

CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meeting

Date: 21 November 2017

Red Room, FAO, 9:45 – 13:00

Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting Outcomes

Agenda

1. Feedback on CFS44
2. CFS workplans:
 - a. Evaluation
 - b. Nutrition
 - c. Urbanization
 - d. SDGs
 - e. Monitoring
3. Dates of Bureau and Advisory Group meetings
4. Update on CFS budget
5. Any other business

The CFS Chair welcomed the participants to the first joint meeting of the intersessional period. In his opening remarks he referred to the status of food security and nutrition in the world, which the latest SOFI Report underscores to be worsening for the first time after some years. He highlighted the role of CFS, the relevance of its mandate and the needs for increasing the visibility and the impact of the Committee, pointing out that both dimensions —visibility and impact— can mutually reinforce each other. Before starting the meeting, the Chair proposed, and the participants agreed, that Alternate Members were allowed to intervene as appropriate, in order to increase openness, inclusiveness and participation. CSM requested to add the follow-up on Women’s Empowerment under item 2 of the agenda.

1. Feedback on CFS44:

Advisory Group Members, Bureau Members and their Alternates shared their feedback on CFS 44, using as guidance the questionnaire in the background document prepared by the Secretariat, which they found helpful.

Overall feedback on CFS Plenary was positive. Participants especially welcomed the convening power of CFS, the side events, and generally found the thematic days useful. Progress on recognizing the importance of nutrition, and women’s empowerment were seen as substantive achievements. It was acknowledged that, despite efforts to make the opening more interactive (as requested by the previous Bureau), there needed to be sufficient time and clear procedures during the opening day for country statements. Procedural clarity between formal and decision-oriented sessions and, on the other hand, interactive sessions, could be improved. Grouping administrative/decision items together was seen as useful, but evening sessions were to be avoided given the risk of losing a quorum. This would mean stricter prioritization of what is included in the Plenary agenda.

Suggestions were made to find a way to reduce plenary sessions and have more time for side events and/or smaller roundtables, perhaps grouped thematically. A suggestion to have CFS more substantively take its place as a central platform for convening periodic reviews of famines and severe food crises received some interest. There were suggestions that the UN partners might consider launching the State of Food Security in the World Report in Plenary, as used to be the case,

as well as leveraging the participation and visibility from World Food Day. Participants were in favor for CFS to be paper-free and supported the idea of online surveys during CFS to solicit feedback.

The Secretariat took note of the feedback received for the preparation of CFS 45.

2. CFS workplans:

a) Evaluation

The draft workplan for the evaluation workstream was presented. The co-facilitators for the evaluation shared that their role is focused on listening, and that they are open to informal meetings and emails for sharing ideas, so as to find a coherent way forward for the evaluation. The meeting recognized the important role of the RBAs, particularly for the dissemination, use and application and monitoring of CFS policy outcomes. The meeting also recognized the importance of adequate funding for moving forward. It was also emphasized that the work of CFS is a joint responsibility between RBAs and Members.

Regarding the meeting schedule, there were suggestions for:

- Finalizing the response to the remaining recommendations as soon as possible;
- Implementing the agreed response to recommendations 1 and 2 first, and to do so as early as possible;
- Clustering meetings together, as far as possible, to facilitate the participation of stakeholders not based in Rome; and
- Grouping of recommendations where there are synergies for collective discussion, instead of looking at each recommendation separately.

The possibility of having a retreat was also raised, in order to have an informal discussion focusing on the more strategic recommendations. There was a suggestion for the co-facilitators to consult with the regional groups to discuss the implementation of recommendations 1 and 2 and to understand their priorities. These discussions could form a good basis for the meeting on 24 January 2018 with a view to facilitating consensus. It was also suggested to have guiding questions to facilitate the discussion and to mainstream women's empowerment into CFS evaluation activities.

b) Nutrition

The workplan was presented by the Nutrition OEWG Chair, who informed Bureau and Advisory Group Members that the outline of the Terms of Reference (TORs) is planned to be discussed at the OEWG meeting in February 2018. The TORs would require discussion on substantive matters, such as the objectives, scope and the area of focus and expected results of the future policy outcome. The Secretariat was asked to ensure that the TTT included a gender focal point.

The need to raise financial resources for the translation of the HLPE report was highlighted as a key condition for the successful progression of this workstream. It was also mentioned that the costs and benefits of online forum discussions should be discussed. CFS participation in the FAO/WHO regional symposia was appreciated, providing helpful guidance for the TORs which would be developed through an inclusive process. A suggestion was made to consider intersessional events on nutrition, subject to available resources, and a manageable workload. With regards to the lesson and good practice sharing activities foreseen at CFS 45, it was suggested to consider policy gaps.

c) Urbanization

General agreement was expressed on the draft workplan of the Urbanization workstream, which was considered a fair reflection of what was agreed by Plenary. A suggestion was made to amend the table so as to reflect the exact title of the intersessional events as spelled out in the MYPoW. Bureau and Advisory Group Members exchanged views on the need for this workstream to have a clear end goal in sight and to find coherence/convergence with other workstreams. The TTT should include a gender focal point.

d) SDGs

Bureau and Advisory Group Members welcomed the proposed workplan, recognizing the effort to accommodate conflicting timing constraints in the preparation of the HLPF contribution. Participants called for the Chair to reach out early to countries participating in the Voluntary National Reviews in New York in July 2018 to encourage them to use CFS products in the preparation of their reports; participants also requested clarification on the role of the open meeting in supporting the Bureau and Advisory Group finalize the CFS 45 SDG lesson sharing session. The TTT should include a gender focal point.

e) Monitoring

The need for a Chair for the one-off OEWS on Monitoring was reiterated (ex post update: the Africa Regional Group indicated Ms Anne-Marie Moulton of South Africa as Chair). The draft workplan was presented. A suggestion was made to include in it discussion of whether to have an event to monitor the use and application of other CFS policy recommendations. The CFS Secretary clarified that this was not reflected in MYPoW currently as there was no concrete suggestion and budget allocated to it. The Bureau would decide at a later date on how to proceed.

There were also calls for CFS Members to hold national monitoring events in line with the Terms of Reference endorsed by CFS 43 in 2016, to prepare for the Global Thematic Event on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food to be held at CFS 45 in October 2018. It was recalled that the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food have both offered to provide technical support in relation to the calls for inputs and that these offers should be taken up. The TTT should include a gender focal point.

f) Follow up on the Forum on Women's Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition

Strong support was expressed by Bureau and Advisory Group Members in favor of systematically including gender expertise within current and future Technical Task Teams. This is in line with the outcomes of the CFS Forum on Women's Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition endorsed at CFS 44 which included a specific request to mainstream gender equality, women's and girls' rights and women's empowerment in all CFS workstreams, products and documents.

3. Dates of Bureau and Advisory Group meetings:

The proposed CFS calendar and agendas of Bureau and Advisory Group meetings in the current intersessional period were well received, and the dates for Bureau and Advisory Group meetings confirmed. It was requested that the CFS calendar include a meeting to discuss the issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the policy convergence process on sustainable forestry, including the relation between commercial plantations, and food security and nutrition.

4. Update on CFS budget:

The Secretary provided an update on CFS budget. Italy, on behalf of the EU, announced a 4-year programme funded by the EU with 3 Million Euros.

A typo was corrected in the background document.

5. Any other business:

None.

Annex 1: List of attendees

CFS Bureau Members:

Mr Mario Arvelo (CFS Chair / Dominican Republic); Ms Fernanda Mansur Tansini (Brazil); Mr Xie Jianmin, Ms Jiani Tian, Mr Huang Fei (China); Mr Luis Fernando Ceciliano (Costa Rica); Mr Khaled El-Taweel (Egypt); Mr Mitiku Tesso Jebessa, Mr Tarekegn Tsegie Haile (Ethiopia); Ms Esti Andayani (Indonesia); Mr Pierfrancesco Sacco, Ms Valentina Savastano (Italy); Ms Emily Katkar, Ms Silvia Giovanazzi (USA).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Ms Francesca De Cristofaro (Argentina); Ms Mi Nguyen (Canada); Mr Hinrich Thölken, Mr Oliver Mellenthin, Mr Jakob Weinrautner (Germany); Ms Diana Calderón Valle (Peru).

Advisory Group:

Mr Mark McGuire (FAO); Ms Stephanie Hochstetter (WFP); Mr Torben Nillson (IFAD); Ms Marzella Wustefeld (WHO); Ms Stineke Oenema (UNSCN); Mr R.D. Cooke (CGIAR); Mr Brian Baldwin, Ms April Dodd (PSM); Mr Martin Wolpold-Bosien, Ms Ramona Duminicioiu, Mr Alberto Ercilio Broch, Ms Teresa Maisano, Ms Azra Talat Sayeed, Ms Nora McKean, Mr Stefano Prato, Mr Josh Brem-Wilson (CSM).

Observers:

Ms Lotta Virolainen, Ms Tanja Rajamak (Finland); Ms Marlene Pra, Ms Delphine Babin-Pelliard (France); Mr Wierish Ramsoekh, Ms Anne Verdschoor (Netherlands); Ms Julia Vicioso, Ms Liudmila Kuzmicheva, Ms María Laureano, Mr Paul Besana (Dominican Republic); Ms Clara Victoria Jusdado Serrano (Spain).

CFS Secretariat:

Ms Deborah Fulton (Secretary); Ms Françoise Trine; Mr Giammichele Di Maio; Ms Chiara Cirulli; Ms Cherin Hoon; Mr Emilio Colonnelli; Mr Fabio Isoldi; Ms Ophélie Hémonin; Ms Alessandra Gherardelli.