

**CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meeting
And Bureau meeting
Dates: 28 June 2021 (8:30 - 10:30) and (10:30 – 11:30)
Venue: virtual meeting (via ZOOM)**

Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting Outcomes - With Bureau decisions

Agenda

1. UN Food Systems Summit and CFS
2. CFS 49 Final Report Preparation Guide (with Bureau decision)
3. CFS Chairmanship (Bureau only)
4. CFS Workstreams Updates
5. Any Other Business

CFS Chairperson, Mr Thanawat Tiensin, opened the meeting and welcomed the presence of the Deputy Special Envoy for the UN Food Systems Summit, Mr Martin Frick, as his invited guest.

The Provisional Agenda was approved without amendments.

Before starting the meeting, the CFS Chairperson informed that the meeting would be recorded for internal use by the CFS Secretariat.

1. UN Food Systems Summit and CFS

The Deputy Special Envoy for the UN Food Systems Summit, Mr Martin Frick, provided a comprehensive update on preparations for the Summit, with a focus on the pre-Summit, which will be held in FAO (Rome) 26-28 July 2021. He noted that, in order to deliver on the Summit's intended outcomes, the Pre-Summit and Summit will distill their substance from the more than year-long, intensive and inclusive process. He underscored that over 135 national dialogues will be held, and over 2000 "solutions" were received by the five Action Tracks which have been consolidated into 15 "solutions clusters" for further consideration. He confirmed that Summit organizers have no intention of building any "new" structures, and that the outcomes of the Summit would "come back to Rome" for their implementation and follow up.

As per the Pre-Summit, he underscored that the main concern was ensuring inclusivity, being a 'Peoples Summit', despite the necessity to hold the event in hybrid format due to the pandemic and decisions by the Italian Government and FAO. He noted that 5 Coalitions of Actions would be launched at the pre-Summit, with another 15-20 Coalitions launched at the Summit.

Finally, he concluded informing of the tight health and sanitary measures put in place to allow the in-person participation of delegates from different constituencies (government officials, UN system agencies, UNFSS secretariat and structures, private sector, civil society, producers, youth, women, research and media); and re-assuring that those participating virtually will have the same level of participation as those participating in person.

CFS Chairperson informed that he, the CFS Secretary, and HLPE Steering Committee Chair received invitations to participate in the Pre-Summit; the CFS Secretary informed that the Summit organizers had approved an application for the CFS Secretariat, under sponsorship of Thailand and The

Netherlands, to organize a main plenary session on 26 July at 6:30 PM that will focus on the CFS platform, its VGFSN and other flagship products.

The UN Rapporteur on the Right to Food queried where in the pre-Summit agenda the topic of the right to food would be addressed. He added that CFS would be the natural place to debate Summit's outcomes and judge its results, and warned that the FSS Science Group was intentionally "pushing out" the CFS-HLPE and undermining its role and mandate.

He also highlighted that, surprisingly, COVID-19 is not on the Summit's agenda, thus many of the solutions proposed by the Summit may be irrelevant to current realities.

CSM expressed its strong concerns over the Summit format, which in their view is not multilateral, since countries are not in the "driver's seat" and therefore have not accepted responsibility to take decisions and lead the process of food systems' transformation - accountable to their citizens. CFS, on the other hand, remains the most legitimate and authoritative forum for the governance of food security and nutrition, which should not be undermined by the Summit. CSM further stressed that since the Summit's organizers had not met certain conditions for its participation, it would remain outside the process, and would hold its own summit in July, just prior to the UNFSS pre-summit.

France expressed concerns that the FSS Science Group is not adequately considering the CFS-HLPE, up to the point that it did not invite the CFS-HLPE to a debate on the science-policy interface to be held at the upcoming FAO/UNFSS "Science Days" in July. France requested to include the CFS-HLPE in the session on science-policy interface at the Science Days.

France also recommended that the UNFSS raise CFS' visibility, including CFS flagship products within the UN. In the view of France, UNFSS should strengthen existing structures – like CFS – and rely on CFS as the address for continued monitoring of the outcomes of national Food Systems Dialogues.

Argentina asked for clarifications about Summit objectives and underlined the importance of promoting the CFS and its key products within the Summit, while also questioning whether any structural changes were needed to CFS and its HLPE.

PSM welcomed news of a CFS event at the pre-Summit and offered to contribute. PSM also welcomed creation of coalitions of SMEs, commended the role given to farmers in the Action Tracks, and queried whether it, like CSM, would be given a speaking role in the 28 July synthesis plenary session.

FAO Chief-Economist clarified that the "Science Days" hosted by FAO, and organized by its Chief Scientist will gather scientists and academicians participating in their individual capacity, and that a side-event process is open for expressions of interest. He noted that in-person participation in the pre-Summit would be decided soon based on Government of Italy health protocol decisions.

CGIAR queried how the two-page summaries of the Science Group's various papers would be synthesized, to which Martin Frick responded that the papers are of varying quality and should be considered only as "discussion starters."

In concluding this item, the CFS Chairperson informed of a document he received about the Game Changers Lab, an initiative led by the Rockefeller foundation and others, which was shared before the meeting by the CFS Secretariat. Given the late circulation of the paper, the item will be added to the agenda of the next Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group meeting, and the Chair will invite a representative of the Lab to brief on the initiative and the paper, given their interest in collaborating with CFS.

2. CFS 49 Final Report Preparation Guide (with Bureau decision)

The CFS 49 Final Report Preparation Guide was presented by the CFS Chair who reminded Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group members that the process for the preparation of the CFS 49 Final Report

as outlined in the document was based largely upon procedures established for the CFS 47 Final Report.

CFS Advisory Group members requested that draft conclusions on the 2021 SOFI report session be left open to reflect plenary discussions.

On the CFS 49 Agenda (approved by the CFS Bureau in May), it was requested that the CFS HLPE's updated "Issues Paper on COVID-19" be included as an INF document for consideration of Item 2.b. That document should also be shared, like other session documents, at least six weeks before the session and translated into FAO's six official languages, per standard CFS practice.

With regards to agenda item V, CSM requested that a CFS policy response to COVID-19 be included as part of the "rolling section" during debate on CFS MYPOW 2020-2023 item.

Bureau decisions

The Bureau approved the CFS 49 Final Report Preparation Guide with the following amendment:

Under item 2.b, the first sentence will read as follows:

"A draft conclusion, to be approved by the Bureau after consultation with the (ad hoc) Advisory Group, in July 2021, will be included in a background document for consideration at CFS 49."

As per past practice, the CFS 49 Final Report Preparation Guide will be sent for translation and posted as a CFS 49 official background document.

3. CFS Chairmanship (Bureau only)

A document presenting relevant provisions from the CFS Rules of Procedure concerning the election of the CFS Chairperson was presented to the Bureau.

In view of the upcoming election, foreseen at CFS 49 in October 2021, Bureau members were reminded that, in order to be valid, nominations of candidates shall be made in writing by the government of a Member, or by its delegate or representative, and communicated to the CFS Secretary no later than Friday 10 September 2021.

It was also reiterated that, per the 2009 CFS Reform Document, the Chairperson shall be elected on a rotational basis among regions and on the basis of individual qualifications. With regards to questions on regional rotation, the CFS Secretariat will confer with FAO's Legal Counsel and share any relevant guidance with the Bureau by email.

The Bureau requested that the CFS Secretariat send an email to Regional Group Chairs informing them of the process and deadlines for submission of nominations regarding the election of the next CFS Chairperson.

While no formal nominations have been received so far, the Bureau was reminded that the Government of Spain has expressed during the last FAO Conference its intention of presenting a nomination for the CFS Chairmanship.

4. CFS Workstreams Updates

CFS Chair updated the Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group members on his participation, in June, in several outreach events to raise the visibility of CFS, and awareness on its policy guidance. In particular, he informed of his participation in FAO Conference, his presentation of the CFS 47 Final Report to

ECOSOC, and his participation in a workshop organized by the UNFCCC Secretariat on the issue of climate change for food security and nutrition.

The Chair of the OEWG on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment (GEWE), Ms Satu Lassila (Finland), confirmed that there will be a meeting of the OEWG on 5 July (9:30 AM – 12:30 PM) to discuss the Zero Draft of the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition.

She reminded participants that this meeting was originally scheduled to take place on 25 May, but it was postponed by the Bureau to accommodate final negotiations of the Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches. As a consequence, the meeting will be the first and only meeting to receive feedback on the Zero Draft of the Guidelines on GEWE, as there is no time for a second meeting before the summer holidays, and since the Zero Draft needs to be shared with participants of upcoming regional consultations by the end of July.

She thanked all those who had provided comments on the Zero Draft, and reminded participants that the main objective of the Zero Draft was to support the regional consultations, thus the text does not include draft recommendations.

Russia reminded that the Zero Draft, and any other document, cannot be “agreed” during intersessional periods, and only the final version of the Guidelines could be endorsed by the Plenary.

The OEWG Chair clarified that the Zero Draft would be debated at the 5 July OEWG meeting and shared with the participants of the regional consultations by the end of July, and there is no time to hold an additional OEWG meeting.

Russia highlighted a clear preference for in-person meetings, and recommended to envisage holding the regional consultations in person, as feasible, in accordance with the prevalent health and sanitary conditions.

CFS Secretariat shared the programme and other information on an intersessional event on data systems scheduled for 1 July 2021, which has been organized with a Technical Task Team, and encouraged Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group members to register.

HLPE Coordinator informed that the CFS HLPE Report #16: “Promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems” will be launched on 5 July 2021, and the Executive Summary of the report will be released in all 6 FAO languages by then.

CFS Secretariat informed that, with the support of the permanent mission of the Dominican Republic, the CFS Secretariat was approved to organize a side-event at HLPF 2021. The side-event will be held on 14 July 2021. The CFS Secretariat is working on a detailed programme of the event to be shared in due course.

Last, the CFS Secretariat reminded that a Global Thematic Event to take stock on the use and application of the CFS-RAI Principles will be held at CFS 50 in October 2022, for which the CFS Secretariat will issue a public call for inputs through the FSN Forum, in early September. Participants were encouraged to support this call by organizing RAI-related events and share their respective experiences.

5. AOB

Nothing to discuss.

Annex 1: List of attendees of the joint Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting

CFS Bureau Members:

Mr Thanawat Tiensin (CFS Chair / Thailand); Mr Guillermo Spika (Argentina); Ms Ida Ayu Ratih (Indonesia); Ms Halimatou Traore (Mali); Mr Don Syme (New Zealand); Mr Ilya Andreev (Russian Federation); Mr Rafael Osorio (Spain); Ms Maria Adelaide D’Arcangelo (United States).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Ms Liudmila Kuzmicheva, Ms Diana Infante, Ms Berioska Morrison (Dominican Republic); Ms Delphine Babin-Pelliard (France); Mr Baye Mayor Diop (Senegal).

Advisory Group:

Mr Maximo Torero Cullen, Mr Mark McGuire (FAO); Ms Ruth Fianu (IFAD); Ms Stephanie Hochstetter, Mr Jacopo Valentini (WFP); Ms Stineke Oenema (UNSCN); Mr Rodney Cooke, Ms Chiara Villani (CGIAR); Mr Fabrizio Moscatelli (Gates Foundation); Mr Martin Wolpold-Bosien, Mr Andre’ Luzzi, Ms Marion Girard, Ms Cristina Brovia, Ms Emeline Siale Ilohahia, Ms Nora McKeon (CSM); Mr Brian Baldwin (PSM); Mr Michael Fakhri (UN Special Rapporteur RtF).

Observers:

Ms Satu Lassila (CFS Chair, Finland); Mr Damien Kelly (EU Delegation); Ms Silke Stralkamp (Germany); Mr Martin Frick (Deputy UN Special Envoy); Nele Anders; Madiagne Tall; Ms Fatema AlMulla (UAE).

CFS Secretariat:

Mr Chris Hegadorn (Secretary), Mr Evariste Nicoletis (CFS HLPE Coordinator), Ms Françoise Trine, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Ms Elise Benoit, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Giorgia Paratore, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Mr Waiganjo Njoroge, Mr Martin Schunk, Ms Sylvia Orebi, Ms Tatiana Moruz, Ms Marina Calvino, Mr Massimo Giorgi, Ms Paola Termine.

Annex 2: Attendance list Bureau meeting

CFS Bureau Members:

Mr Thanawat Tiensin (CFS Chair / Thailand); Mr Bommakanti Rajender (India); Ms Ida Ayu Ratih (Indonesia); Ms Halimatou Traore (Mali); Mr Don Syme (New Zealand); Mr Ilya Andreev (Russian Federation); Mr Rafael Osorio (Spain); Mr Paul Welcher, Ms Maria Adelaide D’Arcangelo (United States).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Ms Mi Nguyen (Canada); Ms Liudmila Kuzmicheva, Ms Berioska Morrison, Ms Diana Infante (Dominican Republic); Ms Delphine Babin-Pellier (France); Mr Baye Mayoro Diop (Senegal).

Observers:

Mr Damien Kelly (EU Delegation); Ms Silke Stallkamp (Germany); Ms Supajit Sriariyawat (Thailand).

CFS Secretariat:

Mr Chris Hegadorn (Secretary), Mr Evariste Nicoletis (CFS HLPE coordinator), Ms Françoise Trine, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Ms Elise Benoit, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Ms Giorgia Paratore, Mr Waiganjo Njoroge, Mr Martin Schunk, Ms Sylvia Orebi, Ms Tatiana Moruz, Ms Marina Calvino.