



Gabriel Ferrero de Loma-Osorio  
Ambassador at Large for Global Food Security, Spain  
Chair of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)  
CFS Secretariat  
FAO, Room B535  
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Rome, 26 January 2022

Distinguished Colleagues,

I take this opportunity to thank you on behalf of the CFS Bureau, for the preparation of your proposal concerning the establishment of a working 'mechanism' for philanthropic foundations and for your efforts to broaden the number of voices from foundations within the context of the Advisory Group and other CFS bodies.

The proposal was acknowledged by the CFS Bureau during debate on the subject held during the Bureau's last meeting of 17 January. The discussion was informed also by a note prepared by the FAO Legal Office which underlines that, as per paragraph 17 of the CFS Reform Document, a coordination mechanism of "private philanthropic organizations" was generally foreseen as a function of the original text, also considering that a "foundations seat" has been a part of the Advisory Group since 2009, represented by - without objection by the Bureau - the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, unilaterally.

While the proposal was generally well received, a number of questions and concerns were expressed by some Bureau members on the notion of a separate formalized 'mechanism' for philanthropic foundations related to accountability, representativeness, possible conflicts of interests and the process required for a formal recognition by the CFS Plenary of a new mechanism.

To move this conversation along toward a clearer conclusion, I would like to further discuss and explore your proposal with a small group of Member State representatives and your three organizations.

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To:  
Neil Watkins  
Deputy Director, Agricultural Development  
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation  
Seattle

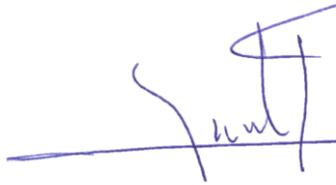
Daniel Moss  
Executive Director  
Agroecology Fund

Ruth Richardson  
Executive Director  
Global Alliance for the Future of Food

In this regard, I would like to arrange a group meeting by Zoom in the coming weeks to further explore the topic, to answer Members' questions, and to allay any remaining concerns about this proposal to establish a formal mechanism for philanthropic foundations.

While the Committee may not yet make any formal reference to a foundations 'mechanism,' in the meantime, I encourage your organizations to continue coordinating, particularly in CFS OEWGs and upcoming Bureau meetings, to help demonstrate how such a possible mechanism would work in practice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gabriel Ferrero y de Loma-Osorio', written over a horizontal line.

Ambassador Gabriel Ferrero y de Loma-Osorio  
Chairperson

Committee on World Food Security