
CFS MYPoW 2024 – 2027
CONSOLIDATED FAO INPUTS

FAO appreciates the work of the CFS Secretariat facilitating the consolidation of the preliminary proposals during the first round of consultation, and the efforts to advance convergence leading to a targeted MYPoW for CFS to be most effective in the areas where it can play a crucial role.

FAO supports the point underlined during the Bureau and Advisory group meeting on 20th April that CFS should remain flexible and able to respond to ever-changing environment and emerging issues, and play its role in advancing multilevel governance and coordinated policy response to multi-dimensional crises. Also, the need for CFS to better connect and interact with other relevant global processes (the example of recent International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture was mentioned) to maximize synergies, as well as uptake and follow up of CFS policy products.

FAO believes that it would be important to ensure that the following two topics are further developed, and included in the MyPoW, under new thematic Areas 1 and 4 as per the background document:

- One topic around people-centric approach on “The role and rights of workers in agriculture and food system” (proposals # 19, 26, 28 and 30), under new Area 1. Enhance equity and inclusiveness. This is a topic where CFS has a crucial role to play, also contributing to the promotion and implementation of relevant ILO instruments. Indeed, it has often happened that agricultural and rural and seasonal workers are explicitly excluded from protection of general labour law, whether conditions of work, right to organize, minimum wages, health and safety. This is also a topic where there is still a lot of work to be done including identifying the different segments of workers in the food and agricultural systems, and linkages to the abolition of child labour in agriculture.

- The second topic could relate to “Coordinated policy response to multi-dimensional crises and multilevel governance for a more sustainable, resilient and inclusive agrifood systems” (proposals #8, 11, 13, 15, 21, 24, 27, 29), under new Area 4. Strengthen collaborative action and financing for food security and nutrition. It does not foresee the consolidation of a policy product.
Having a cross-cutting workstream on this topic would allow CFS to strengthen its role in advancing the importance of applying the system approach and maximizing interlinkages between different thematic areas, identifying specific topics/emerging trends and challenges in different agriculture sectors (including fishery and aquaculture, forestry and livestock), as well as across different sectors. With its convening power to strengthen global policy responses to the multiple dimensions of the global food crisis, CFS can facilitate bringing together people-centric approaches, reiterating the right to food, emphasizing access to and affordability of healthy diet and improved nutrition in these policy responses, and the interlinkages between the crises and the pathways to follow. Also, this workstream may involve activities that can strengthen linkages between CFS and other global initiatives related to food security and nutrition.

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This second topic could also contribute to responding to several of the guiding questions mentioned in the background document: the need to maximize interlinkages between three CFS strategic objectives, including discussing and promoting internal coherence between existing CFS policy products, and crucial follow up about their uptake at country level. It could also contribute to strengthening linkages between CFS and relevant global, regional and national processes; and enabling CFS and HLPE-FSN to keep the flexibility and responsiveness to urgent and unforeseen issues that may arise during the course of the next four years.

- These proposed two topics can combine short- and medium term actions with long-term and cross-cutting activities facilitating agrifood systems transformation, including dimensions of gender equality.

FAO also supports the proposal that received strong support during the Bureau and Advisory meeting on 20th April, that CFS should put a strong focus on *Uptake*, and be very selective and limit the number of topics for SO2 Policy convergence. It could thus be considered making the proposal #36 (*In-depth debate on enhanced efforts to increase global awareness and use of CFS Policy Products*) a self-standing workstream. In this regard, it should be kept in mind that Uptake should not be limited to nor measured only with increased awareness. It would be important to make sure this workstream results in tangible outputs, e.g. a concrete action plan to support the use of CFS Products especially at country level.

- Considering possible activities related to Uptake, CFS might wish to consider:
 - o devoting regular side session to the presentation of innovative tools and process which the countries (any actor) have been using to a) increase awareness, b) guide policy and legal, regulatory or institutional frameworks review, c) measure CFS instruments uptake. Interesting would be also exchanging ideas and approaches between different process (e.g. VGGT and RtF or VGGT and CFS-RAI)
 - o Having at least one plenary session each year or every second year devoted to 'Uptake', which will be prepared through a bottom up approach
 - o development of a monitoring and reporting mechanism to help countries track their uptake efforts (VGGT could be used as source of inspiration for possible indicators, since there are at least 2 very solid monitoring tools developed, not by FAO, from which indicators can be extracted)
 - o stimulate a reflection on the links between CFS instruments and legally binding instruments and reporting mechanisms.

Strategic function 1 and 3 are closely interconnected, whereby a multistakeholder approach and dialogues is also a mean to encourage dialogues on the instruments, identify bottlenecks in their implementation/uptake and ultimately monitoring.

Strengthening linkages between CFS and regional and national processes (Q4 background document) is the key uptake challenge. To strengthen these linkages, CFS may consider linking the upcoming commemoration of the RTF Guidelines for example, with questions related to their operationalization at the country level. CFS may consider organization of events at regional levels, to reach out to regional and national organizations and processes as well, including SD forums, FAO regional conferences and other relevant regional events.

Also with regard to strengthening linkages between CFS and global initiatives related to food security and nutrition (Q5 background document), CFS could suggest government representatives both in Rome

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and in New York and their capitals to optimize their communication and information sharing about CFS-related issues and strengthen their collaboration in a structured way. It could also consider preparation of joint reports/events with other pertinent global or regional bodies, joining forces with RBAs and other relevant actors, and seek to increase its presence at such event, making use of its Bureau and its HLPE.

- CFS could also strengthen the development of regional preparatory events for the CFS plenary, where discussions and consultations are grounded in the reality of the countries in order to strengthen the sharing of experiences towards strategic alliances for implementation. These could also help ensure that CFS commitments and products reach a wider audience and more awareness/uptake is generated. What would be important is to ensure that these preparatory meetings closely link to other existing national and regional processes put in place in the area of FSN, food systems transformation, agriculture and rural development.
- Sessions on peer-to-peer learning and sharing of experiences with implementing policy measures to improve nutrition and enhance food security could become a fixed element of the plenary session.
- CFS could also consider organizing extraordinary sessions on sudden and pressing challenges related to food and agriculture, possibly with engagement of communication experts at national, regional and global levels, co-founding events.

Dimension of prioritization will be very important to have a targeted MYPoW which will not be overcharged with specific topics, but allow it to be effective in the areas where CFS can really make a difference and contribute to a timely, effective and equitable responses to the global multi-dimensional crises, and coordinated action for a more sustainable, more resilient and more equitable agricultural and food systems.