

**CFS Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group meeting and CFS Bureau meeting**

**Dates: 24 and 26 January 2023**

**Time: 14:00 - 17:00 and 9:30 -12:30**

**Virtual/Hybrid meetings (Zoom Platform + Lebanon Room)**

## **Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting Outcomes - With Bureau Decisions**

### Agenda

#### **Thematic Updates:**

- A. Review of status and outlook of the food security crisis***
- B. Review of status and outlook related to national pathways and other Food Systems Summit follow-up***

- 1. Follow-up to CFS 50**
- 2. CFS 51 Draft Provisional Agenda**
- 3. CFS contribution to the 2023 HLPF**
- 4. Workstream Updates and Outlook**
- 5. Session on the use and uptake of the CFS policy recommendations on Food Price Volatility and on Social Protection at CFS 51 (Bureau only)**
- 6. AOB**

The CFS Chairperson, Ambassador Gabriel Ferrero y de Loma – Osorio, opened the meeting with a readout of his recent participation at the Global Forum on Food and Agricultural (GFFA), an international conference organized by the German Government, including the Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Conference, at which the CFS had organized a High-Level Panel jointly with UN Nutrition.

He then re-called the CFS 50 Plenary decision to continue the practice of discussing substantive items that have relevance for global food security at the start of CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meetings and, in doing so, he introduced the thematic segment of this meeting, which included:

1. A review of status and outlook of the global food security crisis, provided by FAO, WFP and IFAD; and
2. A review of status and outlook of how national pathways address food security and nutrition issues in a food systems context, and an update on plans for a stock-taking event to be organized in July 2023.

Following this introduction, the provisional agenda was adopted, and the CFS Chairperson informed that the meeting would be recorded, per usual practice, for the Secretariat's note-taking purposes.

#### **A. Review of status and outlook of the food security crisis**

The first substantive thematic discussion provided a stock take and a strategic outlook on the global food security crisis.

FAO Chief Economist, through a video message, provided an update, at global level, on trends in Food Commodity Prices, and Food Import Bills, highlighting the substantial increases over the past months, due to price increase as well as the exchange rate effects.

Similarly, he illustrated the sharp increases in Agricultural Input Import Bills globally because of sharp increases in the cost of energy and fertilisers.

He underscored that, in this context, export restrictions further exacerbated the situation.

In conclusion, he highlighted that:

- 1) Increased climate variability, conflicts and geopolitical tensions, bleak economic prospects, soaring agricultural input costs, supply chain disruptions and export restrictions continued to pose serious challenges to the stability of global food commodity markets.
- 2) It was critical to assist the most affected countries face the soaring costs of food imports, and to strengthen social protection programmes in order to help the most vulnerable people access to food, avoiding social unrest and instability.
- 3) It was also critical to address the fertilizer challenge.
- 4) It was necessary to continue market intelligence and early warning activities, providing timely and credible data and information, market outlook, and objective assessments to enhance market transparency and guide policy actions.
- 5) It was urgent to transform the agri-food systems to become more resilient, efficient, inclusive and sustainable.

Arif Hussain, Chief Economist of WFP, followed next and underscored the issue of global inflation, which was an even bigger issue now than the food commodity prices, and the issue of devaluation of currencies, which, when combined, meant that highly indebted countries, that depend on imports of food, fertilizers and fuel, were facing the biggest challenges.

He also highlighted that the higher cost of production was likely to lead to lower levels of production in 2023, further exacerbating global food insecurity.

He also spoke about the humanitarian emergencies and the efforts of WFP in addressing humanitarian needs around the world.

He informed that WFP was estimating that 49 million people were in emergency levels of hunger, a step away from famine; close to 1 million people were in IPC 5 classification, a number 10 times higher than 5 years ago; and that 30 million children in 15 countries were wasted.

He reported that WFP's resource mobilization had reached a record high in 2022, with 14 billion US dollars of voluntary contributions; and more than 140 million people being assisted by WFP; another historical record.

He concluded that the Black Sea Grain Initiative was extremely important to stabilize prices of cereals, and that also fertilizers should benefit from the same initiative, easing their availability and affordability.

Finally, Jo Puri, Associate Vice-President at IFAD, spoke of the potential of investing in smallholder farming to strengthen resilience and advance food systems' transformation as solutions to the food crisis.

She highlighted that smallholder farmers produced 30-35% of global food supply, and up to 70% of food consumed in low- and middle-income countries, playing a disproportionate role in global food security.

She underscored the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility, a programme set up by IFAD to help countries respond to the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic by investing in smallholder farmers.

On the transformation of food systems, she concluded that:

- 1) Food systems transformation had potential for game changing impact on poverty, food insecurity and many development goals.
- 2) Food systems transformation required both public and private financing, including grants and concessional financing for the poorest countries in debt distress.
- 3) Effective investments must be smart and targeted to sectors, countries and people who are most in need of transformation.

## **B. Review of status and outlook related to national pathways and other Food Systems Summit follow-up**

The second substantive thematic discussion offered an opportunity for the coordinator of the UN Food Systems Hub, Mr Stefanos Fotiou, to speak about longer-term food systems transformation, and to provide an update on the follow-up to the Food Systems Summit.

He underscored that the Hub has a coordination role, within the UN System, and it supports countries in implementing their national pathways.

To this end, he informed that the hub organizes regular dialogues with the national convenors, and is planning regional preparatory meetings, in parallel with the Regional Sustainable Development Fora of the UN, in preparation for the first stocktaking moment, which is scheduled for 24-26 July 2023 in Rome.

About food systems transformation, he underscored how the current global crisis is markedly slowing down the implementation of the national pathways, particularly in least developed countries and small islands developing states (SIDS), while many other countries are instead accelerating food systems transformation, precisely to address the crisis. In this respect, he informed that countries' priorities are: 1) investments in local production systems; 2) support to smallholder farmers with technical and financial assistance; 3) invest in local infrastructure and increase the capacity of distribution systems; 4) align long-term goals for food systems transformation with the short-term objectives for addressing the crisis.

In concluding, he shared some preliminary information about the stock take moment. This event will be Member-led, it will provide an opportunity for countries to share their progress on a voluntary basis, and the outcomes will feed into the SDG Summit, and other global events happening this year (UN Water Summit, and Climate COP28).

The CFS Chair wrapped up the thematic discussions underscoring the interrelationships of the short-term responses to the food crisis and the long-term transformation pathways and highlighting the fact that the countries' priorities (boosting local production and consumption, investing in smallholder farming, etc.) well resonate with the work of the CFS on deliberating the policy responses to the crisis and with the CFS policy agreements.

During the open discussions, CFS Bureau and Advisory Group members expressed appreciation for the thematic updates and their support for food systems transformation.

Several participants in the meeting highlighted the need for global coordination, the urgency to focus on actions, and the centrality of the human rights for making progress on the transformation of the food systems.

A Bureau member called for increased support from the RBAs to support the implementation of CFS policy agreements at national and regional levels.

Responding to a question, the Hub Coordinator underscored four ways in which the CFS and the Hub can collaborate:

- 1) At the level of governance, where the CFS Chair has a direct link with the UN Deputy SG.
- 2) Through the organization of joint events, such as the events that were organized at HLPF and the Special Event held at CFS 50.
- 3) Advocating for CFS policy agreements to be instruments in the hands of the convenors for implementing their national pathways. This would require resources to build local capacities to implement CFS policy agreements, and the support of the UN Country Teams and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office.
- 4) Through the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Hub, which includes 8 current members of the HLPE-FSN.

### 1. Follow-up to CFS 50

The CFS Chair recalled the efforts made to conclude CFS 50, and the merits of Members to achieve this remarkable result.

He also underscored the many achievements of the last plenary, namely:

- 1) A stronger role for CFS in coordination of global policy responses to the multiple dimensions of the global food crisis, in line with the CFS reform document, including through, but not limited to, regular substantive items on the global food security crisis in the agendas of Bureau and Advisory Group meetings, as well as the engagement of the CFS Chairperson, HLPE-FSN, Secretariat and autonomous mechanisms of CFS within the UN Secretary General's Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance.
- 2) A renewed commitment to conclude the preparation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls, with a renewed approach and a renewed sense of shared responsibility to achieve a meaningful outcome.
- 3) The preparation of the next MyPOW 2024-2027, which is most critical. Indeed, the MyPOW process is the foundation of the CFS's work, and a cornerstone of global action to achieve the SDGs in the context of food security and nutrition.
- 4) A commitment to successfully drive the CFS policy convergence process on Data Collection and Analysis Tools for Food Security and Nutrition.

- 5) The endorsement of the new Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition.
- 6) A stock-take of experiences in using the CFS Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, close to 10 years after the issuance of the guidance, in the context of a discussion on how boosting the means of implementation of SDG 2 and responsible investment in sustainable agriculture.

During the open discussion, CSIPM underscored the importance of interpretation to be provided in all meetings to stay as inclusive as possible and requested support for the issuance of visas for their members to be able to actively participate in person in CFS meetings. Last, CSIPM suggested that the role of coordination of policy responses to the current and future food crises could be supported through, for example:

- 1) The organization of thematic sessions around specific topics.
- 2) A ministerial session at CFS 51 on global policy coordination.
- 3) The establishment of a mechanism for coordination to be activated as needed.

In concluding this agenda item, the CFS Chair recalled that the work schedule until CFS 51 has a compressed timeline, and it will need support and guidance from all Bureau and Advisory Group members to reflect on the past and catalyze a forward-looking, setting the stage for expedited implementation of the various workstreams.

#### Bureau discussion:

Bureau members reflected on CFS 50, shared some lessons learned, underscored the adoption by consensus of the policy recommendations on Youth, and provided some suggestions for the preparation of CFS 51.

Bureau members suggested that:

- Plenaries should provide space for lively debates that could be captured in a Chair's summary, perhaps without any formal decision or conclusion being taken by the Plenary, specifically on the policy responses to the global food crisis – while consent was missing to completely change the Plenary's character.
- Plenaries should continue to attract high-level attendees, perhaps establishing a ministerial segment, prior to the regular plenary and somehow de-linking the negotiations on the Final Report from the ministerial substantive participation.

- More countries should actively participate to CFS meetings and plenaries, particularly those countries that are most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition.
- There should only be one policy convergence process per year, and more time should be devoted to discussing the uptake and the implementation of the CFS policy agreements. Although on this point a delegation said that it is also important to remain cautious, because it is possible to do different things at the same time.

The CFS Chair concluded that it would be worth, at the beginning of every inter-sessional period, to organize an informal retreat with members of the Bureau and the Advisory Group to discuss the workplan, how to do business better and differently, when needed.

He also welcomed the suggestions received, indicating that they will be considered in the planning for CFS 51.

Finally, on the role of the CFS for the coordination of policy responses to the food crisis, the CFS Chair informed that he would like to bring some concrete proposals at the next Bureau meeting, on how to unfold the paragraph 10 i) of the CFS 50 Plenary Report in practical terms.

## 2. CFS 51 Draft Provisional Agenda

The CFS Chair presented the CFS 51 Draft Provisional Agenda highlighting that this was a preliminary version that could be complemented with additional items that might be identified by Bureau and Advisory Group members.

It was suggested that appropriate space be given during item II to voices of constituencies from the ground, as well as to a discussion on policy coordination to address the current food crisis.

It was highlighted that, based on the CFS Vision on Advancing Nutrition, adopted in 2016, the Provisional Agenda should include an item for FAO and WHO to present the fourth progress report on follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2).

The CFS Chair mentioned that he will meet soon with the FAO Director-General to discuss the matter concerning the dates of CFS 51.

The HLPE-FSN Secretariat announced that the launch of the HLPE-FSN Report on 'Reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition' is scheduled for 15 June 2023, and that the report will then be discussed at CFS 51.

### Bureau discussion:

The CFS Chair suggested to dedicate a session to the discussion of global, regional and national perspectives in the field of food security and nutrition, and this session would be incorporated in the next version of the CFS 51 Draft Provisional Agenda.

CFS Bureau members acknowledged the much larger number of Ministers that attended at CFS 50, compared with the past, and discussed the possibility to dedicate the first part of the upcoming plenary to a High-Level/Ministerial segment, followed by an ‘Officials’ Meeting’ to discuss and decide on the other items currently foreseen in the Draft Provisional Agenda. A revised version of the Draft Provisional Agenda will be circulated in view of the next meeting of the Bureau and Advisory Group, on 24 March.

The CFS Chair confirmed that he will report back to the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group members, as soon as a decision on the dates of CFS 51 would be taken.

### 3. CFS contribution to the 2023 HLPF

The CFS Chair opened the item recalling the official request for inputs by the ECOSOC President, which was circulated as a background document for this agenda item along with a proposed workplan. He also recalled that this activity is envisaged by the 2020-2023 Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) as part of the overall supporting activity “CFS engagement in the 2030 Agenda”.

The CFS Bureau approved the proposed workplan and agreed to using the Chairperson’s summary structure and the process implemented for the preparation of last year’s contribution to the HLPF.

The Executive Secretary of UN Nutrition informed that this year, for the first time, UN Nutrition will also provide inputs to HLPF and suggested that CFS-UN Nutrition collaboration be highlighted in each entity’s respective contributions.

Further to the CFS Bureau meeting, Ms Diana Infante of the Dominican Republic kindly stepped forward to act as Facilitator.

### Bureau discussion:

The CFS Chair recalled that in September there will be an SDG Summit, at the level of Heads of State/Government, and food security and nutrition will play a major role.

#### 4. Workstream Updates and Outlook

The CFS Chair provided an update on the gender workstream and the process to finalize the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment. He informed that CFS will convene a Friends of Chair meeting on 8 February, and the CFS Chair will share a Chair's proposal on how to solve the most contentious issues, providing concrete ways of how to move ahead in the coming months. In preparation, the CFS Chair informed that he would like to meet with several delegations in the coming weeks. Last, the CFS Chair confirmed that the new text will not be neither discussed nor negotiated on the 8 February.

CFS Bureau members requested to receive the document for negotiation well in advance in order to receive their instructions from different Ministries from their capitals.

With reference to the MYPoW workstream, the CFS Chair informed that the date of the first meeting of the MYPoW OEWG would be moved to the 3rd of March, and tasked the Secretariat to revisit the workplan to give members sufficient time to submit their initial proposals.

The CFS Secretariat also reminded that a briefing for the members of the OEWG on the MYPoW process was scheduled for the next day.

Updates on other workstreams were provided in a detailed background document prepared by the CFS Secretariat.

#### Bureau discussion:

Several members expressed appreciation for the briefing on the MYPoW process organized by the CFS Secretariat on 25 January, asked that CFS focuses on one major workstream per year, and suggested that the MYPoW reflects other functions of the CFS, not limits itself to the function of policy convergence.

#### 5. Session on the use and uptake of the CFS policy recommendations on Food Price Volatility and on Social Protection at CFS 51 (Bureau only)

#### Bureau decision:

With reference to the Bur/2023/01/26/05 document on the "Session on the use and uptake of the CFS policy recommendations on Food Price Volatility and on Social Protection at CFS 51", and as reported in the CFS50 Final Report's 'Update of the Rolling Section of the MYPoW 2020-2023', the Bureau approved to include the aforementioned CFS session on the agenda of CFS51 in October 2023 triggering the launch of the call for inputs on the use and application of these two sets of policy recommendation by the CFS Secretariat.

6. AOB

No additional points were raised under this item.

## Annex 1: Attendance list for the Bureau and Advisory Group meeting

### CFS Bureau Members:

H.E. Gabriel Ferrero (CFS Chair/Spain); Ms Antonietta Patricelli (Angola); Mr Guillermo Spika (Argentina); Hanghao Li (China); Ms Berioska Morrison, Ms Diana Infante, Ms Moira Vargas (Dominican Republic); Ms Silke Stallkamp, Ms Hendrike Diesselhorst (Germany); Ms Jenny Reid (New Zealand); Ms Christina Blank (Switzerland); Mr Sean Cox, Ms Ronit Gerard, Mr Andrian McAdams (USA).

### CFS Bureau Alternates:

Mr Benjamin Ross (Australia); Ms Lara Lobo (Brazil); Mr Caka Alverdi Awal (Indonesia); Ms Ekaterina Vybornova, Dilyara Ravilova-Borovik (Russian Federation); Mr Barend Jacobus Lombard (South Africa); Mr Kayoya Masuhwa (Zambia).

### Advisory Group:

Mr Maximo Torero Cullen, Mr Stefanos Fotiou, Ms Dubravka Bojic (FAO); Ms Jo Puri, Mr Mikael Kattau, Ms Rebecca Neves Ferreira, Ms Elena Bertusi (IFAD); Mr Marco Cavalcante, Mr Jacopo Valentini, Mr Arif Husain, Ms Catherine Feeney (WFP); Ms Stineke Oenema, Ms Alessandra Mora (UNSCN); Mr Michael Fakhri, Ms Paola De Meo (RtF); Mr Rodney Cooke (CGIAR); Mr Fabrizio Moscatelli (Gates Foundation); Mr Hernando Salcedo Fidalgo, Mr Andre Luzzi, Ms Migdalia Pelliécier, Ms Musa Sowe, Ms Nora McKeon, Ms Alberta Guerra, Mr Martin Wolpold-Bosien, Ms Magdalena Ackermann, Ms Mariam Mohammad, Ms Patti Naylor, Ms Paola Gioia, Mr Luca Bianchi, Ms Giulia Simula, Mr Tyler Short, Mr Dee Woods, Ms Betsy Díaz, Mr Saleh Jaber, Ms Miriency Gonzalez (CSM); Ms Robynne Anderson, Mr Brian Baldwin (PSM); Mr Matheus Zanella (GAFF); Ms Giulia De Castro (WFO); Ms Marjolein Smit Mwanamwenge (WHO); Ms Jemimah Njuki (UN Women).

### Observers:

Kai Kasenurm (Estonia); Ms Jekaterina Kopteva (Latvia); Ms Carolina Seri (EU Delegation); Ms Marilena Montanari, Ms Margherita Fratantonio (Holy See); Mr Alexander Bång Bergström (Sweden); Mr Anatoliy Shatkovskyy, Ms Flora Mak (UNCCD).

### CFS Secretariat:

Mr Günter Hemrich, Ms Bahar Zorofi, Ms Françoise Trine, Mr Lorenz Franken, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Giorgia Paratore, Ms Paola Franceschelli, Mr Waiganjo Njoroge, Ms Tatiana Moruz, Mr Martin Schunk, Ms Marina Calvino, Ms Anne Marie Thow, Mr Evariste Nicoletis (HLPE Coordinator), Ms Paola Termine, Ms Silvia Meiattini.

## Annex 2: Attendance list for the Bureau meeting

### CFS Bureau Members:

H.E. Gabriel Ferrero (CFS Chair/Spain); Mr Guillermo Spika (Argentina); Mr Sergio da Costa, Ms Antonietta Patricelli (Angola); Hanghao Li (China); Ms Berioska Morrison, Ms Diana Infante, Ms Moira Vargas (Dominican Republic); Mr Mina Rizk (Egypt); Ms Silke Stallkamp, Ms Hendrike Diesselhorst (Germany); Mr Anthony Gikandi Muriithi, Ms Connie Maina (Kenya); Ms Jenny Reid (New Zealand); Ms Christina Blank (Switzerland); Mr Sean Cox, Ms Ronit Gerard, Mr Andrian McAdams (USA).

### CFS Bureau Alternates:

Ms Lara Lobo (Brazil); Ms Yvonne van Laarhoven (Netherlands); Ms Ekaterina Vybornova (Russian Federation); H.E. Nosipho Nausca-Jean Ngcaba, Mr Barend Jacobus Lombard (South Africa); Mr Kayoya Masuhwa (Zambia).

### Observers:

Ms Carolina Seri (EU Delegation).

### CFS Secretariat:

Mr Günter Hemrich, Ms Bahar Zorofi, Ms Françoise Trine, Mr Lorenz Franken, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Giorgia Paratore, Ms Paola Franceschelli, Mr Waiganjo Njoroge, Ms Tatiana Moruz, Mr Martin Schunk, Ms Marina Calvino, Ms Anne Marie Thow, Mr Evariste Nicoletis (HLPE Coordinator), Ms Paola Termine, Ms Silvia Meiattini.