CSM key messages to the CFS Advisory Group and Bureau meeting (11 January 2021)

Agenda item 1: CFS 47 Agenda and Timetable

1) Covid-19 Policy response:
   - **General remark:** it is not easy to make specific comments on the more detailed information just presented on the spot by the CFS Secretary, about how the secretariat intends to organize CFS47 and what speakers are being invited. We should have had this more detailed program before, for internal consultation. Our comments will therefore mostly focus on the less detailed program as circulated last week.
   - We continue to express our deep concerns that an in-depth discussion on a CFS Policy response to Covid-19 has not been included in the main agenda of the Plenary. We insist that this should still be done.
   - The CFS policy response to Covid-19 should be discussed during the first day of the Plenary and/or when the MYPOW is discussed. On a question as important as this it is up to the CFS Plenary 47 to take a decision on what the CFS will do on Covid-19.
   - Our constituencies are struggling with the devastating impacts of the pandemic and its multiple consequences. The CFS cannot be silent on this.
   - The human rights framing of the policy response is crucial. The human right to health is fundamental to ensure access to free and universal vaccine for everybody and ensure that nobody is discriminated.
   - During 2020, CFS has collected, with substantial inputs from the HLPE, Member States, UN agencies, CSM and other participants, a critical mass of analysis on COVID-19 which now should be translated into policy guidance.
   - The event foreseen now for Thursday morning on the use of CFS Policy instruments in the response to the pandemic can be an important contribution to the policy guidance. CSM is willing to nominate a speaker for the Thursday morning panel. At the same time, CSM insists to have an item on the CFS Policy Response to Covid-19 on the agenda of the Plenary, for decision.

2) Global Thematic Event on Framework for Action in Protracted Crises
   - On the decision box; we have submitted proposals for the decision box to strengthen the use and application of the FFA during the last AG-Bureau meeting and would like to know if they were incorporated.
   - If they were not taken up, we underline again that strengthening the implementation of the FFA is fundamental for our constituencies and the work of the CFS as a whole. The related changes to the decision box should then be done by the Plenary.
   - We also inform the meeting that we have nominated the CSM speaker to the panel and expect that this appointment is taken up in the composition of the panel.

3) Food Systems Summit
   - **We continue to propose critical discussion about the Food Systems Summit as part of the CFS 47 agenda.** This is of high importance because this Plenary is the last opportunity before the Pre-Summit Conference and the Summit itself takes place. It is not sufficient to reduce the role of the CFS to its contribution of some outputs to the Food Systems Summit, as for example the Guidelines on Food Systems and nutrition.
   - What is needed is an open debate about the problematic course the Summit has taken: its wrong approach to replace inclusive multilateralism by multistakeholderism; the undue influence of the corporate sector on the Summit process; the lack of a strong human rights grounding, and the risks
this Summit poses for democratic, participative and truly inclusive food governance systems around the globe.

- As stated in our CSM Statement during the last AG-Bureau meeting, the problematic course of the Summit has not significantly changed through a better inclusion of the CFS Chair and HLPE. The course of the Summit must be deeply revised. The CSM insists that the CFS Plenary holds a critical discussion about the Food Systems Summit and suggests concretely that this could be included on Wednesday 10 February, in the space dedicated to discussions about the use and application of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition.

Agenda item 2: CFS Workstream Updates

Key messages and questions:

- We appreciate that more time has been allocated for finding consensus on the guidelines.
- We want to reiterate the need for an ambitious document that points out pathways for the transformation of current unsustainable and unjust food systems, based on a holistic understanding of food systems and on human rights.
- In our eyes there are several contested issues still open in the guidelines which are key for the CSM constituencies, such as the importance of local and territorial food systems, the importance of agroecology and other innovative approaches, UNDROP, the rights of workers, the human right to water, and the mention of strong safeguards to protect against Conflicts of interest in paragraphs related to governance, research, investment, etc.
- Based on the information given by the Chair and Secretary last week to CSM, that no interpretation is officially provided to the Friends of the Chair, the CSM is planning to provide interpretation to Spanish and French during the Friends of the Chair meetings.
- Questions:
  - On agenda and methodology: Will the Friends of the Chair meetings start with the paragraphs which were already discussed in the second week of negotiations but still need informal consensus, or will we continue with section 3.7?
  - Is there a possibility of extending the negotiations if no consensus can be found in January, so that they can be approved by the Special CFS Session in June?

Agenda Item 3: CFS input to HLPF 2021

Key messages

- We believe that the call of the ECOSOC Chair to focus on the impacts of COVID-19 on SDGs, including on SDG 2, underlines the importance that the CFS embark in a process towards a policy response to the food security dimension of Covid-19.
- The CFS should use this contribution to the High-Level Policy Forum (HLPF) to summarize the activities and learnings from last year’s activities on Covid-19 and relate to the two important issue papers of the HLPE. We suggest that the CFS Informal Working Group on Covid-19 takes up this task to prepare the input to the HLPF.

Any other business