

**Agenda item 1: CFS Special Event 13-15 October**

The proposed program of the Special Event from 13-15 October presents a series of very important discussions and shows a high-level engagement and commitment of Member states, UN agencies and other participants.

Our key suggestions and questions regarding the program and proceeding are the following four:

- 1) 15 October, International Day of Rural Women:** the CSM strongly believes that the Opening of the Third Day, 15 October, should be done by a Rural Women representative in occasion of this international Day, as it has been done in previous years. Especially in this year, with the Covid-19 crises, the essential role of rural women, especially of women small-scale food producers has been fundamental for food security and nutrition, and they have been also particularly impacted by the pandemic in many ways.

Therefore, the CSM Women's Working group and the whole CSM urge the CFS Bureau to include an opening speech of a rural women smallholder food producer in the Program of 15 October. We believe it is not enough to have a side event on gender equality, or to just have several speakers that day referring to the International Day of Rural Women. It is important to start the formal program of that day with the voice and perspective of rural women.

- 2) Special Event on Covid-19:** we recognize and welcome the importance given to the impact and policy responses to Covid-19 on the second day of the program, as this unprecedented catastrophe has affected, and continues to affect hundreds of millions of people of our constituency. We believe that the high-level engagement in the program of that day also needs to discuss about the policy response of CFS on this crisis.

Civil society and indigenous peoples have been developing different community initiatives in different countries to promote food and nutritional security in this pandemic period. We have learned a lot about the feasibility of implementing emergency and other measures aimed at creating healthy food systems based on agroecology.

We are currently finalizing a global synthesis report on the impact of Covid-19 which we will present that during the event. And we would be very interested to know how the CFS will continue the discussions on the policy response to Covid-19 after the Special event.

We would also like to invite everyone to the civil society and indigenous peoples' side event on the impacts of Covid-19 and proposals for policy recommendations at the global level, which will be held in partnership with the youth constituency.

We were surprised to see that our proposed Youth side event was rejected while another Youth proposal was selected. Our Youth proposal counted with the confirmation of the Ambassador of Argentina, the UN Special Rapporteur of the right to food, the CFs Chair and the Private Sector Mechanism. It is unclear why our proposal was rejected while the other was chosen.

- 3) **Chair's summary:** In this sense, we would also like to ask how the Chair's summary of the Special Event will be elaborated, and if a consultation with the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group is foreseen for its development.
- 4) Finally, we would like to ask how the **spaces for interactive discussion** will be organized. How will they be structured, how will they be facilitated? For us, it is important that also these moments of discussion are as participatory and inclusive as possible and reflecting the different perspectives and comments from the diversity of CFS members and participants.

## **Agenda item 2: Evaluation of the negotiations on food systems and nutrition**

CSM would like to thank the Chair and the CFS Secretariat for the efforts made during the first week of negotiations. We are aware of the challenges that the virtual modality posed, and we acknowledge that this is a learning process for all of us. We highly appreciate that the CSM was able to participate with the possibility of a non-limited number of CSM participants to bring in our proposals. The diversity and plurality of voices are central for the CSM, so we look forward to ensuring this is maintained in the next steps of this process. And finally, our congratulations go to the MS and the participants who prepared excellent contributions and showed a high commitment and engagement. The level of contributions was very high, and we appreciate it very much.

Interpretation. During the negotiations, some participants had difficulties because the interpretation did not always work properly, and the quality of the interpreters sometimes varied in terms of familiarity with abbreviations/CFS constituencies. Also, the translations of the VG need to be revised because some paragraphs in the French and Spanish didn't correspond to the original English version.

Methodology. As mentioned before, we know that this is a learning process but the fact that the methodology has changed several times in the past week was problematic, as well as the fact that it didn't allow negotiation but rather a comprehensive reading of the document. Therefore, we expect more clarity and consistency on the methodology for the next steps. In this sense, we appreciate the postponement of the beginning of the FoC meetings, to ensure enough time between the publication of the Chair's proposal and the start of the discussion. We would appreciate if the timeline could be shared as soon as possible and we kindly request to also indicate which topics and sections will be discussed in each of the sessions in advance.

### Regarding the next steps:

In order to ensure transparency of the process, we request that all proposals in the Chair's proposal indicate clearly how they have evolved from the various text proposals made during the first week of negotiations

We strongly request that the FoC should facilitate the consensus building on some particular issues or paragraphs, but that decisions are only taken in the Plenary (second week of negotiations). We believe that the text before the FoC is much broader than usual, and therefore should therefore only help to improve the understanding among actors to identify the pathways to achieve consensus during the next OEWG negotiations.

Once again, we would like to re-emphasize the importance of having an inclusive, participatory and transparent process. In this sense, having interpretation in the upcoming FoC sessions is fundamental. We understand that there are certain difficulties, but we should explore all possible solutions to ensure interpretation during FoC sessions. Furthermore, to ensure the inclusiveness of the process we appreciate the rotational basis for members along all the duration of the foreseen sessions and would

welcome flexibility in terms of number of speakers from each mechanism (which were proposed last week to be 2 or 3).

In our final point, regarding the second week of negotiations, we remain concerned that it might be insufficient time for fully and properly negotiating the final outcome. We believe it is important that the document that will be negotiated and which will contain the proposals made during the FoC to be translated in all UN languages and to be shared minimum one week prior to the negotiations. We also believe it is important to share an agenda of the second week of negotiations in advance.

### **Agenda item 3: Workstream updates**

CSM would like to make a point on the Agroecology workstream, which is a process that involved a lot of efforts and is of very timely importance. CSM believes that is fundamental to schedule the negotiations on agroecological and other innovative approaches within 2020 timeline, in order to submit it for adoption at the CFS plenary in the first part of 2021.

### **Agenda item 4: AOB**

We kindly invite again the members and participants of the CFS for the CSM 10th Anniversary Public Event on 12 October, from 2:00-5:00pm Rome time.