

CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meeting

And Bureau meeting

Dates: 29 and 30 July 2020 (14:00 - 17:00 and 09:30 – 12:30)

Venue: virtual meeting (via ZOOM)

Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting Outcomes - With Bureau decisions

Agenda

1. CFS Negotiations in 2020 (with Bureau decision)
2. CFS Special Event in October
3. CFS OEWG on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
 - a. Proposed Planning of Activities (with Bureau decision)
 - b. Appointment of OEWG Chair – *Bureau only*
4. Analysis of the contributions received to inform the Global Thematic Event on the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA) at CFS 47
5. IFAD database on CFS recommendations
6. CFS Budget and Resource Mobilization Update
7. Workstream Updates
8. Any other business

CFS Chairperson, Mr Thanawat Tiensin, opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. He thanked everybody for their participation in the CFS meeting on COVID-19, food safety and workers' health held on 21 July 2020; and he informed that, after consulting with the CFS Bureau, he had invited to the meeting Martin Frick, the Deputy Coordinator for the Food Systems Summit; Ruth Richardson, Executive Director of the Global Alliance for the Future of Food (an organization representing 27 global foundations); and the World Farmers' Organization.

Before the agenda was adopted, UNSCN and CSM asked to make two announcements under AOB. Last, the Chair informed that the meeting was recorded by the Secretariat for the purpose of drafting this Outcome document.

1. CFS Negotiations in 2020 (with Bureau decision)

CFS Chair recalled the discussion at the 23-24 June meetings of the CFS Bureau, and highlighted the persistent limitations to hold physical negotiations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Given the inability to convene in-person meetings, even with a reduced number of participants, the Chair recommended a "phased approach" as the only viable option, implying that the negotiations of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition would start as "virtual negotiations," and adapt to the circumstances as they progress.

Last, he informed that the dates previously indicated for the start of the negotiations (21-25 September) were problematic, as those dates will be used for FAO's Regional Conference for the Near East and North Africa. Instead, together with the FAO Conference, Council and Protocol Affairs Division, the week 7-11 September was identified as the only other full week of negotiations available in September. Some questions were raised on the modalities of the virtual negotiations.

CFS Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group members highlighted virtual negotiations will allow global participation, although that would be balanced by the risk of digital exclusion, particularly for delegates in remote areas with low internet connectivity. Thus, the CFS Secretariat was asked to explore possible contingency plans for communication continuity, should any negotiator be unable to connect. CFS Secretary confirmed that any Friends of the Chair would be open to all constituencies, with details to be provided by the OEWG Chair at the start of negotiations.

The CFS Secretariat clarified that the Draft for Negotiations that was circulated in March is the basis that will be used during the negotiations, and that the matrix produced in July is just an informal tool for CFS stakeholders to analyze different positions on the table concerning the various paragraphs of the document.

Members also requested to know in advance the schedule of the negotiations and what sections of the document will be negotiated in each session.

In order to allow greater participation, some members requested that the time of the negotiations be adjusted to take into account the different time zones, and perhaps negotiations be held only in the afternoons.

France asked to reconsider the week of 21-25 September for the negotiations as the FAO NERC Regional Conference will only last three days and the G20 Agricultural meeting will be held 10-12 September. Modalities for hybrid negotiations were not discussed as this option is not foreseeable in the near future.

Bureau decision:

CFS Bureau welcomed the proposal made by the Chair and agreed that negotiations on the VGFSyN commence on 7-11 September, in light of difficulties locating alternative time slots on the RBA calendar. CFS Bureau agreed that negotiations will be held from Monday to Friday from 9:30 to 12:30 and from 15:00 to 18:00 every day.

Members requested the Secretariat to continue liaising with FAO's Conference Service Division to locate a second week for negotiations on the VGFSyN as well as time slots for negotiations on the Policy Recommendations for Agroecological and other innovative approaches, including perhaps 24-25 September.

Regarding the modalities and arrangements for virtual negotiations, Members welcomed the Secretariat document outlining how virtual negotiations will be managed, in line with past CFS processes and standard UN negotiation practices, and requested that those modalities and arrangements be re-assessed, and eventually revised as necessary, at the CFS Bureau meeting of 18 September 2020.

2. CFS Special Event in October

CFS Chair recalled previous discussions and decisions of the CFS Bureau, and most recently the discussion at the FAO Council, with the decision to postpone CFS47 until 8-12 February 2021; and in lieu holding a virtual, high-level CFS Special Event from 13 to 15 October 2020.

CFS Secretary provided an oral briefing on the preparation for the CFS Special Event in October, and presented a provisional roll-out of the Special Event which takes into consideration all the proposals and suggestions on format, speakers, and other ideas for this event that were submitted by the Bureau and its (ad hoc) Advisory Group members. The provisional roll-out was also shared at the beginning of the meeting.

The provisional roll-out was well received and CFS Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group members commended the Secretariat for the work done in developing a very rich three-day programme. However, some members requested more time to digest the proposal and possibly provide some comments, as the document containing the provisional roll-out was distributed only at the start of the meeting.

During the discussion, CFS Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group members offered their reaction and feedback on the programme:

- Acknowledge International Day of Rural Women on 15 October;
- Consider including the AU Agricultural Commissioner and the EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development to one of the Ministerial roundtables;
- Use moderators to facilitate discussions and debates;
- Consider a senior FAO speaker for Day Two, and make use of the work on COVID-19 already done by CFS;
- Ensure gender, regional balance and include food producers ;
- Listen to regional and country experiences;
- Limit the number of speakers in any panel to allow sufficient time for interaction;
- Include a lessons sharing session on best practices in use and application of CFS products for promoting more sustainable food systems.

About side-events, the CFS Secretary described details of the side-event process including the rational for a 14 august deadline for applications.

Bureau discussion:

The CFS Bureau welcomed the Secretariat’s briefing on plans for the 13-15 October Special Event, and appreciated the efforts made to solicit inputs from all CFS Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group members, and to incorporate many of their ideas and suggestions into the event’s run-of-show.

The CFS Bureau requested regular updates on the preparation of the Special Event by the Secretariat. CFS Secretary confirmed that the deadline for side-events submission is August 14, to allow sufficient time to absorb side-events, announce them, and give organizers time to prepare them. He informed that the form for side-events submissions is available on the CFS website.

3. CFS OEWG on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment - GEWE

a. Proposed Planning of Activities (with Bureau decision)

b. Appointment of OEWG Chair – Bureau only

The CFS Chair informed that HE Amb Josephine Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso) and Ms Satu Lassila (Finland) submitted their nomination as co-chairs of the GEWE OEWG.

The CFS Secretariat informed that implementation of the activities indicated in the planning for the next major CFS workstream has started, in line with the MYPoW 2020-2023, including the appointment of the members of the Technical Task Team who are ready to contribute their technical expertise to this policy convergence process. The list of the TTT members was shared for information.

CFS Secretariat highlighted a change in the activity plan of this workstream, with the preparation of the Terms of Reference for the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment brought forward, the first meeting of the GEWE OEWG planned for October 2020, and the TORs submitted for approval at CFS47 in February 2021.

Bureau decision:

The CFS Bureau appointed Amb Josephine Ouedraogo, Perm Rep of Burkina Faso to FAO, IFAD and WFP, and Ms Satu Lassila Perm Rep of Finland to FAO, IFAD and WFP, as co-chairs of the GEWE OEWG.

The CFS Bureau took note of the names of experts nominated by (ad hoc) Advisory Group members proposed to serve on a Technical Task Team; and took note of the plan for TORs to be prepared before December 2020, in time for their adoption at CFS47.

4. Analysis of the contributions received to inform the Global Thematic Event on the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA) at CFS 47

The CFS Secretary presented the report analyzing the contributions received to document all experiences and good practices in using the CFS-FFA. The report, prepared with the active support of the TTT, will be made available to the delegates at CFS47 as background document for the Global Thematic Event (GTE). More than 50 contributions were received. They underline the relevance and complementarity of the 11 principles of the CFS-FFA; these principles provide valuable guidance to tackle food insecurity and malnutrition in protracted crisis; adapt to specific challenges; and address underlying causes. The contributions stress the importance of developing coordination mechanisms and partnerships to build synergies between short-term humanitarian assistance and longer-term development approaches, in accordance with the humanitarian – development – peace nexus. It was highlighted that the CFS-FFA was mentioned in April 2020 by the UNSC President (Dominican Republic) on the second anniversary of the unanimous adoption of UNSCR 2417 (2018). CFS Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group members expressed their appreciation for the report and the good work of the Secretariat.

Bureau discussion:

The CFS Bureau took note of the report prepared by the CFS secretariat, noting it would be considered as a non-decisional information document for CFS47.

5. IFAD database on CFS recommendations

The CFS Chair informed of the positive meeting with President Hounbo of IFAD, where the President restated full support to CFS and its mandate.

As a very concrete sign of this support, IFAD presented a database which they developed to simplify researching and promoting greater use of CFS policy recommendations for IFAD staff, clients, and all CFS stakeholders. The database will be particularly useful to systematically inform the dialogue between IFAD and its borrowers. The online database is very simple to use and users friendly.

IFAD presented the prototype, which is ready for roll out, after this meeting and any feedback they receive. The database will be available on the CFS website.

Several Bureau members congratulated IFAD for this initiative, its commitment to CFS and this very concrete contribution to disseminate the work of CFS.

6. CFS Budget and Resource Mobilization Update

The CFS Secretary provided an oral briefing on the budget and the implementation of the Resource Mobilization Strategy, informing the CFS Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group members of the outreach calls organized by the CFS Chair with key potential resource partners.

In his presentation, the CFS Secretary highlighted that some costs have necessarily changed compared to the previous presentation because of COVID-19, and, for example, most of plenary costs will be pushed to next year, although the Special Event in October will absorb some other costs.

In concluding, the CFS Secretary noted that the only big unknown was how to fill the funding gap for the gender workstream, but was happy to announce that a donor had verbally pledged a significant contribution to cover a portion of the GEWE workstream.

On their part, IFAD confirmed that their management is fully supportive of CFS, and while the President can only sign up grants up to USD 500,000, they intend supplement that cash contribution with other in-kind contributions and/or administrative funds. In addition, IFAD is exploring the possibility of signing a multi-year large grant which matches the contribution which is expected from IFAD.

The briefing document containing the budget update, which was presented by the CFS Secretary, is attached to this document (Annex 1).

7. Workstream Updates

A document was provided as background paper to update the CFS Bureau and its (ad hoc) Advisory Group of all activities carried out since the last CFS Bureau meeting took place in June.

8. Any other business

UNSCN Coordinator informed of the rationale for the merger of UNSCN and UN Network for SUN, which was just announced earlier in the week. She highlighted that UN Nutrition, the new entity, will remain accountable to ECOSOC and its TORs will remain aligned with the mandate of UNSCN since 1997.

CSM announced an event on 12 October 2020 to celebrate the 10 year anniversary since the establishment of the mechanism.

USA welcomed the webinar organized with the Global Food Security Cluster earlier in the week for promoting the uptake and implementation of the VGs on Food Systems and Nutrition, after their adoption. USA suggested that notifications of such events be shared with the Bureau in advance. Furthermore, the CFS Secretary explained that the event was directed at UN staff and was part of CFS Secretariat outreach strategy to promote uptake of CFS products.

CFS Secretary thanked co-speaker Stineke Oenema (UNSCN Coordinator) and underscored the importance of FAO's nutrition strategy include support for implementation of the CFS VGFSyN.

CFS Bureau and its (ad hoc) Advisory Group bid farewell to Fernando Ceciliano (Costa Rica) who will soon leave Rome. Costa Rica Deputy Perm Rep will take over CFS responsibilities.

Annex 1: Budget update

INCOME	2020 Forecast USD	2020 Actual USD	2021 Forecast USD
Regular Programme:			
- FAO	675,000	675,000	675,000
- IFAD	675,000	-	675,000
- WFP	675,000	-	675,000
TOTAL Regular Programme	2,025,000	675,000	2,025,000
Trust Funds:			
Germany (2019-2020)	260,682	260,683	208,049*
EU (2019-2022)	208,049	208,049	
MUL (2019-2023)			
- Switzerland	175,066	176,411	
- United Arab Emirates		66,000	
- France	55,006	55,006	
- Others *		300,000	
TOTAL Trust Funds:	698,803	1,066,149	
TOTAL INCOME	2,723,803	1,741,149	2,233,049
EXPENDITURES	2020 Forecast	2020 Actual	2021 Forecast USD
STAFF	1,700,000	597,637	1,700,000
OUTREACH – CHAIR AND STAFF	55,000	9,825.86	40,000
<i>PLENARY (and other events):</i>			
<i>Communication and reporting</i>	108,000	1,077.06	108,000
<i>General Operating Expenses</i>	100,000	2,351.54	100,000
<i>Interpretation</i>	115,000	-	115,000
<i>Translation/printing</i>	122,000	15,156.25	122,000
<i>Travel: Panellists and speakers</i>	50,000	1,517.86	50,000
TOTAL PLENARY	495,000	20,103	495,000
<i>WORKSTREAMS:</i>			
<i>Agroecology - follow-up</i>	100,000	15,795	0
<i>MYPOW</i>	0		0
<i>Nutrition</i>	246,590	44,357.12	0
<i>SDGs/HLPF</i>	0		0
<i>Monitoring and Uptake</i>	50,000		100,000
<i>Urbanization and Rural Transformation</i>	0	89	0
<i>Gender Equality</i>	0	0	700,000
<i>Water/Climate</i>	5,000	0	0
TOTAL WORKSTREAMS	401,590	60,241	800,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2,651,590	687,807	3,035,000
BALANCE AVAILABLE		1,053,342	

* EU Funding is divided over 4 years, roughly USD 208,049 per year

Annex 2: Attendance list Bureau and Advisory Group meeting

CFS Bureau Members:

Mr Thanawat Tiensin (CFS Chair / Thailand); Mr Felipe Carlos Antunes (Brazil); Ms Liudmila Kusmicheva, Ms Diana Infante (Dominican Republic); Ms Delphine Babin-Pellier, Mr Philippe Vaast (France); Mr Bommakanti Rajender (India); Ms Agnes Rosari, Mr Caka Awal (Indonesia); Mr Ilya Andreev (Russian Federation); Mr Sean Cox, Mr Paul Welcher (United States).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Mr Guillermo Spika (Argentina); Mr Federico Zamora, Mr Fernando Ceciliano, Mr Amarilli Vilegas (Costa Rica); Mr Mohammad Hossein Emadi (Iran); Mr Baye Mayoro Diop (Senegal); Mr Rafael Osorio (Spain); Mr Tim Kränzlein (Switzerland).

Advisory Group:

Mr Mark McGuire, Ms Serena Pepino (FAO); Ms Stephanie Hochstetter, Mr Edouard Nizeyimana, Mr Jacopo Valentini (WFP); Mr Shantanu Mathur, Mr Krzysztof Gotebiowski, Mr Lleir Borrás, Ms Giordana Blankman, Mr Sundeep Vaid (IFAD); Mr Rodney Cooke (CGIAR); Ms Stineke Oenema, Alessandra Mora (UNSCN); Mr Fabrizio Moscatelli (Gates Foundation); Mr Martin Wolpold-Bosien, Mr Luca Bianchi, Ms Nadia Lambek, Ms Nora MsKeon, Ms Azra Sayeed, Mr Saul Vincente, Mr Andre Luzzi (CSM); Mr Brian Baldwin (PSM); Ms Astrid Jakobs de Padua (World Bank); Ms Marzella Wustefeld (WHO).

Observers:

Ms Silke Stralkamp (Germany); Ms Federica Veschi, Ms Supajit Sriariyawat (Thailand); Mr Martin Frick (Food Systems Summit Secretariat); Ms Ruth Richardson (Global Alliance Future of Food); Ms Giulia De Castro, Ms Luisa Volpe (WFO).

CFS Secretariat:

Mr Chris Hegadorn (Secretary), Mr Evariste Nicoletis (HLPE Coordinator), Ms Paola Termine, Ms Françoise Trine, Ms Giorgia Paratore, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Mr Waiganjo Njoroge, Ms Sylvia Orebi, Ms Tatiana Moruz.

Annex 3: Attendance list Bureau meeting

CFS Bureau Members:

Mr Thanawat Tiensin (CFS Chair / Thailand); Mr Felipe Carlos Antunes (Brazil); Ms Patricia Rodriguez, Ms Diana Infante, Ms Julia Vicioso, Ms Maria Laureano, Ms Liudmila Kuzmicheva (Dominican Republic); Ms Delphine Babin-Pelliard (France); Mr Rommakanti Rajender (India); Mr Caka Awal, Ms Agnes Rosari (Indonesia); Mr Ilya Andreev (Russian Federation); Mr Sean Cox, Mr Paul Welcher (United States).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Mr Guillermo Spika (Argentina); Mr Fernando Ceciliano, Ms Amarili Villegas (Costa Rica); Mr Mohammad Hossein Emadi, Ms Anne (Iran); Ms Hyo Joo Kang (RoKorea); Mr Rafael Osorio (Spain); Mr Tim Kränzlein (Switzerland).

Observers:

Ms Josephine Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso); Ms Federica Veschi, Ms Supajit Sriariyawat, Ms Ratchanok (Thailand); Mr Damien Kelly (EU Delegation); Mr Hans Hoogeveen (Netherlands); Ms Silke Stalkamp (Germany).

CFS Secretariat:

Mr Chris Hegadorn (Secretary), Mr Evariste Nicoletis (HLPE Coordinator), Ms Françoise Trine, Ms Giorgia Paratore, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Mr Waiganjo Njoroge, Ms Sylvia Orebi, Ms Tatiana Moruz.