



Dear Members and Participants,

As Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) Co-Chairs we would like to thank you for sharing your ideas and providing comments on the Zero Draft of the Agenda for Action for Addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crisis (CFS-A4A). As anticipated in our meeting, this summary note describes the primary findings and conclusions of the consultation session held on Wednesday, 5 March, 2014.

Summary of key comments and suggestions

Overall, the document was welcomed, and seen as a significant step forward towards a Draft One.

While further improvements and language adjustments were proposed, the Background and Rationale, Objective, Purpose, Scope, Alignment and Audience were generally appreciated as quite clear. The principles are more focused, and language on a way forward following endorsement has been proposed. The CFS-A4A highlights the need for political action, invites high level political commitment provides guidance to policy makers and proposes processes for transforming policies, as well as learning lessons and reviewing progress. Principally, further tightening of the language was requested in order to remove duplication, whilst at the same time making the document more action-oriented.

It was encouraging to note that some Members and Participants indicated their interest in using the CFS-A4A principles as a policy framework to evaluate and guide their own policies and actions for food security in protracted crisis situations.

The Technical Support Team (TST) noted the following key considerations, summarized below:

1. The **rationale, objective and purpose** of the CFS-A4A were broadly welcomed;
2. As illustrated in the Annexes, there are many **illustrative examples** of good policies and actions to address food insecurity and malnutrition in protracted crises. The strong **evidence base** for the principles was appreciated;
3. However, there is a need for increased **political commitment and action** to ensure a comprehensive, rights-based approach which addresses underlying causes of food insecurity and malnutrition, builds resilient livelihoods and food systems and meets immediate needs. As the CFS-A4A is intended to mobilize this political commitment and action, the TST will endeavour to strengthen language to highlight this point;
4. The document needs to be **more action-oriented** under each principle and in the Way Forward section with roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis specific actions, to turn principles into policy and programmes at country level, made clearer. The dual

- approach of providing policy principles and a way forward to ensure principles are used to inform policies and actions was appreciated;
5. Part 1 of the document should be made **shorter and sharper**, particularly the subparagraphs under each principle. Where possible these should be combined or removed if deemed duplicative;
 6. Criteria or characteristics for **defining a protracted crisis** may be further developed to help with the understanding of protracted crisis and at-risk populations;
 7. **Language consistency** was flagged. For example, in the use of malnutrition/under nutrition, food security and nutrition, and correct humanitarian/protection/human rights terminology. The TST will ensure consistent use of terminologies throughout the CFS-A4A;
 8. Ensure an appropriate **balance between ambition and pragmatism** in the principles;
 9. The TST will explore how to give **greater emphasis and clarification** to a number of issues including:
 - Multi-sectoral approaches;
 - Internally displaced people and refugees;
 - Gender considerations;
 - Nutrition, including highlighting different types of malnutrition and the importance of safe, affordable and nutritious food in achieving development outcomes. Using the terms food security and nutrition / food insecurity and malnutrition throughout the document should be explored further;
 - Preventative actions;
 - Domestic resource mobilization in protracted crisis prone and affected countries
 - The potential role of the private sector;
 - The role of cash-based approaches and cash transfer programs;
 - Roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders within their national borders and externally;
 10. Principle 2 the need to define more concretely what is meant by the **term "country-owned"** to include who is involved (e.g. national and/or local authorities) was identified;
 11. Principle 5 on natural resources should draw from appropriate text in the **Voluntary Guidelines**;
 12. The Way Forward section should include language on **communications requirements**, including the need to develop user friendly tools which may be made available once the CFS-A4A is completed and endorsed. Such products would enhance accessibility of the final document for those unable to participate in our discussions. Further consideration also needs to be given to the mechanism for providing coordinated, coherent support to countries in implementing an endorsed CFS-A4A.
 13. The value of the **Appendices** was broadly recognized with an indication that additional content and examples may be necessary for balance, and might be provided by Members and Participants.

Next steps

Members and Participants are requested to submit concrete language proposals to the TST by 31 March, where specific changes have been flagged. Please make written submissions to CFS@fao.org, including 'CFS-A4A comments on Zero Draft' in the subject line. In order to facilitate the submission of language proposals in track changes, Word

versions of the Zero Draft, in all languages, are also available for download from the CFS Working Space.

As we emphasised at the start of the OEWG, the CFS-A4A is intended to encourage and support on-going regional and national processes to review, develop and implement policies and actions, using the CFS-A4A principles, and to share examples and lessons learnt in the CFS.

The compilation of illustrative examples, case studies and documents in Part 2 is just the beginning of this process. It is recognised that there are many other excellent examples of good policies and practices, which are not included in Part 2 of the CFS-A4A. All Members and Participants are invited and encouraged to continue sharing any experiences, which can also be submitted to CFS@fao.org.

The current Zero Draft and a summary of the outcomes of this OEWG will be the basis for further discussion in:

- The Global Consultation to be held in Addis Ababa, 24-25 April;
- An e-Consultation to be hosted on FSN Forum, 12-23 May.

A summary of outcomes of the Global Consultation will also inform the e-Consultation.

Draft One of the CFS-A4A in all languages will be distributed by mid-June thereby providing Members and Participants an ample 6 weeks' of time to share the document with Capitals and Headquarters, to be prepared for paragraph-by-paragraph negotiation of the document at the next OEWG on 29 July-1 August. These four full days should provide sufficient time to reach consensus on the document, and move towards endorsement at CFS 41 in October.

As we stated at the start of the OEWG, we believe that this CFS-A4A can, and must, enhance and support political commitment and action by all stakeholders, to better address food insecurity and malnutrition in protracted and recurrent crises. It is now the responsibility of all of us to suggest how to further strengthen the document and ensure that there is high level ownership and commitment to implement the CFS-A4A.

We look forward to continuing to work with you in the coming weeks and months.