

## **CSIPM Messages to the Advisory Group and Bureau Meeting 25 January 2024**

Dear Chair, this is the first Advisory Group and Bureau meeting following the conclusion of the CFS51 plenary where we participate. After many efforts, the public resources allocated for social participation were made available and it is with great satisfaction that we officially resume active participation. We express our gratitude to the EU, IFAD and the CFS for their instrumental role in resolving the financial issue, paving the way for our renewed engagement.

We particularly value the fact that our interpreters are back. They play a crucial role in facilitating the genuine, effective, and meaningful participation of civil society and Indigenous Peoples in the CFS and they allow the expression of our language and cultural diversity.

### **Agenda Point 1 – CFS 52 Draft Provisional Agenda:**

Thanks to the CFS Secretariat for preparing the CFS52 draft provisional agenda and for all the work in this busy calendar. We have some comments regarding the agenda of the upcoming plenary.

We would like to highlight that what differentiates this committee from the numerous other multistakeholder platforms that exist and that aim to find solutions to chronic hunger and malnutrition is its real inclusive nature. In the CFS, civil society participates under the principles of autonomy and self-organization, and this means that peasants, pastoralists, fisher folks, women, youth, consumers, landless, urban food insecure, Indigenous Peoples, agricultural and food workers and NGOs bring their voices and experiences from all around the world in this policy making space keeping their autonomy from governments and International Institutions. This is a unique characteristic of the CFS and hence Civil society participation should be given a prominent role during the Plenary Session, including voices and experiences of the most affected constituencies in every panel discussion taking advantage of the richness that diverse voices from the territories bring here in Rome. We would like the CSIPM and the Special Rapporteur on the right to food to be included in the panel for Agenda item II.

Since the progressive realization of the Right to Food is the central mandate of the CFS, it would be important to have the Right to Food Guidelines anniversary as the overarching framework of the upcoming plenary. This should not be a mere celebration but it could be a central component, providing a transversal axis to reorient the entire plenary, coming after the assessment of the global food security situation.

Unfortunately, we won't be able to celebrate the Day of Rural Women but we are pleased that there will be the Forum on the Uptake of the Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment (GEWE) Guidelines, and CSIPM would like to participate in the relevant panels or a distinct role if participation in the panel is not possible.

Regarding side events, CSIPM acknowledges the importance of prioritization but insists on ensuring space for CFS participants and in particular for the most affected constituencies of

the CSIPM. A minimum number of side events should be guaranteed, and the potential competition among them needs careful consideration.

### **Agenda Item 2 – CFS Advisory Group Reporting Exercise 2023:**

The proposed questions for the Advisory Group reporting exercise for 2023 provide a very useful guide. As part of the reporting exercise, we think it is also important to have a space to reflect on the challenges faced during the intersessional period. The CSIPM will also report on the challenges it has faced such as the financial difficulties, the challenges related to lack of interpretation and translation in several meetings during the intersessional period and the difficulties related to the fact that the CSIPM Secretariat still does not have an office or a pass to enter the FAO.

### **Agenda Item 3 – Substantive Dialogue on Collaborative Governance Meetings:**

The CSIPM celebrates the fact that the CFS has incorporated a workstream on collaborative governance for coordinating policy responses to the crises towards food system transformation in the 2024-2027 MYPoW. We have been advocating in favour of this step for several years, based on the concerns expressed in two consultations which we undertook among our constituencies in all regions in 2020 and 2022. Through this work stream the CFS can reaffirm and strengthen its central role to address the increase in hunger and malnutrition and accelerate efforts to achieve SDG 2. Through this MYPoW, the CFS has a renewed opportunity to strengthen the principles of the 2009 reform to ensure its inclusivity, convening power and mandate for the right to food to enhance coordination of global policies for food security and nutrition, in a scenario where multiple, and often competing, initiatives seem to focus only on short sighted solutions.

Through this intervention, the CSIPM intends to provide concrete and practical suggestions for putting the workstream into operation, acknowledging the CFS calendar ahead and the available resources. The proposal is articulated under four aspects of implementation which we feel are important to consider under this coordination exercise. These aspects are the following ones:

1. **Ensuring synergy with the Right to Food framework, starting with the RtF Guidelines anniversary, and use & application of CFS policies outcomes workstream. Concretely we suggest the following for this:**

The HLPE be asked to prepare a compilation of key existing recommendations that can address the challenges of hunger, malnutrition and the transformation of food systems from a Right to Food perspective, but also the gaps that could still be filled in interconnecting the short term solutions with the longer term ones. This could be a useful tool for all three workstreams.

The CFS input to the HLPF, which is reviewing SDG 2 this year, to be rooted in the RtF framework, seeking the active involvement of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

2. **Enhancing multi-actor and multilevel coordination, both vertically and horizontally.** We suggest that a collective mapping be conducted to identify where the CFS could play a role to ensure coordination on policies and actions on food security and nutrition across global governance spaces, but also at regional and national levels. This

workstream should serve as an exercise to put into practice methodologies for coordination among multiple actors at multiple levels around key food security and nutrition issues, valorising outcomes and instruments agreed upon within the CFS and a space for facilitating exchange of positive practices.

**3. Focus and Methodology;**

A key objective of this workstream is to give privileged voice to most affected countries around issues that they consider as priority in terms of strengthening their capacity to ensure FSN and attain SDG2 and identify ways of supporting their efforts through better coordination of policies and action. The workstream on collaborative governance for coordinating policy responses to the crisis towards food system transformation should examine the evolving food security and nutrition situation, including emerging food crises, while at the same time provide the space to debate key and structural issues that have an impact on the right to food. These issues are normally too controversial to be the object of policy convergence processes in the CFS, and the collaborative governance/coordinated policies platform can offer a space to debate them without seeking negotiated positions. These two aspects are crucial to ensure that there is a strong linkage between the immediate and short term solutions with the longer term food systems transformation for people and the planet.

Set up the Technical Task Team, which should include members nominated by the RBAs, the CSIPM and PSM, and – the CSIPM suggests - the Rapporteur on the Right to Food. The Technical Task Team would support the secretariat in preparing an implementation proposal, including the methodology for conducting the biannual meetings.

**4. Concrete outcomes, including Chair’s reports after each biannual meeting and a Chair’s annual report that will feed into the Plenary discussions.**

**Agenda Item 5 – Dates of Future CFS Plenary Sessions:**

The CSIPM recognizes the risks of having the CFS Plenary in parallel with other processes, such as the World Food Forum (WFF), that may weaken high level participation to the CFS week. At the same time the CSIPM has always stressed the importance of keeping the Plenary in October and if it is not possible to have the plenary in the same week of the World Food Day perhaps it can be the week before.

**Agenda Item 6 – Framework for Reporting to Regional Groups:**

We are pleased to see a framework to further reinforce the link with the regional groups. This also contributes to further disseminate the work we do at the CFS and to improve connection at the different levels.

One possibility that we would like you to consider is to encourage the regional groups to include one small slot of their regional meetings to meet with civil society organisations in their regions.

## Agenda Item 7 – Workstream Updates:

Thanks for the updates.

On the workstream on “Increasing awareness, ownership, use and usefulness of CFS policy outcomes at all levels” the CSIPM would like to ask if the date for the next meeting is confirmed. More in general, we would like to ask the Secretariat when the CFS calendar of all the workstreams will be circulated.

We are pleased to see that the focus of the High Level Political Forum will be SDG 2 this year. The CFS contribution is a good opportunity to disseminate the work of the CFS and to advance the Right to Food framework in New York. The CSIPM would like to ask that the CFS draft contribution be open also to the Advisory Group members.