

CFS Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group meeting and CFS Bureau meeting

Dates: 26 and 27 September 2022

Time: 14:00 - 17:00

Virtual/Hybrid meetings (Zoom Platform + King Faisal Room)

Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting Outcomes - With Bureau Decisions

Agenda

1. CFS 50 Draft Decisions and Conclusions:

- a. Coordinating policy responses to the Global Food Crisis: SOFI 2022 (draft conclusions)
- b. GEWGE Voluntary Guidelines (draft conclusions)
- c. Theme of the 2024 HLPE Report with draft decisions
- d. MYPoW Update of the Rolling Section with draft decision

2. Planning for CFS 50

3. CFS 2022-23 Workplans

- a. Draft MYPoW Workplan
- b. Draft Data Workplan

4. Data Collection and Analysis Tools workstream – Nomination of Rapporteur (Bureau only)

5. CFS Foundations Informal Mechanism

6. Advisory Group Reporting Exercise

7. Workstream Updates

8. AOB

The CFS Chairperson, Ambassador Gabriel Ferrero y de Loma – Osorio, opened the meeting with a read out of key outreach activities that he conducted in September.

From 5 to 9 September, CFS Chair was in Kigali (Rwanda) for the AGRF Forum, where he participated, as speaker, at the opening session where he had very enriching bilaterals with around 10 African Ministers as well as with the AU Commissioner, Josefa Sacko, focused on how the CFS can be more responsive to Africa and more supportive of African countries and the AU. He underlined the commitment of African ministers to their National Pathways.

Last week, he reported that he was in New York for UNGA, where he represented CFS at several events. Food security and nutrition, as well as the global crisis, were at the top of the political agenda. Most importantly, he participated at the Global Summit on the Global Food Crisis, co-

convened by the AU, the EU, USA and Spain, at Head of State/Head of Government level. His key takeaway from this meeting was that there is consensus around the need of UN Members and institutions to act together with a shared plan. He noted with satisfaction that this message was coincident with the CFS-PGA joint meeting on 18 July, and that the “motto” of that meeting - “Time to act together” - was the core message at UNGA. He also highlighted the words of President Macky Sall of the AU who said that “all the initiatives are welcome, but we need a Common Framework for Action”; and those of President Sanchez, of Spain, who called for support for multilateral solutions, and alignment of initiatives, and said that “the CFS must play an essential role, with a reinforced mandate”.

The provisional agenda was adopted, and the CFS Chairperson informed that the meeting would be recorded, per usual practice, for the Secretariat’s note-taking purposes.

1. CFS 50 Draft Decisions and Conclusions:

a. Coordinating policy responses to the Global Food Crisis: SOFI 2022 (draft conclusions)

CFS Chair briefly presented the document “Coordinating policy responses to the Global Food Crisis: SOFI 2022 (draft conclusions)”, highlighting the importance of this document, as well as the other draft decisions and conclusions, as they are both the result of the efforts of the CFS Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group members for preparing for CFS 50; and they will form the basis of the CFS 50 Final Report of the session.

Advisory Group members welcomed the document, and provided some inputs for consideration by the Bureau on the following day. The Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food suggested adding to the draft conclusions wording on the key role of the ‘right to food’ in CFS and its vision statement to serve as a platform for global policy coordination and convergence. CSIPM echoed this message, reflecting on the fragmentation of current policy responses to the global food crisis and underscoring the leadership role that the CFS should have in tackling the food crisis. CSIPM noted their intention to launch a report on the crisis on 29 September.

Bureau discussion and decision:

The Bureau discussed the draft decision and conclusions, including the amendments proposed by the members of the Advisory Group at the joint meeting, and agreed on the draft conclusions to be presented to CFS 50 plenary except on subparagraph c) v, where bracketed text still remains in (see annex for the actual text approved by the CFS Bureau). While it was initially agreed to use the language agreed at the COAG28 Report (paragraph 15.g), the Russian Federation proposed to draw from the language agreed at the COFI35 Report, although this alternative text was not discussed. In the end, there was no final agreement and the original text¹ and the alternative COAG text remain bracketed. Germany supported the idea in para e) to establish a CFS OEWG on monitoring the food crisis as a contribution to a coordinated global policy response, taking into account CFS’ existing resources and capacities

¹ It was agreed to include as a stand-alone sub-paragraph under c) the text starting at “disproportionately affect the poor...” until the end of the original text, with the agreed amendments

b. GEWGE Voluntary Guidelines (draft conclusions)

Second, CFS Chair introduced the document “GEWGE Voluntary Guidelines (draft conclusions)”, providing a comprehensive update on his extensive bilateral consultations with CFS Members, the two mechanisms (CSIPM and PSM) and other Advisory Group members and observers, notably with the Deputy ED of UN Women. Advisory Group members confirmed the continuation of the Gender workstream. Participants also sought clarity on next steps in terms of process and timelines, including whether a foreseen expert workshop would be part of the renewed process.

Bureau discussion and decision:

Following an extensive debate, where several Bureau Members expressed that they sense that there is still a lack of enabling conditions for an agreement, the Bureau agreed its support for an inclusive and consensus-based process to achieve agreement on Voluntary Guidelines for presentation to the CFS 51 plenary session, as reflected in the agreed draft conclusions.

Some Bureau members underscored that consensus was not reached at the end of the third round of negotiations due to serious differences which should be duly considered, including cultural differences and national realities. They also recalled that among the contentious issues were not only gender-related topics, but also broader development concepts.

Bureau expressed general agreement that returning to negotiations absent a different approach would likely not solve the lack of consensus. Some Bureau members sought clarification on the changes envisaged in the process (working methods) and possible changes in the structure of the document, noting that the current structure of the Guidelines had been negotiated. The use of previously agreed UN text to address “sensitive topics” was seen as a possible way to address the deadlock.

There was an extensive debate around the process forward. While current MYPOW agreed in Plenary establishes that the OEWG will develop and agree on policy guidance through an inclusive and consensus-based process, the Bureau agreed to propose to Plenary to request the CFS Chair to convene consultations, including a Group of Friends, to discuss the working methods and the ways forward.

As for CFS 50 plenary draft conclusions, the Bureau agreed to the draft conclusions, with some amendments.

c. Theme of the 2024 HLPE Report with draft decisions

The CFS Chair recalled the purpose of this agenda item, which is for the Bureau to agree on the theme of the 2024 HLPE-FSN report and the associated CFS workstream.

The CFS Chair noted that as an outcome of the last Bureau meeting in July: (i) the draft decision text was approved; and (ii) a strong convergence emerged around the theme of urban food systems and rural transformation.

As a result of that discussion, the theme “Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems to achieve food security and nutrition in the context of urbanization and rural transformation”, originally proposed by the HLPE-FSN as part of its 3rd Note on Critical, Emerging and Enduring Issues for Food Security and Nutrition, has been further elaborated by the CFS Secretariat to

mirror the format of “thematic workstreams” as normally included in the strategic section of CFS Multi-Year Program of Work. Additionally, the CFS Chair recalled that the CFS Plenary’s mandate to the HLPE-FSN is normally formulated through the MYPoW process, but because the HLPE-FSN report for 2024 sits between the current and the next MYPoW, there is a need to handle this step separately.

Members of the Advisory Group suggested adding references to: (i) previous work of the CFS on the topic of urbanization and rural transformation; (ii) social protection as a crosscutting element for the urban-, peri-urban and rural domains; (iii) the HLPE-FSN report on Youth, particularly in the context of migration; (iv) strengthened rural-urban linkages; (v) climate-resilient agriculture as opposed to “climate-smart”; (vi) complementarity of different approaches (as opposed to a combination of top-down and bottom-up).

Bureau discussion and decision:

The Bureau considered the proposed additions and decided not to include further elements, noting that there will be several occasions for CFS stakeholders to provide inputs to the HLPE-FSN throughout the various stages of drafting of its report.

The Bureau approved the background document “Theme of the 2024 HLPE Report with draft decisions” with one amendment to the title, which now reads “Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems to achieve food security and nutrition in the context of urbanization and rural transformation”.

d. MYPoW Update of the Rolling Section with draft decision

Last, the CFS Chair opened this item noting that the Bureau had already finalized the update of the MYPoW Rolling Section and its related Draft Decision at its July meeting, but that further updates were made necessary as a result of the extended time required to complete the policy convergence process on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls Empowerment.

The CFS Chair then highlighted text revisions, namely a change in the title of activity 3.2.2. (Forum on VGs GEWGE) and a change in the timeline table on the last page, which shows an extended time required to complete the GEWGE workstream (until October 2023).

Advisory Group members raised questions on the feasibility of organizing experts meetings on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls Empowerment, as well as on any potential financial implications of the extended negotiation timeline. The CFS Secretariat clarified that, in line with document CFS 2018/45/3, the full implementation of the MYPoW 2020-2023 will be contingent upon sufficient financial and human resources, taking into consideration a manageable workload, as highlighted in point b) of the draft decision for this agenda item.

Bureau discussion and decision:

The Bureau approved background document “CFS MYPoW 2020-2023 Update of the Rolling Section – with Draft Decision” without amendments.

2. Planning for CFS 50

The CFS Chair introduced the document ‘Guide to CFS 50’, which has been updated by the Secretariat on a rolling basis. This document contains important information regarding CFS 50, the roll out and the background documentation of each session, as well as logistical and administrative information for delegations.

The CFS Chair informed that over 1,100 delegates had already registered to CFS 50, including 18 Ministers and several vice-Ministers and Under-Secretaries, and stressed the importance of respecting room capacity limits at all times.

The CFS Chair encouraged all Regional Groups to present their nominations for the CFS 50 Drafting Committee, noting that a virtual briefing for delegates would be organized by the CFS Secretariat shortly.

With regards to the gender session, CSIPM suggested adding a panelist from among their constituency in the roll-out of the session. The PSM asked for additional information on the Special Event to be held on Thursday 13 October. Responding to a question on the data session, the CFS Secretariat clarified details linked to its roll-out.

Bureau decision:

CFS Bureau welcomed the revised ‘Guide to CFS 50’ and updates on the preparation of the sessions. Responding to a question from the Dominican Republic, the CFS Secretariat informed that all official documents were posted online in all languages as soon as they become available from FAO’s Translation unit. The CFS Chair concluded inviting the CFS Secretariat to update the CFS 50 Provisional Agenda and other relevant CFS 50 documents, in accordance with the texts of the draft decisions and conclusions just approved by the CFS Bureau.

With regard to the CFS 50 Drafting Committee, the Bureau welcomed the nomination of Guillermo Spika (Argentina) as Chair.

3. CFS 2022-23 Work plans

CFS Chair presented the work plans for the preparation of the new MYPoW 2024-2027, and for the data workstream, noting that during the next intersessional period he would like to organize a number of informal activities in support of the MYPoW preparation process.

With regard to the MYPoW workplan, it was requested to extend the deadline for the submission of the preliminary proposals and to possibly postpone the deadline to provide written inputs on the proposal that will be finalized by the Bureau in May. Lastly, it was suggested that in Phase 4, the CFS Plenary “considers and endorses” the CFS MYPoW.

With regard to the data work plan, CSIPM asked for (i) more time to provide their feedback on the zero draft of the policy recommendations on data, and (ii) increasing the number of days for the negotiations of the policy recommendations.

Bureau discussion and decision:

Brazil requested an additional opportunity for informal consultations on the substance of the HLPE data report, either with the HLPE-FSN Project Team Leader, or the HLPE-FSN Steering Committee, in order to better understand the report's substance, and encouraged to attend the request from CSIPM for more time for the MYPoW process. CFS Chair requested the Secretariat to explore all possible options to expand the time available for the submission of proposals by CFS stakeholders.

The Workplan for the preparation of the CFS MYPoW for 2024-2027 was approved with the following amendments:

- i. The deadline to submit the preliminary proposals was moved from 4 to 9 January 2023;
- ii. The activity concerning Phase 4 now reads as follows: "*The CFS MYPoW for 2024-2027 is considered and endorsed by the Plenary*".

The Bureau agreed to the two notional workplans, requesting any updates on scheduling to be shared with the Bureau and Advisory Group, should there be any possibility for providing longer deadlines for inputs.

4. Data Collection and Analysis Tools workstream – Nomination of Rapporteur (Bureau only)

Bureau discussion:

The CFS Chair stressed the importance to nominate a Rapporteur for the policy convergence process on Data Collection and Analysis Tools for Food Security and Nutrition before the actual starting of the process, at CFS 50, and encouraged all Members to submit their nomination. He also called upon Bureau members to step forward, in case there is not another candidate for this role.

5. CFS Foundations Informal Mechanism

The CFS Chair opened the meeting highlighting that the objective of this agenda item was to continue discussions started earlier this year and linked to broadening the representation of foundations in CFS, as foreseen in the 2009 reform document.

To this effect, he invited Mr Anthony Murithii of Kenya, CFS Vice-Chair, to provide an oral update on a meeting he chaired on 16 June, with a working group of Bureau Members and foundation representatives, intended to answer remaining questions and to take forward the conversation started in January Bureau and ad hoc Advisory Group meetings.

In his update, the CFS Vice-Chair informed that:

1. The informal meeting included: (i) an interaction with the three foundations, namely Gates Foundation, Global Alliance for the Future of Food (GAFF) and the Agro-ecology Fund (AEF), to further discuss ongoing efforts to enhance coordination among interested philanthropic foundations; and (ii) a Q&A session to address issues raised by Bureau.

2. The three foundations have already agreed among themselves and are coordinating internally to provide regular advice and expertise to Bureau, as and when requested by the CFS Chair.
3. The three foundations will be present at CFS 50, and will convene together a side-event on the role of philanthropies to advance food security and nutrition.

The representative from GAFF, speaking on behalf of the three foundations, highlighted how this was an important milestone for the foundations, and that they were looking forward to working with others to support the CFS and its program of work. Advisory Group members thanked the Vice Chair for his update, and requested that outcomes of the informal meeting be circulated. PSM requested if the foundations, at their side event during CFS 50, can explain how other foundations may join this informal mechanism.

6. CFS Advisory Group Reporting Exercise

Representatives of WHO, WFO and the Gates Foundation presented their reports on the activities carried out in 2021 as ad hoc members of the CFS Advisory Group. In addition to their key role as ‘advisors’ of the Bureau, attention was paid to their active role in the various CFS OEWGs as well as their valuable contributions to the workstreams and the negotiations of CFS policy agreements.

Bureau and Advisory Group members were also informed of WHO efforts in promoting the use, application, and dissemination of CFS policy outcomes, particularly the VGFSyN. In this regard, WHO re-affirmed its intention to organize with CFS outreach activities to both Rome-based and Geneva-based Permanent Representatives.

Bureau discussion:

CFS Chair recalled that World Bank and Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food will present their reports in a subsequent meeting, and that the reporting exercise for (ad hoc) Advisory Group participants would be repeated for 2022, with the goal of having it completed earlier in the calendar year.

7. Workstream Updates

Members sought clarification on the composition and on the work of the CFS Secretariat’s informal ‘Core Groups.’ CFS Secretariat explained that the groups are a pilot effort to support outreach, dissemination, uptake and use of recently-adopted CFS policy agreements. These groups have focused on the CFS VGFSyN and the Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and other Innovative approaches; a third group is anticipated for policy recommendations on Youth, once adopted. The groups are intended to ensure that the Secretariat remains focused not just on upcoming work-streams and products, but remains focused on promotion of endorsed products, and opportunities for wider awareness-building and distribution. Invitations to the last group meeting were shared with the two mechanisms, to further increase collaboration.

Furthermore, the Secretariat pointed out the previously-communicated decision to brief Bureau and its Ad Hoc Advisors after CFS 50, to provide additional details on the work.

CFS Chair confirmed that the core groups (composition, objectives, etc.) issue would be discussed in detail during a future Bureau meeting, and requested that all information and the convening of future meetings will be shared and extended to all Members and Advisors.

8. Any Other Business

Nothing else was discussed.

List of attendees of the Bureau and Advisory Group meeting

CFS Bureau Members:

H.E. Gabriel Ferrero (CFS Chair/Spain); Ms Lara Lobo (Brazil); Mr Li Hanghao (China); Mr Mina Rizk (Egypt); Ms Silke Stallkamp (Germany); H.E. Jackline Yonga, Mr Anthony Muriithi (Kenya); Mr Cheik Oubey Mohamed Lemine (Mauritania); Ms Jenny Reid (New Zealand); Ms Christine Blank (Switzerland); Mr Sean Cox, Mr Andrian McAdams (USA).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Mr Maarten de Groot (Canada); Ms Diana Infante (Dominican Republic); Mr Purnta Cita Nugraha, (Indonesia); Mr Sander Verhulst (The Netherlands); Ms Ekaterina Vybornova (Russian Federation); Mr Bennie Lombard (South Africa), Mr Kayoya Masuhwa (Zambia).

Advisory Group:

Ms Ruth Fianu, Mr Mikael Kauttu (IFAD); Mr Marco Cavalcante, Mr Jacopo Valentini, (WFP); Ms Stineke Oerema, Ms Alessandra Mora (UNN); Mr Rodney Cooke (CGIAR); Mr Fabrizio Moscatelli (Gates Foundation); Mr Michael Fakhri, Ms Paola De Meo (SR RtF); Mr Martin Wolpold-Bosien, Mr Andre Luzzi, Ms Magdalena Ackermann, Ms Paula Gioia, Mr Tyler Short, Ms Giulia Simula, Ms Patti Naylor, Ms Dee Woods, Ms Saima Zia, Ms Nora McKeon, Ms Hala Barakat, Mr Luca Bianchi, Ms Tai Pelli, Mr Thierry Kesteloot (CSIPM); Mr Brian Baldwin (PSM); Ms Giulia de Castro (WFO); Ms Marzella Wustefeld (WHO).

Observers:

Mr Oliver Oliveros, (Global Alliance for the Future of Food).

CFS Secretariat:

Mr Chris Hegadorn (Secretary), Mr Evariste Nicoletis (HLPE Coordinator), Ms Bahar Zorofi, Ms Paola Termine, Ms Françoise Trine, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Ms Giorgia Paratore, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Ms Marina Calvino, Mr Waiganjo Njoroge, Ms Tatiana Moruz, Mr Martin Schunk, Mr Paola Franceschelli, Ms Silvia Meiattini, Ms Monique Amar.

List of attendees of the Bureau meeting

CFS Bureau Members:

H.E. Gabriel Ferrero (CFS Chair/Spain); Mr Guillermo Spika (Argentina); H.E. Maria Jardim, Ms Antonietta Patricelli (Angola); Mr Manash Mitra (Bangladesh); Ms Lara Lobo (Brazil); Mr Li Hanghao (China); Mr Mina Rizk (Egypt); Ms Silke Stalkamp, Ms Mareike Heeren (Germany); Mr Anthony Muriithi (Kenya); Mr Manar Al Sabah (Kuwait); Mr Cheik Oubey Mohamed Lemine (Mauritania); Mr Don Syme (New Zealand); Ms Christine Blank (Switzerland); Mr Sean Cox, Mr Andrian McAdams (USA).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Mr Maarten de Groot (Canada); Ms Diana Infante, Ms Moira Vargas (Dominican Republic); Mr Purna Cita Nugraha (Indonesia); Mr Eric Hilberink, Mr Sander Verhulst (The Netherlands); Ms Ekaterina Vybornova (Russian Federation); Mr Bennie Lombard (South Africa), Mr Kayoya Masuhwa (Zambia).

Observers:

Ms Renate Hahlen, Ms Cara Stauss (EU Delegation), Ms Joselyne Javelosa (Philippines).

CFS Secretariat:

Mr Chris Hegadorn (Secretary), Mr Evariste Nicoletis (HLPE Coordinator), Ms Bahar Zorofi, Ms Paola Termine, Ms Françoise Trine, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Ms Giorgia Paratore, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Ms Marina Calvino, Mr Waiganjo Njoroge, Ms Tatiana Moruz, Mr Martin Schunk, Mr Paola Franceschelli, Ms Silvia Meiattini, Ms Monique Amar.