



Workstreams and Activities Updates

*****These updates cover the period from the 17 April 2020 Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting*****

Food Systems and Nutrition

The CFS Bureau, in consultation with the Advisory Group, decided on 17 April to delay commencement of text negotiations of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems for Nutrition (VGFSyN), originally scheduled to take place from May 11-15, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting restrictions on movement, FAO's closure, etc.

In the meantime, CFS stakeholders were given the opportunity to submit specific text proposals to the latest version of the VGFSyN by 11 May in tracked change format, and will be discussing these proposals during OEWG meetings scheduled for 28/29 May.

A paper with options for commencing negotiations will be discussed by the Bureau and Advisory Group at their joint meeting on 2 June.

Background documents and all relevant information regarding the VGFSyN process are located on the CFS website's "Working Space":

<http://www.fao.org/cfs/workingspace/workstreams/nutrition-workstream/en/>

Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches

During a 17 April 2020 Bureau and Advisory Group meeting, it was agreed that a series of informal consultations on the CFS policy recommendations on agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable food systems that enhance food security and nutrition will be held during May and early June 2020, ahead of yet-unscheduled negotiations on a draft text. The purpose of such informal discussions, chaired by the process rapporteur, is to address the outstanding issues emerging from stakeholders' comments on the Zero Draft, to inform the development of a First Draft and to help prepare the groundwork for eventual negotiations. The consultations will address COVID-19 considerations relevant to this policy process.

The first informal group discussion was held on 7 May 2020 focusing on a "problem statement," and four additional informal discussions are scheduled to be held weekly until 11 June 2020.



The First Draft of the CFS policy recommendations on agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable food systems that enhance food security and nutrition will be shared with CFS stakeholders on 25 June 2020 and language versions will be available by 10 July 2020. CFS stakeholders are encouraged to participate in the informal group discussions.

Global Thematic Event at CFS 47 in October 2020 on the Use and Application of the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crisis (FFA)

Two open calls for inputs on the “CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises” (CFS-FFA) closed on 30 April 2020, following the decision to extend the submission deadline by one month to give CFS stakeholders more time to submit their contributions. The inputs received will inform preparations for the CFS-47 FFA plenary session.

A total of 71 contributions were received but only 53 are valid, as 28 contributions were either incomplete or submitted multiple times. Forty-seven (47) of the 53 contributions document experiences in the use and application of the Framework, while 6 contributions document the results of multistakeholder events organized at national, regional and global levels to discuss experiences with FFA.

Most contributions were submitted by civil society and NGOs (18), followed by governments (12), academia (7), UN organizations (5), and the private sector (5).

Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition

An update on planning for this workstream was prepared for the 13 May Bureau and Advisory Group meeting (BurAG/2020/05/13/02). As noted, the Secretariat will soon initiate the process for nominations for the appointment of a Chair of an OEWG, and for the constitution of a Technical Task Team.

The workstream will officially start after CFS 47 with the objective of developing *Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in the context of Food Systems and Nutrition* that will be submitted to CFS 49 in October 2022.

Chairperson’s Outreach Activities

- The CFS Chairperson convened two meetings to discuss implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on food security and nutrition in line with CFS’s mandate.



- After these meetings, he issued a statement and an OpEd to raise awareness on the issue and call for collective and coordinated action to scale up responses that are proving to be successful.
- CFS Chair and Secretary participated in the first virtual “Gazebo” event organized by WFP to raise awareness about the CFS and its draft Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition. Over 550 WFP staff participated in the event, which included WFP’s Nutrition Division leadership and senior field office staff, moderated by Stephanie Hochstetter.
- CFS Chair was interviewed by Bloomberg Business about the work CFS is doing on the topic of COVID-19’s impacts on global food security and nutrition.