau the body responsible for decisions. On this process, the TTT which was active on the gender equality and women's empowerment workstream in 2017 can be invited to rejoin.
- Our practical suggestion would be that 1) the Bureau first agrees on the further process, after this consultation with the AG, and 2) the TTT is convened to start preparations, including gathering and revising the different input documents for the process, to which the FAO scoping paper may be included as well as other documents provided by the other TTT members, including the CSM Women constituency.