

CSIPM Interventions

Advisory Group and Bureau Meeting - 20 April 2024

Points on the methodology/approach:

- We acknowledge the efforts made by the CFS Chair and CFS Secretariat in trying to systematize the proposals and the efforts to advance with this process. Some of the aspects highlighted in the background document for today are relevant, such as the one on strengthening the linkages between CFS and regional and national processes or the one on maximizing linkages between CFS strategic objectives. Some of these aspects, indeed, reflect some important themes that emerged from the MYPoW proposals submitted by CFS MSs and participants.
- We believe that identifying different proposals for the different strategic objectives does not impede the construction of a coherent MYPoW, in which the different activities/processes dialogue within an overall framing for the next period. This is how we see the interlinkages between strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3.
- That said, we believe that this is the moment to work on prioritization and proceed with a simple and clear methodology which can lead us to potential merging of existing proposals. For us, as CSIPM, it would be useful to understand what the priority proposals of Member States and participants are according to the different strategic objectives. This is already in great part reflected in the first page of the background document, with the table divided by the different strategic objectives. Dividing already the proposals under newly introduced thematic areas and suggesting possible merging that does not necessarily reflect the merging suggestions made by those who submitted the proposals might not be so effective at this point, as we somehow lose the content, proponents and support the different proposals might have.
- In that sense, the CSIPM has started to undertake these two exercises: prioritizing and proposing potential merging. We have also been trying to advance our priorities in merging proposals by consulting possible support with Member States.
- And, Chair, therefore we will be intervening in this manner today, expressing our priorities and working towards a more consolidated MYPoW. Please take into consideration that the merging exercise we have been doing might not correspond to the clustering proposed in the background document.

Strategic Objective 1: Platform function

- The CSIPM have identified as a priority our proposal #8 on “Strengthening the CFS as a platform for coordination in addressing food crises”.
- We have noticed that some other proposals were very closely aligned to ours: these are proposals #25 and #27, as has been very well noted in the clustering in the background document the CFS Secretariat has circulated. So already we would have a possible merging among these 3.
- In addition, going through the different proposals presented initially, we noted that the aspects of local governance and territorial governance are essential to complement our initial proposal. In fact, proposal #15 and proposal #21 on “Territorial governance for more effective, resilient, and inclusive food systems” would add important elements to help unpack the meaning of coordination in practice and recognize the different contributions of local, regional, supra-national and global actors including governmental institutions and civil society. So, we would also suggest that these 2 proposals be included in this a CSIPM priority merging suggestion.

- In fact, the intent of our proposal all along is to re-vitalize the CFS to exercise its role and structurally address food crises, understanding how global-regional-national level interrelation dynamics shape up, are affected by or respond to crises.
- Our merging proposal is systematic. It extends across the entire MYPoW period and responds to Strategic Objective 1, hence the platform function of the CFS. The renaming of the proposal in order to be comprehensive of the different proposals in this merging suggestion would be: “Coordinated policy response to food crises and multilevel governance for a coherent, sustainable and inclusive food system transformation.”
- Some of the proposed activities for this merger would be to hold quarterly meetings to take stock of the evolving food and nutrition security situation and discuss key issues towards enhanced policy coordination, giving particular attention to the voices of most affected countries and constituencies and the uniquely diversified forms of evidence on which the CFS can call and considering the roles of actors at multiple levels.
- A specific outcome is to develop a toolbox and communications instruments to give visibility to the results emerging from the CFS coordination efforts and facilitate implementation of CFS outputs by actors at different levels.
- Chair, we have been consulting with most of the proponents of the proposals in this merging suggestion and positive feedback has so far been received. This merging suggestion that we are presenting today resonates well.
- Finally, we would just comment that the proposal #36 put forward by Germany and supported by several MS receives also the CSIPM support as it is very relevant for a coherent MYPoW with the different lines dialoguing among each other. In fact, our proposal foresees the preparation by the HLPE of a HR-based framework for transformative response to the structural causes of food crises within which relevant existing CFS policy outputs would be featured, helping to promote their uptake. On the other hand, we are still very much concerned by the proposals that have been clustered by the background document under “Financing agriculture and food systems for food security and nutrition”. These proposals are misleading as investment might set priorities for policy setting and not the other way around, where public policies are the ones leading the way and then investments follow the political priorities set out by democratic government-led processes. These types of proposals distance themselves from the notion of public interest, which must be defined democratically putting the needs of the peoples at the centre of decision-making and not the interest of funding and any financial actor.

Strategic Objective 2 - Policy

AREA 1 ENHANCE EQUITY AND INCLUSIVENESS

CSIPM proposal #19: Recognizing the role and rights of food system’s workers

- Our proposal #19 is similar to #26 and #28
 - As an overall comment for these proposals, we see this as an important step to re-affirm the HLPE’s vital role to inform policy debates in the CFS by providing independent, comprehensive, and evidence-based analysis based on studies elaborated through a scientific, transparent, and inclusive process.
 - The rights of workers in agriculture and food systems should be a top priority for the CFS, and we agree with the call from some Member States to devote part of the MYPoW toward developing policy recommendations on the rights of workers in food systems.
 - We would like to emphasize that a convergence is possible among these proposals, if at the heart of a merge stays the intent to protect and fulfill workers’ rights.

- We propose a Global Thematic Event during CFS 53 to emphasize the important roles of food system workers, develop public policies to protect the right to food, and highlight the interdependency of human rights.
- The CSIPM also suggests a policy convergence process to endorse policy recommendations by CFS 54 and monitor advancements and shortcomings in policies for food system workers' rights.
- The HLPE report for this policy workstream should focus on the impact of COVID-19 on food system workers, inequalities and discrimination they face, and the ways CFS can learn from and contribute to existing frameworks and policy action for workers' rights and social protection, such as ILO Conventions, UNDRIP, and UNDROP.

AREA 3 NURTURE AND PROTECT THE PLANET

CSIPM proposal #18: Protecting and restoring biodiversity to mitigate and reverse climate change and for the progressive realization of food sovereignty

- This proposal from the CSIPM has some commonalities with proposals #22 and #32
- Biodiversity loss in crops and animal species is leading to soil fertility loss, desertification, climate disasters, pandemics, and food insecurity.
- There is an urgent need for a policy workstream in the CFS agenda to address the interconnection between agriculture and climate and shift to local and diversified food systems to realize food sovereignty.
- The expected results are policy recommendations and guidelines that promote the restoration of biodiversity through sustainable production and raise awareness among policymakers and the public.
- Additionally, there is a need to improve policy coherence and coordination for biodiversity, agriculture, and climate change policies to enhance food security and nutrition.
- “Delivering ecosystem services” is merged with the proposal on enhancing biodiversity.... Even if we understand the logic behind this merging, the CSIPM believes that these are incompatible proposals.
 - If increasing investments and profit making is the aim of this workstream, this will result in land, ocean, genetic resource grabbing, as many African CSOs have pointed out in our internal consultations.
- We would like to emphasize that public policies should support the actors who already increase biodiversity through the type of production that they use, most notably smallholder peasants who are practicing agroecology.
- Agroecological transition pathways are key to solving the root causes of rural poverty, hunger, and environmental degradation with contextualized solutions and bottom-up, territorial processes that enhance the autonomy and adaptive capacity of small-scale food producers.

- As recognized by the FAO’s 10 Elements of Agroecology, agroecology is crucial for realizing the right to food as well as adapting to and mitigating climate change while also addressing input dependencies, fertilizer shortages, food loss and waste, and the environmental costs of agriculture supply chains.
- Climate change
 - This CFS workstream is an opportunity for States to align and comply with their respective international obligations to combat climate change.
 - UNDROP 18.3 - Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to contribute to the design and implementation of national and local climate change adaptation and mitigation policies, including through the use of practices and traditional knowledge.
- The workstream that we are proposing would focus on increasing biodiversity in food systems and supporting small-scale agroecological food producers who work to restore and respect ecosystems, prevent biodiversity loss, and promote food sovereignty.
- Key to Food Sovereignty:
 - The direct participation of small-scale food producers and food system workers in policy-making and implementation processes
 - Genuine agrarian reforms are needed to realize and protect the right to land for small-scale producers, family farmers, and landless peoples.
 - VGGTs: redistributive reforms are especially relevant for achieving gender equality and addressing youth migration out of the countryside.
- This proposed workstream can be part of enacting critical policy shifts for structural change in food systems. Human rights, particularly the right to food and the right to food sovereignty, must be central to all policies, programs, and governance processes related to food and agriculture.
- At the national level, an opportunity to make better use of the CSA's policy recommendations is for the countries to have National Food Security Councils with the participation of Ministries of Foreign Affairs to build relationships between debates in global governance spaces with the implementation of national or local public policies
- We all deserve healthy, culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods. This right can only be enjoyed by everyone if nation-states realize the right of peoples to democratically define and control their own food and agricultural systems.

Strategic Objective 3: Uptake

- For the third Strategic Objective, on Uptake, the CSIPM supports the proposal number 36 on “enhanced efforts to increase global awareness and use of CFS Policy Products”. We believe this proposal is very important and is coherent with our view of the CFS as a platform and its coordination role.
- We support the merging of proposals 3 and 12 and, in particular, we support the proposed activities and timeline put forward in proposal number 3, including a global thematic event

focusing on the implementation of the Framework for Action for food security and nutrition in protracted crises.

- Relevant to this strategic objective is also the proposal number 7 “Right to Food – Action toward 2030” which we fully support as a standalone proposal.