

Draft Key messages for AG-Bureau meeting on 23 Nov 9:30-12:30, 14-17h Rome time

Item 1 Feedback on the CFS High Level Special Event of 13-15 October

- The Special Event was an important moment to discuss the critical global situation and particularly the impact of Covid-19 crisis on rising hunger and malnutrition.
- The situation of our communities on the ground is getting desperate in many parts of the world, people are hit by the multiple simultaneous and interconnected crises on health, food, climate, care, inequalities and conflicts.
- We cannot continue the same paths, the same models. The call for a radical transformation of food systems is more urgent than ever, as it was made by our Youth and other CSM colleagues, the HLPE and others.
- It was positive that many high-level speakers were in the Program, also from WHO and ILO, but the total number of speakers was not balanced in terms of global South and global North.
- Participation from Members States was too limited by the chosen format. African governments were not adequately included into the Program, as an African Union representative rightly pointed out.
- We welcome that the International Day of Rural Women was opened by a speech of Dali Nolasco Cruz from Mexico. This highly inspiring intervention was possible thanks to clear support from the Chair, several Bureau members, FAO and IFAD.
- The composition of panels of most side events showed clearly that people from constituencies of the people most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition were hardly included. The CFS model of inclusiveness which gives particular attention to the people most at risk must be re-emphasized in the criteria and selection of side event proposals.
- We regret the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group had little scope to effectively shape the planning of the CFS Special Event. The preparation of the next Plenary should pay more attention to the leading role of the CFS Bureau in defining the program, in consultation with the Advisory Group.

Item 2: Plenary 47 agenda and timetable

- The most important point that is missing on the agenda is Covid-19, and the policy responses to it: the CFS Policy Response must be part of the plenary agenda. We were shocked in seeing that this pandemic which has exacerbated so many already existing structural problems and is affecting hundreds of millions of people most at risk on all levels, has not been put at the center of the CFS 47 agenda, is not even mentioned in the current agenda!
- Together with others who expressed themselves in similar terms during the CFS Special event in October, we strongly suggest the CFS to embark in a policy convergence process towards a policy response on Covid-19, based on the HLPE Issue Paper, the HLPE Global Narrative Reports and the many reports that have been produced by the RBA, WHO, ILO, the CSM and others. The CFS cannot be only a Platform for exchange, it should rather engage in a policy convergence process and lead drafting a global political response to this crisis, given the huge and unprecedented impact on food insecurity and nutrition.
- In addition, we expect the CFS 47 to include a truly critical discussion about the proceedings around the Food Systems Summit which seem deeply worrying to us.
- The Time Schedule of the Plenary should be as inclusive as possible. The current proposal of morning sessions in Rome exclude people from the Americas. The alternative could be to hold the Plenary with 3 hours in the Roman afternoon (13-16, or 14-17h CET) on 5 days (as it was agreed by the FAO Council): The main topics could be

- 1st day HLPE Global Narrative and Policy responses to Covid-19;
- 2nd day Adoption of the Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition
- 3rd day Global Thematic Event on the Framework for Action in Protracted Crises;
- 4th day MYPOW
- 5th day Critical discussion on FSS and adoption of the report
- In most of these topics, an introduction of one or two speakers is sufficient which would then allow all interested members states and other participants to intervene and to interact. The Plenary should be as participatory as possible, which means to reserve as much as possible time to the discussion among members and participants.
- As said by my colleague earlier regarding the CFS Special event: we believe that the CFS Bureau should have the adequate space and time to fully guide and possibly revise during the coming weeks the program of the CFS Plenary, in close consultation with the Advisory Group.

Item 3: Side events

- If plenaries are held in the afternoon Rome time, the number of side events can be significantly increased: one series in the morning before the Plenary, and another in the afternoon after the Plenary session.
- The CFS concept of inclusiveness should be applied to the Side Events. Inclusiveness does not only mean that all relevant actors should be on the table, but it essentially implies that those who have been excluded from political decision making, and continue to be excluded on almost all levels, are finally heard. The CFS Reform Document is very clear on this: giving special attention to the most affected by hunger and malnutrition. Unfortunately, very little space was given to these voices in the Side events of October. Very few representatives of smallholder family farmers organizations, pastoralists, indigenous peoples, fisherfolks, landless, consumers, rural women and urban food insecure were invited as panelists by organizers of the Partner events in October. We need a much better balance if we want to stick to the inclusiveness concept of the reformed CFS.
- Side events should be more interrelated to the Plenary agenda, so that both enter into a conversation around similar themes from different perspectives.

Item 6: Meeting with HLPE Steering Committee: 11:00-12.30h Rome time

- Food Systems Summit:
 - see speaking points for the conversation with the CFS Chair (see attached)
- Covid-19: HLPE issue paper on its impact on food security and nutrition:
 - We welcome again the two HLPE issue papers which call for a leading role of the CFS in a policy response. We fully agree with this approach, as echoed by the CSM Reports on Covid-19, the Women's Report, the Youth Declaration, and the CSM Global Synthesis Report presented in October,
 - We could ask the HLPE 1) how the HLPE Global Narrative Report could be used in conjunction with the two HLPE Issue papers as the point of departure for a CFS policy process , and 2) if the HLPE Steering Committee would be in the position to further provide updated analysis on Covid-19 and its consequences.

Item 4: CFS 47 draft decisions and conclusions

- a) HLPE 2020: The current draft decision box does not foresee any follow-up to the HLPE report on Food Security and Nutrition: Building a Global Narrative towards 2030.” We believe and strongly suggest that this report, in combination with the HLPE Issue papers on Covid-19 published in 2020, provides an excellent basis for a policy convergence process to respond to the Covid-19 crisis. Therefore, such follow-up should be included into this decision box, and discussed and initiated by the CFS Plenary 47.
- b) VGFSyN: No comment on the draft decision box at this point.
- c) Global Thematic Event on CFS-FFA: For us, the most important conclusion that needs to come out of the Global Thematic Event is that the CFS Plenary should be an key moment to commit to a much more comprehensive and systematic dissemination, use and application of the FFA. This aspect seems to us too weak in the draft decision box. We therefore suggest the following amendments to the Decision box:
- In paragraph g) we suggest to add the word “dissemination”, so it would read: “...minimal, coordinated effort applied by CFS members, the Advisory Group, Secretariat, and the Rome-based agencies to ensure its **dissemination and** application in various international fora....
 - In paragraph h) we suggest to add some text so it would read: "pledges to make additional efforts to ~~utilize~~ **promote the dissemination, use and application** of the Framework **much more broadly and systematically**, where appropriate, at global, regional, national, and sub-national levels, supported by all CFS members, **the Rome Based Agencies and other CFS** constituencies, **while pledging to seek similar commitments and support from other UN agencies, towards a joint and co-ordinated implementation plan.**

We are happy to share these wording proposals in writing.

d) MYPOW Rolling Section:

- As said earlier today, a **Policy Convergence Process for a CFS Response to Covid-19** should be included into the MYPOW Rolling Section.
- **HLPE report 2022: on Data or on Inequalities?** The CFS Plenary in February will need to take a decision which topic should be chosen.
The text that was shared to this AG-Bureau meeting is not identical with the MYPOW text approved by CFS Plenary in 2019. There was an inconsistency in the approved MYPOW text, regarding the sequence of the HLPE reports in 2022 and 2023: While the approved text of the MYPOW explicitly states (in paragraphs 87 and 89) that the HLPE Report 2022 should be on inequalities and the HLPE report 2023 on data, the timeline that is annexed to the report says the contrary. The reasons for this inconsistency which was also flagged by CSM during the Plenary 2019, were: a) that there was no consensus found by the Bureau meeting in July 2019 about the sequence of these two workstreams yet, and that precisely for that reason, two events were agreed to be held on inequalities and data to explore which theme should come first (these events were included into the MYPOW). Based on the outcomes of these events, the CFS Plenary would decide about the sequence of the two HLPE reports when discussing the rolling section of the MYPOW. We expected that this discussion would start from there. However, we see from the text provided for today, as if the decision about the sequence was already taken. This is formally not correct.
In terms of content, we clearly see that the Covid-19 crisis has made visible and exacerbated structural inequalities which are now among the main drivers of increasing hunger and

malnutrition. Reducing inequalities is among the biggest urgencies of our times, especially when it comes to address increasing hunger and malnutrition. We therefore urge the CFS to request the HLPE report 2022 on reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition.

- e) Gender equality and women's empowerment: we would like to ask for clarification about the further process on the Terms of Reference for the process: will there be an additional Open-ended Working Group meeting to finalize the TOR?

Item 5: CFS Workstreams and budget/resource mobilization updates

We would like to know by when we can have clarity about the two negotiation rounds for the CFS Policy recommendations on agroecological and other innovative approaches?