

CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) – Written comments - Switzerland, 22 May 2023

General comments:

- We support the idea to have one policy convergence process per year, starting with a HLPE report and followed by the development of policy recommendations. That allows for robust engagement and ample time to produce quality products. We support choosing three topics for years 2026, 2027 and 2028. The MYPoW 2024-2028 also needs to define the topic of the HLPE-Report 2029. In 2024, the reducing inequalities policy convergence process is planned. In 2025, the Strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems policy convergence process is foreseen.
- From our point of view, additional topics should be addressed under SO1, where CFS provides a platform for discussion and serves as a platform to promote greater coordination and alignment of actions. These topics could be addressed with a series of events, high-level expert fora or high-level meetings, e.g., in 2024 1A – Right to Food. These events could be nurtured by substantive background documents and the outcome, such as a Chairs summary could then feed into CFS plenary.
- In addition, the MYPoW should include some flexibility to respond to urgent and unforeseen issues.
- We suggest the following topics to be addressed under the platform function:
 - Right to Food (20th anniversary of VG on RtF) (1A)
 - Building resilient food systems (2A)
 - Coordinating policy response to emerging global food crisis (2B)
 - Conflicts and the fragility of food systems (2C)
 - For 2A/B/C we suggest to have a “lighter” process without having a negotiated outcome.
 - 2B should use the Framework for Action in Protracted Crisis and its 10th anniversary as a starting point.
- For the policy convergence process we suggest the following topic:
 - Addressing climate change and biodiversity loss (3B). There might be a possibility to include certain aspects of 3C into 3B.
- We see some merits in addressing a topic related to “Financing agriculture and food systems”, which could also cover responsible investments. In addition to responsible investment, other topics related to the financing of food systems and their transformation could also be addressed. The format should rather correspond to modalities under SO1 or SO3. We would advise against re-negotiating CFS products.
- The proposal 4A “in-depth debate on enhanced efforts to increase global awareness and use of CFS Policy Products” should be addressed in parallel to the selected topics under SO1 and SO2. The right format and outcome document to be discussed, it could go under SO3 – uptake. An action plan that will be presented in Plenary seems a good option for us.

Specific comments:

- **Thematic area 1:**
 - **1D) Preserving, strengthening and promoting Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems and traditional practices for sustainable food systems:** this could include certain issues related to biodiversity.
- **Thematic area 2:**
 - **2A) Building resilient food systems:** We would be ready to have our proposal 11 in chapter 2A) be treated as a thematic forum / high level event instead of having selected it as one of the three policy convergence processes.
 - **2C) Conflicts and the fragility of food systems:** We would be ready to have our proposal 3 in chapter 2C) be treated as a thematic forum / high level event instead of having selected it as one of the three policy convergence processes.
- **Thematic area 3:**
 - **3B) Addressing climate change and biodiversity loss:** We want to see this topic as one of the three selected ones for a policy convergence process.
 - **3 C) Protecting and restoring biodiversity to mitigate and reverse climate change:** Aspects to be included in 3B) if possible.
- **Thematic area 4:**
 - **4B) Multilevel governance for more sustainable, resilient and inclusive food systems:** Possible to be take into account certain of its aspects in "high level event" of 2A)?
 - **4C) Updated Version of CFS-RAI:** Possibly some of the questions can be addressed in a "Financing agriculture and food systems" workstream?
 - **4D) Collaborative governance for more effective, resilient and inclusive agrifood systems:** Possibly some of the questions can be addressed in the thematic forum / high level event on "building resilient food systems"?
 - **4G) unilateral coercive measures and other financial and trade restrictions:** Looking for a topic where CFS stakeholders might find consensus, selected topics need to be appropriate for an inclusive discussion.