CSIPM messages to the AG-Bureau meeting 26 September

Agenda item 1) CFS 50 Draft Decisions and Conclusions:

1 a) Coordinating policy responses to the global food crisis: SOFI 2022 (draft conclusions)

- Share again info on the process of CSIPM’s Popular Regional Consultations and invitation to the Launch of the Global Report (29th September 2pm Rome time). Refer to powerful interregional exchange on 15 September and to roundtable on 22 September sharing with African authorities the African Declaration already signed on to by close to 100 African signatories representing millions of small-scale food producers and other constituencies. Growing force of peoples’ movements and messages, that contrast with dominant narratives.

- Key messages that came across all regions:
  
  o This is the third food crisis in 15 years. The dominant economic and food systems are failing, as demonstrated by continuing, multi-layered food crises and ever-rising levels of poverty and inequality. Our societies have become extremely vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity due to overdependence on global value chains and fossil fuel-based production inputs, corporate concentration throughout the food systems, and adherence to neoliberal economic logic which privileges the powerful and permits speculation through its lack of market regulation and unfair trade rules. Countries with high levels of indebtedness and dependency on food imports are most deeply affected, with little means to cope with upwardly spiralling food and fuel prices and volatile commodity markets.

  o Only if the crisis is understood in a comprehensive and systematic way can it be rightly addressed and overcome. A profound transformation of the global food system and economic model is needed.

  o Official support has largely benefited the corporate sector and failed to recognise and support the vital contributions of small-scale food producers and other actors in territorial food systems. Solidarity actions undertaken by local communities and organisations of food producers, workers, women and Indigenous Peoples have had to take over the State’s duty-bearer responsibilities of realising human rights.

  o At global level, policy responses have been fragmented, biased and lacking in multilateral political direction and oversight. They have failed to address the underlying causes of the multi-layered food crisis in a systemic way. There is an urgent need for the CFS to take a leadership and convening role in tackling the food crises.

- Applying the outcomes of the consultation process to the decision box:
  
  o we appreciate that point e) of the decision box on “Coordinating Policy Responses to the Food Crisis” has been strengthened and includes a concrete way forward for the CFS to play its policy coordinating role by re-establishing a monitoring OEWG the perpetuated food crises. We call for this proposal to be presented to and endorsed by the 50th Plenary session.
On point c) item v., we have three comments:

✓ We strongly recommend that the first sentence of this item be rephrased, in order to avoid getting lost in geopolitical debates, which will not take us far in addressing the on-going food crisis. Our suggestion would be the following: “The impact on global food security of wars, including the latest war in Ukraine, and the intensification of existing conflicts, [...]”

✓ The text in lines 3-5 currently in brackets should be kept since it is essential to maintain a special focus on those most affected. ‘Indigenous Peoples’ and small scale food producers should be added after “persons with disabilities”, as evidence strongly shows that they are disproportionately affected by wars, conflicts, pandemic and climate crisis.

✓ In the last three sentences, we propose the following changes: “the surge [ADD: and volatility] in international food commodity prices; the rise in fertilizer prices and the shortages caused by supply chain disruptions, affecting crop yields and threatening [DEL: future] [ADD: external input-dependent] agricultural productivity and production; the rise in energy and fuel prices, which is [ADD: further] increasing food [DEL: commodity] prices, narrowing fiscal space [ADD and exacerbating the situation of countries already suffering from [DEL resulting risks of] debt distress;].” So the text would read: “the surge and volatility in international food commodity prices; the rise in fertilizer prices and the shortages caused by supply chain disruptions, affecting crop yields and threatening external input-dependent agricultural productivity and production; the rise in energy and fuel prices, which is further increasing food prices, narrowing fiscal space and exacerbating the situation of countries already suffering from debt distress.”

On point d) item i. we want to see the second part be maintained

1 b) GEWGE Voluntary Guidelines (draft conclusions)

The CSIPM

- Welcomes and support the continuation of the process. The global context is undergoing through a dramatic regression in terms of women’s rights and the rights of persons outside the cis-heteronormative social norms. We are convinced about the urgency of having a CFS pioneering guidelines on gender, as the adequate body to address the transversality of the Right to Food.

- In order to continue, the CFS needs to focus on the core of the debate that has prevented us from coming to an agreement in consensus. We do not believe that negotiations can lead to fruitful results, capable to address the challenges that we face on the ground, if we just ignore or close our eyes to the content discussion on the thematic issues that are the stumbling blocks of any continuation of the process so far.

- We identify two thematic fields that need to be addressed:
  - One on gender transformative approaches and language, including intersectionality, sexual and reproductive health rights, gender-transformative approaches themselves and gender diversity;
Another one on what CFS understands as UN agreed language, and CFS’ mandate and role vis-à-vis the UN agreed language and how it should be included in CFS policy negotiations.

- A well-informed discussion on these topics is needed to come back to the content, and before going back in a negotiation mode where positions are more important than evidence-based arguments. Informed debates on this would benefit this CFS policy convergence process, but even more, they would also serve the CFS more broadly and its upcoming processes.
- We say that, because the last events during the 3rd round of the GEWE negotiations concern the CSIPM a lot, not only for this specific process but for the entire CFS.
- The last Draft that was presented before entering the 3rd round of negotiations was a good basis, a text recognized by many - including us, CSIPM, Member States, UN officials, and the PSM – as the most progressive text on gender equality within the UN. That text was a clear symbol of what the CFS is, a space with a mandate to committing to prioritize the voices of the most affected.
- What has been agreed at referendum is not 80% of the document. Despite the percentage of words agreed, we should think about the human lives that we are leaving behind, that are still not included in this document as peasants, as women in occupied territories as persons who are discriminated and whose right to food is negated because of their gender identity and sexual orientation.
- If we only stick to the agreed language, the current oppressive gender norms will not be transformed. And transforming them is key if we want to ensure the right to food.
- We cannot change the structure of the document.

1 c) Theme of the 2024 HLPE Report with draft decisions

Regarding the proposed theme on topic 2 on “Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems in the context of urbanization and rural transformation“

This topic is certainly of great interest of our constituencies. The collaboration between urban and rural communities has been fundamental in the response to the COVID crisis, not only in Brazil where the landless movements, the small-scale producers and the homeless movements worked together and practiced life-saving actions as strong solidarity articulation between the city and the countryside.

The following point should be considered in the draft request to the HLPE for the Report in 2024:

- The previous CFS process on urbanization and rural transformation should be referenced in the request to the HLPE;
- We support that the proposed objective clearly indicates that this HLPE report will be followed by a policy convergence process leading to a set of policy recommendations to be approved by the CFS Plenary. A major shortcoming of the last workstream on urbanization and rural transformation was that it ended without a relevant policy result.
- A specific reference to the relevance of this HLPE report on Youth should be included, particularly in the context of migration.

- A specific emphasis should be included on social protection, as a crosscutting element for the urban-, peri-urban and rural domains.

- The proposed objective should not only focus on strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems but also strengthening rural - urban linkages.

- The proposed questions 7 and 8 are not taken from the HLPE note and contain at least two problematic notions:
  o question 7 suggests explicitly an essential role for climate-smart agriculture a term associated with practices promoted by agribusiness employing high-tech solutions, which we would replace with climate-resilient agriculture, a term that is more encompassing of ecologically-based practices;
  o question 8 suggests a complementarity between top-down and bottom-up approached which does not seem appropriate to us: we should not continue to promote top-down approaches and rather suggest the complementarity of different approaches that lead to the inclusive, transparent, participatory processes for urban and rural transformations.

1 d) MYPoW Update of the Rolling Section with draft decision

We welcome the Bureau decision to include our proposal made at the last AG-Bureau meeting to hold a CFS session on the use and uptake of the CFS policy recommendations on Food Price Volatility and Food Security and on Social Protection and Food Security at CFS 51;

We would also believe that the continuation of the Gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment process will require more attention, and also a budget assigned in the rolling section of the MYPoW once the process is clarified and it is agreed how this continuation will take place.

In particular, we believe that the budget that was originally assigned to the Expert workshop could be used for the open discussions on essential content questions we propose, in particular on gender sensitive languages and UN agreed language.

Finally, also the CFS response to the new layer of global food crisis and its specific contributions to coordinating policy responses will need to be reflected in the rolling section of the MYPoW.

Agenda Item 2 Planning for CFS 50

Referring to the 11 Oct Plenary Morning session:

The CSIPM Women and Gender Diversity WG suggests to include a women leader panellist of the CSIPM to the Plenary Discussion on the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment.
CSIPM also announces an intervention from the floor as well to the celebration of the International Day of Rural Women

**Agenda Item 3 CFS 2022-23 Workplans**

**a) DraftMYPoWWorkplan**

We have two suggestions regarding the presented timeline for the MYPoW process, to make it as participatory and inclusive as possible:

- The time to present the proposals of themes by 4 January seems to short, since it means that these proposals are drafted in reality before the end-of-the-year break. This leaves effectively only two months after the CFS plenary. For studying the HLPE concept note, and the Chair’s summary of the CFS Plenary debate; consulting with constituencies about these and possible other proposals; defining priorities for the MYPoW and consulting with other CFS members and participants about their proposals, this seems a too short period. We would suggest to extending the deadline for this step to end of January 2023.

- The time for the selection of the final themes (phase 3) is too short with only eight days between 23 and 31 May. This process needs more time, especially the feedback from CFS Advisory Group members to the proposed list of selected themes that is scheduled to be finished within one week. To make it meaningful, it would need at least additional 10 days.

- In adjusting the timeline in line with these proposals, it might be necessary to conclude the Process only on 15 July (instead of 19 June) which should be fine as well.

We also have two specific remarks about the process that need to be included:

- Currently, the consultation on future priorities seems to focus on the policy convergence function of the CFS, which is also Strategic Objective 2 of the CFS Strategic Plan. However, it is also important to collect the proposals about what CFS should do in line with its Coordination function (Strategic Objective 1) and its Uptake function (Strategic Objective 3). The process should explicitly include these two other dimensions of the CFS Strategic Plan.

- The last sentence of the MYPoW table should be in line with the CFS Plenary role: the CFS does not only "endorse" what the Bureau agreed before. The CFS Plenary 51 rather “discusses and decides” on the final MYPoW 2024-2027.

**Agenda Item 3 b) Draft Data Workplan MYPoW**

The CSIPM WG on Data WG would like to suggest two specific points regarding the workplan:

- more time for written inputs on zero draft (currently only one week is foreseen, from 7-14 February); at least 10 additional days should be included.
- more time for the negotiation process will be needed. Now, it is about 8 days for negotiations; given the extreme time pressure experienced this year with the Youth with two rounds of negotiation and a total of 6 days of negotiations, we believe scheduling an additional round of negotiations and planning for more than 8 negotiation days in total would help to ensure a process without rushing, and a final outcomes document that is high-quality in substance and product of a participative and inclusive process.

**Agenda item 4-6**

No further comments from our side.