

CFS Bureau meeting
Date: 30 October 2017
German Room, FAO, 14:00 – 18:00

Bureau Meeting Outcomes

Agenda

1. Introduction of new Bureau Members
2. Sharing of insights by former Chair and Bureau Members
3. Election of the CFS Vice-Chair
4. Election of CFS Advisory Group
5. Chairs/Facilitators CFS workstreams
6. Any other business

Chair's introductory remarks. The new CFS Chair, Mr Mario Arvelo, referred to the Committee's rights-based approach to fulfilling its mandate, to the spirit of inclusiveness as a guiding principle and defining quality of CFS, and to the linkage between its impact and relevance, especially in the context of RBA collaboration. The Chair underscored the needs for increasing the level and the substance of stakeholders' participation, expanding CFS visibility, and fostering harmonious relationships all around. The Chair also recalled the mandate from CFS 44 on developing Terms of Reference for submission to CFS 45 for future voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition.

1. Introduction of new Bureau Members

Bureau Members and their Alternates introduced themselves, congratulating the new CFS Chair for his election.

It was highlighted that this is a critical time for the Committee, dealing with the implementation of the response to the CFS Evaluation, with a view to unleashing its potential, enhancing its impact on the ground and its contribution to reverting the current negative trends in food insecurity and malnutrition in the world.

The efficiency and effectiveness of joint meetings with the Advisory Group (AG) were underlined as key factors requiring improvements and attention at the time of the selection of the new Members of the AG, whose purpose is to provide advice to the Bureau, not to promote policy positions.

Other contributions referred to continuously focus, rationalize and optimize the CFS work, to make it more demand-driven, and to better promote its products at country level.

The Chair proposed, and the Bureau agreed, that at the beginning of each meeting the Bureau would consider allowing Alternate Members to intervene as appropriate, in order to increase inclusiveness and participation.

2. Sharing of insights by former Chair and Bureau Members

Outgoing Bureau Members and Alternates shared insights based on their experience and perspective. Many outgoing as well as incoming members pointed to the need to reduce the workload of CFS, prioritize its activities in alignment with available resources, and focus on substance to increase the relevance and the credibility of CFS work. Many also suggested re-thinking the way

the Bureau interacted with the AG, including its function and composition, to better serve as a true *Advisory* Group. Suggestions were offered to change the format of the Plenary, to have a first day of high-level statements followed by a business day for Plenary decisions, and a more informal setting that allows for candid discussions, including on controversial issues. Other comments were made on the need to align CFS work to the strategy and objectives of the RBAs, without losing the uniqueness and independence of the Committee. The financing of CFS was also identified as a crucial issue to be addressed by all stakeholders.

Former CFS Chair Ambassador Amira Gornass conveyed her regrets for not being able to attend the meeting in person.

3. Election of the CFS Vice-Chair

The Bureau elected by acclamation Ms Valentina Savastano (Italy) as Vice-Chair of CFS.

4. Election of CFS Advisory Group

The Bureau elected the Members of its Advisory Group until March 2018, in line with the decision taken at CFS 44 (CFS 44 Final Report, paragraph 36.e). The composition remains unchanged, except for the replacement of the UN High-Level Task Force (HLTF) with the World Health Organization (WHO), whose Director-General had expressed interest to serve in full in the AG.

The composition of the AG until March 2018 is the following:

- 6 seats to UN agencies and bodies (FAO, IFAD, WFP, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, UNSCN and WHO);
- 4 seats to Civil Society Mechanism;
- 1 seat to International Agricultural Research Institutions (CGIAR);
- 1 seat to International Financial Institutions (the World Bank Group);
- 1 seat for the Private Sector Mechanism; and
- 1 seat for Philanthropic Foundations.

The Bureau agreed that, following the conclusion of the discussions concerning the implementation of recommendation 4 of the CFS Evaluation foreseen for March 2018, the Bureau will review the composition of the AG, if and as needed, for the remainder of the Bureau's term.

It was also agreed that, for each meeting with the AG between November 2017 and March 2018, the CFS Chair may invite, in line with the CFS rules of procedure, and after a silent (i.e. no objection procedure) consultation with the Bureau, ad-hoc participants to advise on specific topics and matters in light of the agenda for each AG and subsequent Bureau meetings. This "pilot" or "experimental" system will allow the Bureau to better assess and evaluate the appropriateness and quality of the contributions of both the AG Members and the ad-hoc participants, so as to consider them in the context of recommending possible changes to the AG structure after March 2018.

The Bureau appreciated the value and role of the existing mechanisms and their ability to bring different perspectives and contributions from various constituencies to all areas of CFS work, including the AG.

The Bureau reiterated that the selection of the AG should strictly depend on its *advisory* functions and the contributions expected from its Members. The discussions within the context of the follow-up to the CFS Evaluation are expected to bring clarity on this matter. The Bureau asked that ways be found to facilitate participation by those not able to physically attend meetings (e.g.; through written inputs, video conferences or conference calls).

5. Chairs/Facilitators CFS workstreams

The Chairs and Facilitators of CFS workstreams for the current biennium were agreed, on the basis of their personal capacities, after recalling the key role of the CFS Chair in supporting all workstreams. The Chair and Facilitators of CFS workstreams for the current biennium are as follows:

- Chair of the OEWG on CFS Engagement in advancing nutrition (2018-2019): Mr Khaled El Taweel (Egypt);
- Facilitator of the two events on Urbanization, rural transformation and implications for food security and nutrition (2018): H.E. Hans Hoogeveen (Netherlands);
- Facilitator of the CFS contribution to the High-Level Political Forum (2018): Mr Willem Olthof (European Union);
- Co-facilitators of the Finalization of the Plan of Action and implementation of the responses to the CFS Evaluation (2018-2019): Ms Jiani Tian (China) – The Bureau requested the CFS Chair to look into a second co-facilitator, possibly beyond the Bureau Members and preferably from a non-developing country, and agreed the follow up on the evaluation would be led through a troika of the CFS Chair and the two co-facilitators.

The Bureau agreed that the African Regional Group will present a nomination for the chairmanship of the Monitoring OEWG, which will meet once in 2018 to oversee the preparation of the global thematic event on the Voluntary Guidelines of the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security.

The Bureau further agreed on the possibility of appointing vice-chairs or facilitators for the OEWGs/workstreams, in order to foster participation, ownership and flexibility to the processes ahead.

6. Any other business

a) Translation of the HLPE Report on Nutrition

The Bureau was informed that there are no additional contributions confirmed for the translation of the HLPE Report on Nutrition and Food Systems. The CFS Chair is planning to send a letter to CFS stakeholders to raise their attention to this important matter.

b) HLPE 2019 Report

Call for Experts: the Bureau was informed that the call for experts for the preparation of the 2019 HLPE report was circulated to FAO departments, to HLPE and FSN Forum mailing list recipients, and posted on the HLPE website. The HLPE Secretariat was requested to reach out also to relevant WFP and IFAD departments.

Scope of the report: concerns were expressed that the scope prepared by the HLPE includes matters that were excluded during the negotiations that led to the scope that was ultimately approved in Plenary through the MYPoW. The HLPE Coordinator explained that changes to the scope had been decided by the HLPE Steering Committee and invited the Bureau Members to raise their concerns during the e-consultation.

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 (China); Mr Marco Vinicio Vargas Pereira, Mr Pablo Innecken (Costa Rica); Mr Khaled El-Taweel (Egypt); Mr Mitiku Tesso Jebessa, Mr Tarekegn Tsegie Haile (Ethiopia); Ms Esti Andayani (Indonesia); Ms Valentina Savastano (Italy); Mr Matthew Hooper (New Zealand); Ms Anna-Marie Moulton (South Africa); Mr Sid Ahmed Alamain (Sudan); Ms Liliane Ortega (Switzerland); Ms Emily Katkar, Ms Silvia Giovanazzi (USA).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Ms Francesca De Cristofaro (Argentina); Mr Mafizur Rahman (Bangladesh); Ms Mi Nguyen (Canada); Mr Mateo Nsogo Nguere Micue (Equatorial Guinea); Mr Oliver Mellenthin (Germany); Ms Fadia Al Jamal (Oman); Ms Diana Calderón Valle (Peru);

Observers:

Ms Lourdes Magana de Larriva (EU Delegation); Mr Abdul Ayazi (Afghanistan); Ms Julia Vicioso, Ms Liudmila Kuzmicheva, Ms María Laureano, Mr Paul Besana (Dominican Republic); Mr Jon Erlingur Jónasson (Iceland);

CFS Secretariat:

Ms Deborah Fulton (Secretary); Mr Nathanael Pingault; Ms Cordelia Salter; 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.