

**CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meeting and CFS Bureau meeting**

**Date: 25 January 2024**

**Time: 09:30 – 12:30 and 14:00 - 17:00**

**Hybrid meeting (FAO German Room and Zoom Platform)**

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

Agenda

1. CFS 52 Draft Provisional Agenda
2. CFS Advisory Group Reporting Exercise 2023
3. Substantive dialogue on the Collaborative Governance meetings
4. Dates of future CFS plenary sessions
5. Framework for reporting to Regional Groups
6. Workstream updates
7. Any Other Business

The CFS Vice-Chair, Ms Jenny Reid (New Zealand), welcomed CFS Members of the Bureau and permanent ad hoc Advisory Group to the first joint meeting of 2024, and informed them that she was presiding over the meeting in her capacity of Vice-Chair, as the CFS Chair, Ambassador Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile, was in New York for a number of introductory meetings including with the United Nations Deputy Secretary General (DSG), the President of ECOSOC, the Friends of Food Security and UN Women. The CFS Vice-Chair also briefed Participants on recent outreach and global engagements by the CFS Chair, highlighting her role as a moderator in a successful CFS/FAO High-Level Panel on “*Realizing the Right to Adequate Food: Ending hunger and leaving no one behind*” held in Berlin at the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA).

The CFS Vice-Chair outlined the provisional agenda for the meeting, which was adopted, and Participants were informed that the meeting would be recorded, per usual practice, for the Secretariat’s note-taking purposes.

## 1. CFS 52 Draft Provisional Agenda (with Bureau discussion)

The CFS Vice-Chair presented the draft Provisional Agenda of CFS 52 underlining that objective of this discussion was to get initial feedback from Participants and that a Provisional Timetable will be presented once a decision is made on the Provisional Agenda.

CFS Bureau and Advisory Group members welcomed the draft Provisional Agenda and highlighted the importance of developing a realistic plan that allows the successful conclusion of CFS 52 within five days. It was suggested that the Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food be considered as the overarching theme of next the CFS Plenary Session, particularly in light of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their endorsement.

With reference to item 2 of the CFS 52 Provisional Agenda, “*strengthening coordinated policy responses to the food crisis – the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the world 2024*”, it was requested to include the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food in the list of speakers for the opening segment. Under the same agenda item (bullet c), it was suggested that the “CFS Report” be called “CFS Summary Report”.

Moreover, Bureau and Advisory Group members stressed the importance of making linkages between agenda items 5, 6, 7 and 8 as a signal of the relevance of the current exercise aimed at promoting the use of CFS policy agreements at all levels. In this regard, it was noted that this exercise represented an opportunity for RBAs to align their strategic work using CFS policy agreements.

Bureau and Advisory Group members also highlighted that more dynamic sessions should be organized with creative and engaging formats for some of the planned agenda items. Specifically, it was underlined that the Global Thematic Event (GTE) on the Right to Food could include break out group sessions and/or group discussions with conclusions presented in the plenary, and that the session on Decent Work in Agriculture and Food Systems would be an interesting opportunity to invite experts and specialists that could feed an interactive debate with CFS stakeholders.

While acknowledging the need to prioritize among the several side event applications, it was requested that enough space is allowed for the representatives of the most vulnerable segments of the population.

### **Bureau discussion**

Bureau members continued the discussion initiated during the morning session.

The proposal by Members to present the document on modalities for the preparation of the CFS 52 Final Report for decision by the Plenary was well received.

With reference to item 2 of the CFS 52 Provisional Agenda, some Bureau members requested more clarity on the addition of presenting the CFS summary report of the Collaborative Governance under this agenda item. In this regard, it was clarified that the provision concerning

the presentation of the Summary Report during the “SOFI report item” is included in the agreed CFS MYPoW 2024-2027 (p.10).

Regarding agenda item 5 of the CFS 52 Provisional Agenda, “*endorsement of an Action Plan to increase awareness, ownership, use and usefulness of CFS policy products*”, some Members requested clarification on the decision to have the Action Plan endorsed by Plenary and the time needed to achieve it. It was clarified that the item would be considered for decision based on the indications included in the agreed CFS MYPoW 2024-2027 (pp.16 and 25). It was stated that this process was similar both to the one developed during the last intersessional period for the preparation of the CFS MYPoW - whose workplan had a shorter timeframe compared to the current Action Plan of the uptake workstream - and to the endorsed Action Plan resulting from the follow-up to the CFS Evaluation (CFS 2018/45/Report, paragraph 18.b).

With reference to agenda item 6 of the CFS 52 Provisional Agenda, the “*Forum on the Uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment*”, some Bureau members expressed concern regarding the timing of this Forum as it was very close to the date of their endorsement. It was highlighted that, based on the CFS MYPoW provisions (p.25), and in line with past practices such as the Forum on the Uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition that took place at CFS 49, this item was foreseen to take place at CFS 52. In this regard, some Bureau and Advisory Group members also underlined that this Forum should provide an opportunity to start discussing the role of different actors in promoting the uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines.

It was noted that the title of the session on promoting Decent Work in Agriculture and Food Systems was in line with the indications provided in the CFS MYPoW 2024-2027 (pp.7-8 and 21).

Some Bureau members also reiterated the need to make some of the agenda items for CFS 52 more interactive.

## 2. CFS Advisory Group Reporting Exercise 2023 (with Bureau decision)

The CFS Vice-Chair introduced this agenda item by reminding Bureau and Advisory Group members that each year CFS Advisory Group members were expected to prepare a report about the work carried out during the year to fulfil their roles. In this regard, the CFs Vice-Chair pointed to the background document (BurAG/2024/01/25/02) presenting a set of questions for the reporting exercise concerning the period January-December 2023.

Bureau and Advisory Group members were informed that, in addition to the four questions included in the background document, a fifth question could be added to the template concerning *voluntary commitments for 2024* by Advisory Group members.

Positive feedback was provided on the list of proposed questions, included the one on voluntary commitments, and some Advisory Group members requested that a space be given to also reflect

and report on the operational constraints and challenges faced during the last intersessional period.

### **Bureau discussion**

The Bureau approved the list of questions for the Advisory Group Reporting Exercise, including the additional one “*Voluntary Commitments for 2024*”.

Members were informed that the CFS Secretariat will circulate the template among Advisory Group members who will have time until 8 April to submit their reports, and that a compilation of the reports will be posted on the CFS Working Space and circulated among Bureau and Advisory Group members. It was also noted that, in order to make full use of this exercise, alternative ways of presenting the reports could be considered.

### 3. Substantive dialogue on the Collaborative Governance meetings (with Bureau discussion)

The CFS Vice-Chair presented the background document for this agenda item, aiming to trigger a constructive discussion specifically on timelines, themes, locations, and linkages with potential partners for organizing biannual meetings and their outcomes as outlined in the MYPoW.

Bureau and Advisory Group members shared their views on the implementation of item A.1.4 of the MYPoW, reiterating the importance of strengthening synergies of this workstream during its four-year life cycle with other initiatives, including the Uptake Workstream and the Global thematic Event on the Right to Food.

In this context, the CFS role as a platform was underlined, particularly in enabling open dialogues at all levels, inclusive of stakeholders most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition. Additionally, the value of CFS's engagement with other relevant constituencies beyond Rome, such as in New York and Geneva, to promote policy coherence, was recognized.

Some Bureau and Advisory Group members expressed concern on workload and timeframe of this additional workstream, and noted the importance to further define the methodology for organizing such meetings, and the role of the Technical Task and HLPE-FSN teams in general when outlining the work under this item further. Some members reflected on ‘collaborative governance’ and ‘crisis tracking’ as two separate themes.

### **Bureau discussion**

Building on the Bureau and Advisory Group meeting, Bureau members reflected on the work under this item of the MYPoW and welcomed the background document. Members asked for further elaboration to be presented at the next session, mindful of the workload and timeframe of

the activities to be undertaken, and stressed the need for efficiency and relevance with suggestions for aligning meetings and events to optimize participation and impact.

A call was also made for mapping the CFS's role within the global multilateral architecture and to identify where the CFS as a multi-stakeholder and inclusive platform could contribute most significantly.

#### 4. Dates of future CFS plenary sessions (with Bureau discussion)

The CFS Vice-Chair recalled that at its last meeting on 19 December, the CFS Bureau highlighted the need for a follow-up discussion on potential alternative dates for future CFS plenaries from 2025 onwards and requested the CFS Secretariat to prepare a document exploring options, also considering the overall calendar of the RBAs and UN events, as well as the interlinkages between the CFS Plenaries and intersessional work.

The CFS Vice-Chair presented an overview of the information document that was prepared to facilitate a discussion among Bureau and Advisory Group members on this matter, providing indications and considerations concerning the current scenario that foresees the CFS plenary taking place in October as well as two alternative options.

The majority of reactions were in favor of keeping the CFS plenary session in October, considering that clashes and overlaps with other high-level meetings will occur in most other months.

It was noted that the visibility of CFS and the high-level participation to its plenary sessions depend on the relevance and quality of its sessions rather than on the time of the year when they are held.

Requests were made to explore the possibility of holding the CFS Plenary in the week before the World Food Day (WFD) in October and also in springtime.

#### **Bureau discussion**

Bureau members reiterated most of the points raised during the morning meeting and expressed their overall preferences to keep future CFS plenary sessions in October. In this regard, it was asked if anticipating it to be in the week before the World Food Day (WFD) could be considered as a feasible option and also a request to consider spring as an option.

It was agreed that this matter be further discussed at the next Bureau meeting in March, bearing in mind the provisions included in the FAO Basic Texts and the CFS Rules of Procedure (rule VII, paragraphs 1 and 3).

#### 5. Framework for reporting to Regional Groups (with Bureau discussion)

The CFS Vice-Chair presented this agenda item with the objective of discussing the importance of the potential participation of CFS in the Regional Groups meetings to strengthen the engagement of national delegations in CFS proceedings and facilitate the provision of inputs from participants on national and regional priorities and needs.

Bureau and Advisory Group members welcomed this discussion highlighting the importance of regional meetings and beyond as venues for dialogue and advocacy of CFS policy products. Some advisory Group members also noted that greater engagement with the RBAs through their governing bodies is key to strengthening policy coherence and collaboration.

The Private Sector Mechanism and Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism highlighted their interest in participating in the meetings with regional groups.

### **Bureau discussion**

The Bureau discussion focused on exploring the potential for the CFS to regularly participate in regional group meetings as a strategy to enhance its visibility within regions. Members recognized the importance of the Chair's outreach activities, emphasizing the need for the Chair's outreach to extend beyond regional conferences to engage with national representatives and stakeholders. However, divergent interpretations have emerged regarding the potential breadth of the regional commitment, highlighting the need to define the appropriate level of regional outreach for the CFS, including need to identify who would be responsible for what in meeting these commitments.

## **6. Workstream updates (with Bureau discussion)**

The CFS Vice-Chair highlighted some key updates and pointed to the background document (BurAG/2024/01/25/06) for more information on the ongoing workstreams (specifically reducing inequalities, uptake, HLPF contribution) thanking the related Rapporteurs for their commitment and all Bureau and Advisory Group members for their active engagement in the first steps of these processes.

Some participants stressed the relevance of this year's HLPF contribution, which will focus on SDG2 among other SDGs, as an opportunity for further dissemination of CFS work.

Lastly, the CFS Secretariat informed Bureau and Advisory Group members that a more advanced CFS calendar with confirmed dates was recently posted, except for a few dates requiring final confirmation.

### **Bureau discussion**

No further discussion has occurred under this agenda item.

## 7. Any Other Business

Some Bureau Members suggested including an item on the CFS communication strategy in the next Bureau meeting.

In addition, the Vice-Chairperson informed the Bureau and Advisory Group members that the United States of America had expressed interest in supporting the Rapporteur of the Uptake Workstream, Ms. Josyline C, Javelosa, in her role. Bureau members will take a decision on this item in the afternoon.

### **Bureau decision**

Following the expression of interest, the Bureau endorsed the nomination of Ms Ronit Gerard, USAID Senior Development Advisor at the U.S. Mission to the UN in Rome, as Co-Rapporteur for the Uptake workstream.

## Annex 1: Attendance list Bureau and Advisory Group meeting

### CFS Bureau Members:

Ms Jenny Reid (Vice-Chair/New Zealand); Mr Bennie Lombard (South Africa); Mr Guillermo Spika (Argentina); Ms Lara Lobo (Brazil); Mr Hanghao Li (China); Mr Michel Leveque (France); Mr Jujjavarapu Balaji (India); Mr Manar Al Salah (Kuwait); Mr Yaya Olaniran (Nigeria); Ms Christina Blank (Switzerland); Ms Danielle Maniscalco (USA).

### CFS Bureau Alternates:

Mr Maarten de Groot (Canada); Ms Berioska Morrison, Ms Patricia Rodriguez (Dominican Republic); Ms Erma Rheindayani, Mr Purna Cita Nugraha (Indonesia); Mr Abdelaziz Zidani (Morocco); Ms Emily Ryen Gloinsson (Norway); Ms Catalina Costantin (Romania); Ms Ratchanok Sangpenchan, Ms Supajit Sriariyawat (Thailand); Ms Sadia Daak, Ms Eiman Ahmed (Sudan).

### Advisory Group:

Mr Maximo Torero, Ms Dubravka Bojic (FAO); Ms Elena Bertusi, Mr Shantanu Mathur (IFAD); Mr Marco Cavalcante, Mr Jacopo Valentini (WFP); Ms Trudy Wijnhoven (UN-Nutrition); Mr James Garrett (CGIAR); Mr Fabrizio Moscatelli (Gates Foundation); Ms Ludovica Donati (PFM); Mr Andre Luzzi, Ms Hala Barakat, Ms Nora McKeon, Ms Magdalena Ackermann, Ms Marion Girard Cisneros, Ms Musa F. Sowe, Mr Luca Bianchi, Ms Giulia Simula, Mr Dee Woods (CSIPM); Mr Brian Baldwin, Ms Ally Bibi (PSM); Ms Lina Mahy (WHO).

### Observers:

Mr Matthijs van Huijgevoort (EU Delegation); Ms Lieselot Germonprez (Belgium); Ms Carolin Weber, Ms Astrid Epp (Germany).

### CFS Secretariat:

Mr Günter Hemrich, Ms Bahar Zorofi, Mr Lorenz Franken, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Ms Giorgia Paratore, Ms Tatiana Moruz, Ms Marina Calvino, Ms Carolin Busch, Ms Raquel Morato, Mr Evariste Nicoletis (HLPE-FSN Coordinator), Ms Paola Termine, Ms Silvia Meiattini (HLPE-FSN).

## Annex 2: Attendance list Bureau meeting

### CFS Bureau Members:

Ms Jenny Reid (Vice-Chair/New Zealand); Mr Bennie Lombard (South Africa); Mr Guillermo Spika (Argentina); Ms Lara Lobo (Brazil); Mr Hanghao Li (China); Mr Mina Rizk (Egypt); Mr Michel Leveque (France); Mr Jujjavarapu Balaji (India); Mr Manar Al Salah, Mr Yousef Juhail, Mr Massimo Ziad Ammar (Kuwait); Ms Christina Blank (Switzerland); Mr Yaya Olaniran (Nigeria); Ms Danielle Maniscalco (USA).

### CFS Bureau Alternates:

Mr Maarten de Groot (Canada); Ms Berioska Morrison, Ms Patricia Rodriguez (Dominican Republic); Ms Erma Rheindayani, Mr Purna Cita Nugraha, (Indonesia); Mr Abdelaziz Zidani (Morocco); Ms Emily



Ryen Gloinsson (Norway); Ms Catalina Costantin (Romania); Ms Ratchanok Sangpenchan, Ms Supajit Sriariyawat (Thailand); Ms Sadia Daak, Ms Eiman Ahmed (Sudan).

**Observers:**

Mr Matthijs van Huijgevoort (EU Delegation); Ms Carolin Weber, Ms Astrid Epp (Germany); Ms Josyline Javelosa, Ms Jacqueline Nicolas (Philippines).

**CFS Secretariat:**

Mr Günter Hemrich, Ms Bahar Zorofi, Mr Lorenz Franken, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Ms Giorgia Paratore, Ms Tatiana Moruz, Ms Marina Calvino, Ms Carolin Busch, Ms Raquel Morato, Mr Evariste Nicoletis (HLPE-FSN Coordinator), Ms Paola Termine, Ms Silvia Meiattini (HLPE-FSN).