

CSIPM Comments regarding the 2024-2027 MYPoW

24 April 2024

Introduction:

The document submitted by the CSIPM on 20 March already presented ideas about possible clustering of some of the proposals on the table according to the CFS strategic objectives but also with attention to their thematic content. These suggestions had already been the subject of bilateral meetings with Member States and CFS participants. The background document circulated by the Secretariat in preparation for the 20 April AG/B meeting was discussed in the core coordination group of the CSIPM. The comments presented in this note are the result of this strategic discussion among our different constituencies.

We acknowledge the efforts made by the CFS Chair and Secretariat to try to systematize the proposals and advance with the MYPoW process. We believe, however, that there is a need now to proceed with a simple and clear methodology which can lead us to potential merging and prioritization of existing proposals. Such an approach is already in good part reflected in the first page of the background document, with the table divided according to the different strategic objectives. The interventions and exchanges that took place on 20 April provided rich indications of how steps could be taken towards completing this table. We feel that re-dividing the proposals under newly introduced thematic areas would complicate the process and risk adding another layer of themes that do not necessarily reflect the concerns of those who originally conceived the proposals or the varying degrees of support which they have received. The thematic areas suggested by the Secretariat could very usefully be incorporated in the 'overall narrative' of the MYPoW, as proposed by several participants during the discussions on 20 April, but we feel they should not be adopted as its organizing principle.

For this reason, in this text we present our priorities according to the CFS strategic objectives and propose potential mergers, in an effort to move towards crystallizing the content of the MYPoW.

Strategic Objective 1: Platform function

Most of the proposal submitted by the participants on the CFS, have the common purpose of strengthening the coordinated response to present and future food crises, which in turn are linked to structural processes. In their similarity, the proposals also propose an articulation from the local and regional to the global, and therefore, we at the CSIPM see the following points that allow us to present also a merging. The proposal for merging is added to this document as an Annex.

The CSIPM prioritizes 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 suggested 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, we noted that the aspects of local 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 CSIPM priority merging suggestion.
- In fact, the intent of our proposal is to re-vitalize the CFS to exercise its role and address the structural drivers of food crises, understanding how the evolving dynamics of global-regional-national level interrelations are affected by and 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. It endows the CFS with the ability to be responsive to a constantly changing environment which has been missing in the past. In order to be comprehensive of the different proposals in this merging suggestion, the proposed would be renamed: “Coordinated policy response to food crises and multilevel governance for a coherent, sustainable and inclusive food system transformation.” It is attached in Annex 1.
- 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.
- Finally, we would 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 convergence

Before specifically presenting our merger proposals against objective 2, we would like to highlight some aspects that concern us from what has been presented in the CFS guidance document. Firstly, the notion of ecosystem services, which refers to a mercantilist field that does not include the

transformations of peasants and small producers or those who transform, maintain, enrich and care for the soil through their practices. In addition, the notion of ecosystem services leads to the understanding of a single form of exploitation of nature at the service of the human species, without a holistic understanding of the relationships with the land and the environment, putting both nature and agricultural workers in the same place of exploitation.

We will also show that our approach to agricultural workers' rights is specific, and can be merged with other ideas that, if brought together under the approach we propose, can result in a powerful proposal on this important issue.

The CSIPM proposal #19 on Recognizing the role and rights of food system's workers has been recognized as a priority for the next MYPoW among our constituencies.

- 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 in food systems, and build upon their lived experiences, which the CSIPM can contribute to.
- 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. These human rights instruments should be the basis for any policy recommendations coming from the CFS. A successful outcome would not re-invent the wheel but rather build upon these important agreements for the rights of workers.

The CSIPM proposal #18 on Protecting and restoring biodiversity to mitigate and reverse climate change and for the progressive realization of food sovereignty has been recognized as a priority for the next MYPoW among our constituencies.

- This proposal from the CSIPM has some commonalities with proposals #22 and #32, and can also dialogue with proposal #5 on family farming for sustainable food systems.
- 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, if they are to stay under the “Uptake” function and not lead to a new negotiated outcome. The CFS has already an important document on protracted crises, and now is the time to understand how to strengthen its implementation. The CSIPM has an extensive monitoring report on this policy outcome, which could be an essential resource for the proposed uptake activities under proposal 3. 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.

Annex - Suggested merger between six MYPoW proposals

Coordinated policy response to food crises and multilevel governance for a coherent, sustainable and inclusive food system transformation.

The CSIPM would like to propose the merging of six MYPoW proposals which are deeply interrelated and share the same key objectives. The six proposals speak to different aspects of global policy coordination, multilevel governance, and uptake and implementation of existing CFS products. They aim at strengthening CFS impact and ensuring coherence between short term responses and long-term transformative policies. The six proposals help to unpack the meaning of coordination in practice and recognize the different contributions of local, regional and global actors including governmental institutions and civil society.

This note highlights the main objectives and anticipated activities of each of the six proposals and then proposes a short draft for a potential merged MYPoW proposal: *“Coordinated policy response to the food crisis and improved multilevel governance for a coherent, sustainable and inclusive food system transformation”*.

N.	Title	Proponents	Keywords
8	Strengthening the CFS as a platform for coordination in addressing food crises	CSIPM, Mexico, Germany	CFS platform role to hear evidence from diverse relevant actors, multilevel policy coordination, uptake & implementation
15	Policy recommendations on promoting local and regional government engagement and sustainable and inclusive food systems	United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Mauritania, Morocco, FAO, Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, CEMAS	Multilevel governance, sustainable and inclusive food systems
21	Territorial governance for more effective, resilient, and inclusive food systems	Angola, Brazil, Portugal	Multilevel food system governance, coherent governance, territorial food systems, global cooperation, human rights and equality
25	Coordinating Policy Responses to the Global Food Security Crisis	France	Convening diverse stakeholders/forms of knowledge, Framework or policy recommendations that foster coordination of policy response and uptake of CFS products
27	Enhancing CFS coordination role for a global response to the food crisis	Dominican Republic, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food	Inclusive, rights-based, action-oriented coordination from short to long term, leveraging CFS products; Develop a Global coordination and cooperation policy by 2025.
36	In-depth debate on enhanced efforts to increase global awareness and use of CFS Policy Products	France, Kenya, Chile, Switzerland, Philippines, Mexico, The Netherlands, Dominican Republic	Increase the global visibility and use of CFS Policy products, global policy guidance document.

Proposal 8 - Strengthening the CFS as a platform for coordination in addressing food crises

Key objectives:

- Use the platform role of the CFS to share experience, debate key issues and detect emerging food crisis.
- Policy coordination of crisis response, considering multiple levels and short term and long-term responses.

Key activities:

- HLPE- informed framework strategically collating CFS products and toolbox to facilitate uptake by local, national and regional actors.
- Quarterly meetings to keep track of evolving situation and debate most pressing issues.

Proposal 15 - Policy recommendations on promoting local and regional government engagement and sustainable and inclusive food systems

Key objectives:

- Learn from local and regional experiences about ways to foster sustainability and inclusivity in food systems.
- Foster multilevel governance.
- Raise awareness of the important role local and regional governments play for food security, food system sustainability, inclusivity and reducing inequalities.

Key activities:

Two rounds of live consultations that foster knowledge exchange.
Develop and launch policy recommendations.

Proposal 21 - Territorial governance for more effective, resilient, and inclusive food systems

Key objectives:

- Coherent multilevel food system governance.
- Bring all actors together to exchange lessons learnt by governments and other relevant stakeholders at local, national, and global level and discuss alternatives to support member countries to strengthen territorial food systems governance mechanisms.
- Policy guidance on ways to strengthen territorial food systems governance.
- Global cooperation coupled with innovative food systems governance modalities based on respect for Human rights and equality.
- Strengthen the connection between the CFS and existing governance structures at regional (Supra-national), national and local levels.

Key activities:

- Ad hoc WG on territorial food system governance with HLPE support.
- Mapping food systems governance frameworks and possible development of guidelines for territorial food systems governance.
- Participatory territorial food systems diagnosis (FAO/ESP).

Proposal 25 - Coordinating Policy Responses to the Global Food Security Crisis

Key objectives :

1. Foster coordination of policy response to the global crisis to follow up on the call from member states and the high-level event in July 2022.
2. Use CFS convening power to bring together different actors and to highlight the relevance of CFS products to address current challenges.
3. Awareness raising and uptake for CFS products.

Key activities:

4. Establish an OEWG to produce a general framework/policy recommendations addressing the multiple drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition, building on HLPE reports and relevant CFS products

Proposal 27 - Enhancing CFS coordination role for a global response to the food crisis

Key objectives:

- Use CFS convening and coordination power to address the food crisis as top priority, valorising its inclusiveness and human rights basis.
- Ensure coherence between short-term and long-term solutions.

Key activities:

- All events under MYPoW should explicitly connect to tackling the current food crisis.
- Develop a Global coordination and cooperation policy by 2025, leveraging existing CFS policy tools.

Proposal 36 - In-depth debate on enhanced efforts to increase global awareness and use of CFS Policy Products

Key objectives:

- Increase the global visibility and use of CFS Policy Products (Voluntary Guidelines, Policy Recommendations) at local, national and regional levels.
- Joint debate to develop a precise and hands-on cross-cutting voluntary global policy guidance document on how to raise awareness, dissemination and the uptake of all CFS policy products. *[[This policy guidance document on awareness raising, dissemination and uptake of CFS policy product resonates with the CSIPM proposal on the HLPE framework and toolbox to facilitate awareness raising on CFS products and uptake from local and regional actors]].*
- Use CFS as a platform for sharing cross-cutting experiences and good practices on the use and application of CFS products at all levels.

Key activities:

- HLPE report.
- Outcome document: Chair's summary based on in-depth debate, no negotiated outcome.
- The outcome document should benefit from its own recommendations to raise awareness and uptake, within the existing resources and mandate of the CFS.

Merged Draft Proposal

THE RATIONALE FOR INCLUDING THE PROPOSED THEMATIC WORKSTREAM, BASED ON THE PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA ^(3, see above) AND BUILDING ON CFS MAIN COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES

- Evidence from the ground, the latest HLPE Critical and Emerging Issues Note and SOFI Report, the discussions in the Food System Summit all point to the same conclusions: hunger is on the rise, conflicts and climate change are worsening and we are moving backwards in the efforts to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms. We need to assess what is going wrong and make efforts to change approach.
- International initiatives are proliferating. However, they are fragmented, often neglect the voices of the countries and constituencies most affected by the crisis and propose solutions which are often incoherent with a much needed long-term transformation. How the world will respond to the food crisis will determine how food systems will be transformed for the

decades to come. The pandemic and the war in Ukraine have highlighted the need to reduce dependency on food imports, which presents severe obstacles to food security especially when sovereign debts are exacerbated by inflation, inadequate trade regimes and conflicts. They have underscored the importance of supporting domestic food production by small-scale producers, territorial markets, communities' local support systems, and pointed up the key role of local and regional governments in fostering a gradual re-territorialisation of food systems.

- Local action, however, is not sufficient alone. The current intersecting crises also relate to a problem of governance at multiple levels and inadequate global policy coordination. Building synergies among different levels, facilitating the implementation of relevant existing policies and strengthening international policy coordination in a human right, people-centered framework are essential if the world wants to reverse the path.
- As the most inclusive intergovernmental space dedicated to food security and nutrition, and with the explicit mandate to strengthen policy coordination for the progressive realization of the right to food, the CFS is the most appropriate space for responding to emerging food crises in a globally coordinated manner. The CFS offers a unique opportunity to have a central role in all global processes for achieving the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, in particular SGD 2 "Zero Hunger". While the CFS has adopted numerous relevant policy outcomes, its potential as a platform for coordination in addressing and preventing food crises has not yet been utilized effectively, as demonstrated during the Covid-19 pandemic, and its policy outcomes are not put to use as they merit. The proposal aims to make use of the CFS platform role by learning from relevant actors, coordinating policy response at different levels, and uptake relevant existing instruments thereby contributing to CFS strategic objectives.

DEFINE THE EXPECTED RESULTS AND DESCRIBE HOW THEY WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES ⁽¹⁾ AND FSN-RELEVANT TARGETS OF THE 2030 AGENDA.

see above)

- An expectation of this workstream is to improve policy coordination at different and interconnected levels.
- Strengthen the connection between the CFS and existing governance structures at regional (Supra-national), national and local levels. This would improve vertical coordination among different government bodies learning from local experience and knowledge and avoiding top-down implementation but focusing on multilevel governance.
- Coordination among different sectors, recognizing the interconnectedness of the right to food with other human rights and using a holistic system approach rather than working in silos.
- Coordination between the different steps of policy making: from discussion and convergence to implementation, from monitoring and assessment to renewed commitment to policy uptake and change.
- Coordination between the different actors that are part of the food system.

- Coordination between short-term emergency responses and long-term policies for food systems transformation to preserve biodiversity, restore ecosystems, address the climate crisis, establish new links between cities and rural areas, reduce poverty and inequality, eliminate hunger, reduce malnutrition, and improve health by targeting diet-related diseases.
- It will also improve implementation of coherent packages of short and long-term policy proposals for attaining food security and nutrition and the right to food by:
 - developing a general policy framework/guideline.
 - preparing implementation toolboxes that can be drawn upon by different actors at different levels.
 - helping to ensure that ODA and foreign investment support national policies and meet the requirements of the small-scale food producers who are the front-line actors of food security.
 - Highlighting global issues that hamper the capacity of national governments to effectively implement food security policies (e.g. debt, fluctuating global food prices, etc.).
- It will function as an on-going platform in which to exchange experience and keep track of the evolving food security situation, drawing on diversified evidence.

INSERT PROPOSED ACTIVITIES AND RELATED TIMELINE.

- This workstream should become integral part of the MYPoW 2024-2027
- It could hold quarterly meetings, building on the practice of ‘substantive sessions’ already initiated in the CFS, 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.
- The HLPE could be asked to collate existing relevant CFS policy outcomes within a reasoned, human rights-based framework presenting the causes of and the challenges engendered by food crises - such as price volatility, conflicts, debt, dependence on imports of food and inputs, need for enhanced support for small-scale food production and territorial markets, etc. - and policy guidance to address these challenges as provided by CFS outcomes. The framework/compendium could invite relevant contributions from HR-based UN agencies and could be open to incorporate progressively relevant outcomes from topics under discussion in the CFS and those treated in the next MYPOW. In this sense it would constitute, by 2027, a global policy coordination framework.
- Based on the above, 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.

SPECIFY THE MAIN ASPECTS TO BE ADDRESSED BY A HLPE-FSN REPORT THAT WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROPOSED WORKSTREAM, IF APPLICABLE.

- The HLPE would be asked to prepare a reasoned, human rights-based policy coordination framework presenting the causes of and the challenges engendered by food and policy guidance to address these challenges as provided by CFS outcomes. The HLPE would also assist in collect the main outcomes and recommendations from the discussions on the most pressing issues and providing an action-oriented roadmap for implementation in different local, cultural, economic, social, environmental contexts.
- There may be close connections with other workstreams in the next MYPOW for which the HLPE would be asked to prepare a report, for example “Building resilient and equitable supply chains for Food Security and Nutrition”. The analysis emerging from that policy workstream, can inform how members states and different actors can strengthen the connection between the CFS and existing governance structures at regional (Supra-national), national and local level by increasing investments in sustainable and equitable food systems.