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COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

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PROVISIONS AND DECISIONS REGARDING THE CFS SECRETARY, SECRETARIAT, ADVISORY GROUP AND HIGH-LEVEL PANEL OF EXPERTS ON FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

This document provides background information regarding the matters addressed in the document CFS 2013/40/10, namely:

- A. Selection procedure, including required qualifications and terms of reference for the position of CFS Secretary
- B. Inclusion in the Secretariat of other UN entities
- C. Composition of the Advisory Group
- D. Selection criteria for the Members of the HLPE Steering Committee

A. Selection procedure, including required qualifications and terms of reference for the position of CFS Secretary

General Rules of the Organization, Rule XXXIII, paragraph 15

E. Secretariat

A secretary shall be appointed, in accordance with such conditions as may be established by the Committee, to serve the Committee, including the Bureau and the High-Level Panel of Experts, and to exercise liaison functions in connection with all the activities of the Committee. [...]

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CFS 37 Final Report – October 2011, paragraph 61

The Committee requested the Bureau to further analyze, in coordination with the relevant agencies, the modalities and requirements whereby a system of rotation of the CFS Secretary among FAO, IFAD and WFP could be implemented, including the required qualifications and terms of reference for the CFS Secretary as well as the reporting lines, with a view to allowing the CFS to make an informed decision on the matter at its next regular session.

CFS Bureau meeting - 20 July 2012

The issue concerning the selection and appointment of the CFS Secretary will be taken up by the Bureau after the Chair has received the views on this matter from FAO, IFAD and WFP.

CFS Bureau meeting - 7 September 2012

The Bureau has had insufficient time to consider and to consult about the implications of the second round of letters received from heads of FAO, IFAD and WFP concerning the appointment of the CFS Secretary. The Bureau should further analyze this issue [...] with a view to submitting proposals in this regard to CFS in October 2013. While noting the support of the RBAs for establishing a full time Secretary position, Bureau members expressed concern regarding the financial implications of such a proposal. It was decided not to propose any change in the RoP at this stage: the Bureau could be mandated by the CFS Plenary to further explore the establishment of a full time Secretary position and its consequences.

CFS 39 Final Report – October 2012, paragraph 43

The Committee mandated the Bureau to develop the selection procedures, including the required qualifications and the terms of reference, for the position of the CFS Secretary [...] with a view to submitting proposals to the Committee during its plenary session in October 2013. Such proposals should take into account views expressed by the executive heads of FAO, IFAD and WFP.

B. Inclusion in the Secretariat of other UN entities

General Rules of the Organization, Rule XXXIII, paragraph 15

E. Secretariat

[...] The Secretariat shall include staff members from the World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, among others, as may be assigned to it.

CFS Rules of Procedure – Rule VI – Secretariat

The Committee shall be assisted by a permanent joint Secretariat, located in the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome. Its tasks will be to assist the Plenary, the Bureau, the Advisory Group and the High Level Panel of Experts. The Secretariat shall be headed by a Secretary and comprise staff from the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme.

CFS Reform Document, paragraphs 33, 34 and 35

There should be a small, permanent CFS Secretariat located in FAO Rome. Its task will be to assist the Plenary, the Bureau and Advisory Group, and the High Level Panel of Experts in their work.

For the biennium 2010-2011, the Secretariat will be headed by a Secretary from FAO and include staff from the other Rome-based agencies (WFP and IFAD). Further arrangements regarding the Secretary, including possible rotation among the three Rome-based agencies, and the inclusion in the Secretariat of other UN entities directly concerned with food security and nutrition, should be decided by the CFS plenary in 2011.

The present CFS Secretariat will continue to perform its functions until final decisions of CFS Plenary as per paragraph 34 are adopted and implemented.

CFS Bureau meeting - 7 September 2012

The Bureau should further analyze [...] modalities and requirements for inclusion in the Secretariat of other UN entities directly concerned with food security and nutrition, with a view to submitting proposals in this regard to CFS in October 2013.

CFS 39 Final Report – October 2012, paragraph 43

The Committee mandated the Bureau to develop [...] modalities and requirements for inclusion in the Secretariat of other UN entities directly concerned with food security and nutrition, with a view to submitting proposals in this regard to CFS in October 2013.

C. Composition of the Advisory Group

General Rules of the Organization, Rule XXXIII, paragraph 10

C. Chairperson, Bureau and Advisory Group of the Bureau of the Committee on World Food Security

[...] The Bureau shall be assisted by an Advisory Group which shall be established in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.

CFS Rules of Procedure, Rule IV - Advisory Group, paragraph 1

The Bureau shall establish an Advisory Group from among representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and other organizations allowed to participate in the proceedings of the Committee under paragraph 11 of the CFS Reform Document and paragraph 3 of Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The members of the Advisory group shall be appointed for a term of two years. The number of members of the Advisory Group shall not exceed that of the members of the Bureau including the Chairperson, unless otherwise decided by the Committee.

2. The Advisory Group shall assist the Bureau by sharing with it the expertise and knowledge of the broad range of organizations it represents and its outreach to constituencies. It shall contribute regularly with substantive work to the intersessional activities of the Committee, and its members may propose issues to the Bureau for consideration.

CFS Reform Document, paragraph 32

The Bureau, immediately following its election, will establish an Advisory Group composed of representatives of FAO, WFP and IFAD and other non-Member CFS Participants (see para 11). The Advisory Group will have the same tenure as the Bureau. The Bureau will invite the different constituencies of CFS Participants to designate their representatives to this Group, which normally will not exceed that of the CFS Bureau in numbers. The function of the Advisory Group is to provide input to the Bureau regarding the range of tasks which the CFS Plenary has instructed it to perform. Decision making will be in the hands of the member States. It is expected that members of the Advisory Group should be able to contribute substantive work and provide advice to the CFS Bureau.

Selection criteria for the Members of the HLPE Steering Committee

CFS Rules of Procedure, Rule V – High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition, paragraph 3

The Steering Committee shall consist of between ten and fifteen highly reputable, internationally recognized experts on food security and nutrition-related fields [...].

CFS Reform Document, paragraph 43

The CFS Bureau, in close cooperation with FAO management and drawing from applicable FAO legal texts, will solicit nominations for the HLPE Steering Committee.

- i) The Steering Committee should reflect an assortment of technical disciplines, regional expertise and representation. Ideal candidates will have relevant experience working with cross-disciplinary expert processes.
- ii) Members of the Steering Committee will participate in their individual capacities, and not as representatives of their respective governments, institutions or organizations.
- iii) Members of the Steering Committee will serve for a 2-year period, renewable once.

Rules and Procedures for the Work of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition, paragraph 10

The following principle shall apply with respect to the members of the HLPE StC:

- i) They should be internationally recognized experts in their field related to food security and nutrition, and have broad vision and substantial experience in cross-disciplinary expert processes. They should be experienced professionals, holding an advanced university degree, proven record of publications and/or solid background in field/research project management in the area of food security. Most importantly they should have strong experience in managing groups or networks of experts, extensive communication and inter-personal skills, leadership skills, and, drawing from their inter-national recognition by peers, the capacity to attract and draw expert networks.
- ii) They participate in their individual capacities, and not as representatives of their respective governments, institutions or organizations.
- iii) The composition of the StC shall reflect a balance of technical disciplines, regional expertise and representation.