

**CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meeting**

**And Bureau meeting**

**Dates: 08 September (14:00 – 17:00) and 10 September 2021 (9:30 - 12:30)**

**Venue: virtual meetings (via ZOOM)**

**Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting Outcomes  
- With Bureau decisions**

**Agenda**

1. Short brief by Ms Shakuntala Thilsted
2. Update on UNFSS
3. Planning for CFS 49 (with Bureau decision)
4. Policy convergence process on youth: work-plan and selection of a Rapporteur (with Bureau decision)
5. Work-streams and budget updates
6. Selection of a co-Chair for the GEWE OEWG (with Bureau decision)
7. Any Other Business

On 8 September 2021, CFS Vice-Chairperson, Mr Don Syme, opened the meeting and welcomed Members, Participants and invited guests, informing that he would chair the meeting on behalf of Mr Tiensin, who was chairing a meeting of the Global Soil Partnership. Mr Tiensin chaired the Bureau meeting of 10 September 2021.

The CFS Vice-Chairperson presented the agenda and informed that under AOB he would like to suggest inviting the two CFS Chair candidates to the extraordinary Bureau meeting of 29 September 2021.

Before starting the meeting, the CFS Vice-Chairperson informed participants that the meeting would be recorded for internal use by the CFS Secretariat.

**1. Short brief by Ms Shakuntala Thilsted**

Responding to the Chair's request, Ms Shakuntala Thilsted, member of the HLPE Steering Committee, Global Lead for Nutrition and Public Health at WorldFish (a CGIAR centre), and World Food Prize award-winner 2021 briefed the Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group on her work and on her role in support of the UNFSS.

In her remarks, she highlighted the work done by the HLPE and the CFS, especially in the dimensions of food, land and water systems transformation. In her words, "the HLPE and CFS have put together strong guidelines, frameworks and action plans built upon sound scientific evidence and foresight. These must not be overlooked and must be built upon". These views she brought to Action Track 4 of the UNFSS – which she is vice-chairing – and to the group of Champions of the UN Food Systems Summit.

She concluded saying that "the CFS and the HLPE are in a strong position to bridge the outcomes from the UNFSS 2021 towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and be the leading voice for holistic food systems transformation on land and in water".

IFAD congratulated Ms Thilsted on the World Food Prize and expressed full support for the role of aquatic foods for achieving nutritious healthy and sustainable diets.

## 2. Update on UNFSS

CFS-HLPE Chairperson, Mr Martin Cole, briefed the Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group members on his 18 August call with the UNFSS Special Envoy and the Chair of the UNFSS Scientific Group.

He shared the disappointment and frustration of the HLPE over the way CFS and HLPE had been side-lined throughout the process of preparation for the UNFSS, including by not using the HLPE's report on "Food security and nutrition: building a global narrative towards 2030".

Mr Cole also shared disappointment for the fact that the recent meeting with the UN Special Envoy and the Chair of the Scientific Group confirmed that the UN Deputy Secretary General (UN DSG) was thinking of yet "another structure" of science-policy interface of which HLPE would be but a small part.

CFS Secretary informed that there are ideas for improving the science-policy interface.

UNFSS Deputy Special Envoy, Mr Martin Frick, noted that the UNFSS will not be the endpoint of these discussions, and highlighted that the greatest value-addition and comparative advantage of CFS and HLPE is their system's approach to issues of food security and nutrition.

Mr Michael Fakhri circulated his latest policy brief, which did not call for strengthening CFS, as there was no need for doing so, but for increasing active and large participation of stakeholders.

PSM reminded that a registry of all proposed 'coalitions' was available online, and that PSM was supporting one on soil health.

France reiterated its support for a central role for the CFS and HLPE in the Summit follow-up process, and enquired about the possibility for CFS to send inputs for the UN Secretary General's Statement of Action.

With reference to the strengthening of the HLPE, France suggested, among other things, increasing the number of members of the Steering Committee and supporting the HLPE with more regular financial resources.

Brazil asked CFS to keep its focus on food security and nutrition, versus food systems, and stated that the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), as the instance responsible for assessing the achievement of the SDGs, was the appropriate forum for the follow-up of the outcomes of the Food Systems Summit.

Dominican Republic underlined, as also mentioned by other CFS Bureau and ad hoc AG members, that no new structures were necessary, that the CFS should be the ultimate space for further discussions on post-summit action, and that the CFS should be involved in discussions on follow-up actions by the RBAs.

Argentina said that there was no need to enlarge the CFS, but that all stakeholders needed to make CFS products better known and used.

CSM requested that a meeting of the Bureau and its (ad hoc) Advisory Group be organized before the extraordinary Bureau meeting scheduled for 29 September 2021.

## 3. Planning for CFS 49

CFS Secretary provided a brief update on planning for CFS 49. He informed participants that, for the high-level opening session on Monday 11 October, the UNSG agreed on sending a pre-recorded video-statement, the RBA heads confirmed their participation, and Professor J. Sachs accepted to be keynote speaker.

With regard to the special event, CFS Secretary informed that IFAD will take the lead in organizing the first part of the special event, celebrating the International Day of Rural Women. For the second part, the CFS Secretariat has invited the Executive Director of UNEP, and the Executive Secretaries of the three Rio Conventions to discuss the issues of land, soil, water and climate, and possible linkages with the CFS.

In response to questions from the CSM, CFS Secretary confirmed that an updated version of the HLPE Issue Paper on COVID-19 will be part of the background documents for the Plenary, and Mr Martin Cole would include references to the paper in his remarks.

With regard to the modalities of CFS 49 and the modalities for the election of the CFS Chair, the Dominican Republic spoke in favor of a hybrid format with a minimum participation of 24 CFS Bureau Members and encouraged continued efforts to expand the participation of countries and key stakeholders (panelists, etc.).

FAO informed of its decision to host CFS 49 virtually, with only Bureau members and alternates allowed to participate in person in FAO headquarters. As host organisation, FAO also informed that it will support the virtual Plenary and the election process for the CFS Chair.

France highlighted that the absence of in-person meetings is leading to duplication of meetings and overlapping, furthermore with short deadlines for information and preparations. France also pointed that allowing the physical presence of only 24 Bureau members and alternates for CFS 49 would not be sufficient, and reiterated the request to have more face-to-face meetings, as it happens in other UN capitals. FAO reminded the responsibility of the FAO DG to ensure a “duty-of-care” to all participants of a meeting, and a need to consider equal access of all Members to a meeting. FAO representative also highlighted that the experience of the Pre-Summit event was not replicable given the current epidemiological situation and the fact that, for holding the pre-Summit in hybrid format, the Italian national government provided massive support and resources.

#### **Bureau decision:**

CFS Bureau decided that CFS 49 will be organized fully virtually for all participants. With regard to the election, Bureau decided that the voting will be held in person in Rome at FAO headquarters. However, the Bureau also requested the CFS Secretariat to enquire with FAO whether a proxy vote would be possible for Members who do not have a delegation in Rome, in line with the approach to the recent ICC election, and to engage with the CFS Members not present in Rome to better understand their intentions concerning participation in the election. Last, CFS Bureau requested that upcoming negotiations of CFS policies and guidelines be held in person.

#### **4. Policy convergence process on youth: work-plan and selection of a Rapporteur (with Bureau decision)**

The CFS Vice-Chairperson opened the agenda item recalling that, as per the CFS 2020-2023 Multi-Year Programme of Work, one of the major activities for CFS in the 2021-2022 intersessional period was to guide a policy convergence process to develop policy recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems on the basis of the recently released HLPE report. The resulting recommendations will be negotiated next year and presented for adoption at CFS 50 in October 2022.

The CFS Vice-Chairperson also recalled that the Bureau is expected to nominate a Rapporteur. A draft work-plan was presented by the Secretariat who highlighted how the document incorporates lessons learned from previous policy convergence processes with the overall objective of producing a meaningful outcome through an efficient and inclusive process. The draft was well received. The Secretariat took note of the comments around the need to prioritize inclusiveness by taking into consideration time zones and translation requirements.

### **Bureau decision:**

Bureau members welcomed the interest of Switzerland of submitting a nomination for the Rapporteur of the policy convergence process, noting that an official confirmation by capital is required.

The Bureau approved the draft workplan highlighting the importance of allocating adequate time for the negotiations.

#### 5. Workstreams and budget updates

Bureau members were informed that IFAD's contribution to the CFS for 2021 was coming very late in the year, close to the end of the biennium, and would only amount to USD 500,000. Switzerland requested that a note be inserted in these Bureau outcomes highlighting that the CFS Chair requested the IFAD members to raise the importance of timely contributions to the annual budget of CFS, and to the level specified in a 2014 exchange of letters among the three agency heads.

#### 6. Selection of a co-Chair for the GEWE OEWG (with Bureau decision)

CFS Vice-Chairperson informed that H.E. Tomas Duncan Jurado, Permanent Representative of Panama to FAO, IFAD and WFP, has expressed interest in co-chairing the GEWE consultation process.

In his statement of purpose, Mr Duncan committed to carry out an inclusive and transparent process of consultation and convergence, and to submit VGs on GEWE in Oct 2022 for endorsement.

With regard to the upcoming regional consultations, CFS Secretariat informed that the registration for the regional consultation for Latin America and the Caribbean (scheduled for 21-22 September) will soon be open. The consultation will feature a keynote from a high-level participant from LAC region.

With regard to all forthcoming regional consultations on GEWE, CFS Secretariat kindly invited Bureau members to liaise with their respective Governments to register to the consultation.

### **Bureau decision:**

CFS Bureau members confirmed the nomination of H.E. Tomas Duncan Jurado, Permanent Representative of Panama to FAO, IFAD and WFP, as co-Chair of the GEWE OEWG.

#### 7. AOB

CFS Vice-Chairperson informed that so far two nominations have been received for the role of CFS Chair, and reminded that nominations can be received until 10 September. He also confirmed that the election will be held on 14 October 2021, during the last day of CFS 49, and the CVs of the candidates and a letter of support from their respective National Governments will be shared this week, as part of the official documents for CFS 49.

CFS Vice-Chairperson also informed of a suggestion, made by the CFS Chair, of inviting all candidates to share a written statement of purpose and to present themselves and their vision and goals - if elected.

At the 29 September extra-ordinary Bureau meeting, Bureau agreed with suggestion and asked the CFS Chair to invite the candidates for an exchange during the extraordinary Bureau meeting of 29 September 2021. Bureau also agreed that this portion of the meeting will be open to all CFS Members, (ad hoc) Advisory Group members, and observers.

The HLPE Coordinator informed that the Bureau's decision taken on 22 May on the composition of the HLPE Steering Committee had been confirmed without any objection.

## Annex 1: List of attendees of the joint Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting

### CFS Bureau Members:

Mr Don Syme (Vice-Chair/New Zealand); Mr Guillermo Spika (Argentina); Mr Felipe Carlos Antunes (Brazil); Ms Delphine Babin-Pellier (France); Ms Agnes Rosari (Indonesia); Ms Traore Halimatou Kone (Mali); Mr Andrian McAdams, Ms Maddie D’Arcangelo (United States).

### CFS Bureau Alternates:

Ms Elsa Simoes (Cabo Verde); Mr Maarten de Goot (Canada); Ms Liudmila Kuzmicheva, Ms Diana Infante (Dominican Republic); Mr Baye Mayoro Diop, Ms Marie Bassene (Senegal); Mr Moises Morera, Ms Elias Guia (Spain); Mr Tim Kranzlein (Switzerland).

### Advisory Group:

Mr Maximo Torero Cullen, Mr Mark McGuire, Mr Peter Wobst (FAO), Mr Shantanu Mathur, Ms Ruth Fianu (IFAD); Mr David Kaatrud, Mr Dom Scalpelli, Mr Jacopo Valentini (WFP); Ms Stineke Oenema, Ms Alessandra Mora (UNSCN); Ms Chiara Villani, Mr Rodney Cooke (CGIAR); Mr Michael Fakhri, Ms Paola De Meo (UN Special Rapporteur RtF); Mr Fabrizio Moscatelli (Gates Foundation); Mr Martin Wolpold-Bosien, Ms Nora McKeon, Ms Nettie Wiebe, Ms Cristina Brovia, Mr Luca Bianchi, Mr Tyler Short, Mr Andre Luzzi, Ms Teresa Maisano (CSM); Mr Brian Baldwin (PSM); Ms Giulia De Castro, Ms Luisa Volpe (WFO); Ms Luz De-Regil (WHO).

### Observers:

Mr Damien Kelly (EU delegation); Ms Silke Stralkamp (Germany); Mr Thomas Duncan (Panama); Ms Tanja Gren (Finland); Mr Martin Cole; Mr Jose Maria Sumpsi; Ms Maria Kadlecikova; Mr William Moseley; Ms Jennifer Clapp; Ms Shakuntala Thilsted; Mr Kamel Shideed; Mr Li Xiande; Mr Mahmoud Solh; Mr Martin Frick; Ms Ophelie Hemonin; Ms Bancy Mati; Mr Daniel Sarpong; Ms Lina Mahy.

### CFS Secretariat:

Mr Chris Hegadorn (Secretary), Ms Françoise Trine, Ms Giorgia Paratore, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Ms Elise Benoit, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Mr Waiganjo Njoroge, Ms Sylvia Orebi, Ms Tatiana Moruz, Mr Martin Schunk, Ms Marina Calvino.

## Annex 2: Attendance list Bureau meeting

### CFS Bureau Members:

Mr Thanawat Tiensin (CFS Chair / Thailand); Mr Guillermo Spika (Argentina); Mr Felipe Carlos Antunes (Brazil); Ms Delphine Babin-Pellier (France); Mr Bommakanti Rajender (India); Ms Agnes Rosari (Indonesia); Mr Don Syme (New Zealand); Mr Sean Cox, Mr Andrian McAdams (United States).

### CFS Bureau Alternates:

Ms Elsa Simoes (Cabo Verde); Mr Maarten de Goot (Canada); Ms Diana Infante, Ms Liudmila Kuzmicheva (Dominican Republic); Mr Baye Mayoro Diop, Ms Marie Bassene (Senegal); Elias Guia (Spain); Mr Tim Kranzlein, Ms Xenia Klaus (Switzerland).

### Observers:

Mr Damien Kelly (EU Delegation); Ms Silke Stralkamp (Germany); Ms Federica Veschi, Ms Supajit Sriariyawat, Ms Ratchanok (Thailand).

### CFS Secretariat:

Ms Elise Benoit, 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, Mr Martin Schunk, Ms Marina Calvino.