

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

**Date: 13 March 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 Preparation
  - CFS 52 Draft Provisional Agenda
  - CFS 52 Draft Provisional Timetable
  - Strategic Retreat on Plenary preparation and support to CFS activities
2. Meetings under the CFS Workstream on Collaborative Governance
3. Dates of future CFS plenary sessions
4. Framework for reporting to Regional Groups
5. Workstream and budget updates
6. Any Other Business

The CFS Chairperson, Ambassador Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile, welcomed CFS Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group Members to the joint meeting and outlined the provisional agenda. The agenda was adopted with the addition of the following three items under AOB, as requested by some Bureau and Advisory Group Members: a briefing on the Global Alliance Against Poverty and Hunger proposal under the Brazilian Presidency of the G20; an update on the recent works of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food (SR RtF); and comments on the current conflicts, particularly in the Gaza Strip, by CSIPM.

Participants were informed that the meeting would be recorded, per usual practice, for the Secretariat's note-taking purposes.

1. CFS 52 Preparation
  - a) CFS 52 Draft Provisional Agenda (with Bureau decision)

A revised version of the CFS 52 Provisional Agenda was presented by the CFS Chair and it was well-received by Bureau and Advisory Group members. The following specific comments and requests were made for consideration by the Bureau:

- Inclusion of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food in the list of speakers under item 2.a, in particular given the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the RtF Guidelines;
- Preparation of a Chair's Summary for item 2.b on *State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2024*, to be annexed to the CFS 52 Final Report;
- Inclusion of the CFS Summary Report on *Collaborative governance*, which will be presented during item 2.c, as annex to the CFS 52 Final Report;
- Addition of a new sub-agenda item under item 2 for a briefing about ongoing international initiatives against hunger and poverty (such as the one being implemented under the Brazilian Presidency of the G20, and possibly similar initiatives undertaken at G7 level).

With reference to the session on *Decent Work in Agriculture and Food Systems*, it was suggested that IFAD, ILO and CARE, which are all involved in the Coalition on Decent Work, would be involved in the preparatory work.

Bureau and Advisory Group Members also highlighted the importance to start working on CFS Plenary preparations as soon as possible in order to make sure that we bring relevant players on board.

It was clarified by the CFS Secretariat that a document on the modalities for the preparation of the CFS Final Report as well as a document on the Rolling Section of the CFS MYPoW 2024-2027 will be presented to one of the next Bureau and Advisory Group meetings for discussion and decision before being submitted for consideration by the Plenary.

It was highlighted that the adoption of the Provisional Agenda represents the starting point of the CFS 52 preparatory work. In the coming meetings, including the planned Strategic Retreat that is expected to take place in May, discussions will focus on ways to ensure innovative, interactive and meaningful sessions in order to maximize the outcomes of the Plenary session.

### **Bureau decision**

The Bureau agreed to the CFS 52 Provisional Agenda, with the inclusion of a sub-item under item 2 dedicated to briefing CFS stakeholders about ongoing international initiatives against hunger and poverty. The above-mentioned suggestions provided during the morning's session will serve as a basis for discussion during the Strategic Retreat to further refine the CFS 52 Provisional Agenda. Similarly, additional refinement of the guide on the modalities for the preparation of the CFS Final Report could be discussed during the Strategic Retreat. The discussions held during the Strategic Retreat will be reported to the subsequent Bureau and Advisory Group meeting.

#### **b) CFS 52 Draft Provisional Timetable (with Bureau discussion)**

The CFS 52 Draft Timetable was well-received by Bureau and Advisory Group members, noting that follow-up discussions will be needed on the format of different sessions.

In particular, questions were raised about the number and timing of Side Events, with a suggestion to explore the possibility of strategically locating the side events differently in the Timetable. The Secretariat clarified that a draft guidance note will be circulated in the coming weeks for consideration and feedback by Bureau and Advisory Group members. Following this written procedure, the call for Side Events will be issued in May to allow enough time for planning the CFS 52 Side Event.

The need for a follow-up discussion regarding the possible topic of the CFS 52 Special Event was also highlighted. In this regard, it was suggested that this could be dedicated to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CFS, or alternatively, that the Friday morning session could be used to accommodate a number of Side Events.

**Bureau discussion:**

It was noted that the Draft Timetable, as it currently stands, will be sent for translation and included as part of the CFS 52 background documentation, pending further refinements that can be proposed at the upcoming meetings (i.e. in the Strategic Retreat), along with the expected decision on the topic of the Special Event.

**c) Strategic Retreat on Plenary preparation and support to CFS activities (with Bureau decision)**

The CFS Chairperson presented the possibility of organizing a Strategic Retreat to collectively reflect on the Committee, its activities, and strategies to achieve our planned results during this biennium.

Bureau and Advisory Group members were informed that the Strategic Retreat is envisioned to include the participation of the Bureau and their Alternates, the Advisory Group (including the RBA representatives), and the Chair of the HLPE-FSN. It is tentatively scheduled to take place from 8 to 10 May, potentially outside of Rome, depending on the availability of extrabudgetary resources. It was also clarified that participation costs would be covered for one representative from each Bureau Member and Alternate, as well as for each Advisory Group member, and that no interpretation services are expected to be provided during the retreat.

The proposal was well-received by Bureau and Advisory Group members, who highlighted the need to define a clear agenda with objectives and deliverables in advance of the retreat and to organize it in an interactive way to ensure a dynamic exchange of views between participants.

It was requested to explore the possibility of allowing the participation of two representatives from CSIPM and PSM.

In case the retreat will be confirmed, the Bureau and Advisory Group meetings, currently planned for 8 and 9 May 2024, will be rescheduled later in the month.

### **Bureau decision:**

The Bureau requested the CFS Chair to further explore, in collaboration with the Secretariat, the possibility to secure funds and proceed with the organization of this retreat.

Requests were also made to explore whether the invitation could be extended to two representatives from both the CSIPM and PSM, respectively, and to shorten the duration of the retreat to two days and one night (8 and 9 May).

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

The background document presented by the CFS Chairperson for this agenda item reflects the valuable insights shared during the BAG meeting on 25 January. It considers the importance of strengthening synergies with other relevant initiatives, with careful attention to workload and timeframe, and fostering inclusive and open dialogues.

It was highlighted that, as foreseen in the MYPoW, a Technical Task Team (TTT) would be created to guide the overall thematic workstream process.

Bureau and Advisory Group Members welcomed the background document with the following general comments for consideration:

- Extension of the time allocated to the biannual meetings in order to be able to accommodate the diverse voices that need to be heard and articulate meaningful and interactive discussions;
- Establishment of a Technical Task Team (TTT) as soon as possible, with a proposal to consider including the SR RtF. In this regard, it was also suggested to discuss the TTT structure for each workstream under the Rolling section of the MYPoW in future BAG and B Meetings;
- Suggested the engagement of the HLPE-FSN in the process and touched on the possibility of the HLPE-FSN of preparing a background paper by the HLPE-FSN team on key issues for each biannual meeting;
- Reflected on the need to define meeting topics for the four-year workstream period mindful of a strategic building block approach and drawing on the support of the TTT;
- Engaging with existing interagency mechanisms to avoid duplication of efforts, including the Global Network Against Food Crisis, the UNFSS HUB as relevant.

Evariste Nicoletis, the HLPE-FSN Coordinator, affirmed the Steering Committee's commitment to supporting the CFS through reports and issue papers in principle. He stressed the need for flexibility in timing and scope for background document preparation due to tight and preexisting deadlines including for the HLPE-FSN report in July of 2024, and announced his departure from the position by the end of the month for a new assignment.

The CFS Chairperson recognized and appreciated the valuable work and support provided to the HLPE-FSN by Mr Nicoletis and wished him all the best in his new assignment.

The Chairperson welcomed all suggestions and assured participants that a further refined document with relevant information would be forthcoming.

**Bureau discussion:**

It was asked whether the second meeting scheduled for July could be held in a different UN location.

The Chairperson concluded that the workstream will proceed starting with the establishment of the TTT, and the Secretariat will continue to finetune the process as it unfolds.

**3. Dates of future CFS plenary sessions (with Bureau discussion)**

The CFS Chair presented the revised information note, which was prepared to facilitate a discussion on potential alternative dates for future CFS plenaries from 2025 onwards. It was recalled that at the last Bureau and Advisory Group meeting, 'the majority of reactions were more in favor of keeping the CFS plenary session in October', and some Bureau members asked to explore the possibility of moving the Plenary to the week before World Food Day (WFD).

The CFS Chairperson reminded participants that those first week before the WFD are often assigned to other Governing Bodies or other meetings, and invited participants to consider the overview provided by this background document as a basis to facilitate a discussion during the Strategic Retreat, and then the topic can be brought back to the Bureau after the Retreat for further consideration.

**Bureau discussion:**

The Bureau discussion mirrored the morning's session, highlighting the possibility for the CFS Chair to explore, in line with existing rules and regulations, the option of scheduling the CFS Plenary Session before the World Food Day week, starting from 2025 onwards.

Some Bureau Members also underlined the importance of significantly involving the CFS Chairperson in World Food Day activities to increase CFS visibility and to place the right to adequate food at the center of discussions.

**4. Framework for reporting to Regional Groups (with Bureau discussion)**

The CFS Chairperson presented this agenda item underlining its focus on the potential for the CFS to regularly participate in FAO regional groups' meetings as a strategy to increase its visibility within the regions, strengthen partnerships, and to contribute to enhancing the engagement of all Member States in CFS intersessional activities.

No further reflections were made by participants and the CFS Chair concluded that, as outlined in the background document, it is important to have regular engagement of the CFS Secretariat and the CFS Chair with Regional Groups in Rome. This would help in creating an agenda that is responsive to the needs of specific regions. Additionally, she underscored that as a global

platform, the Committee would benefit from greater engagement with key actors at both regional and global levels, which is crucial for the implementation of the CFS policy guidelines.

### **Bureau discussion**

No further discussion occurred under this agenda item.

#### **5. Workstream and budget updates (with Bureau discussion)**

The CFS Chairperson introduced the background document for this agenda item and presented, in a detailed and comprehensive manner, all major completed and planned steps of the workstreams included in the note. Additionally, she provided an overview of the numerous global engagements she has been involved in over the past two months.

The CFS Secretary a.i. provided an overview of the budget update document, which is available as an Annex to the workstream updates document in the CFS workspace.

Bureau and Advisory Group Members welcomed both of these updates shared by the CFS Chair and the CFS Secretary a.i., and suggested including an item on the CFS budget during the Strategic Retreat. It was also suggested to expand the budget document by providing more insights into the broad cost categories of how resources are spent for each workstream/activity (e.g. cost of negotiations, interpretation, travels, communication etc) as well as highlighting the in-kind contributions of the RBAs, as appropriate and relevant.

### **Bureau discussion**

Some Bureau Members highlighted the importance of continuing the conversation on the budget (e.g. during the Strategic Retreat), especially considering that additional resources might be required as we move forward with the different workstreams (e.g., the Action Plan of the Uptake workstream and negotiations for reducing inequalities).

Clarifications were also provided on the RBAs contributions (regular budget and extrabudgetary funds) and on the implications of shifts from regular programme to extrabudgetary funds in the core funding of CFS.

#### **6. Any Other Business (with Bureau discussion)**

##### **a) Update on the meeting of the Group of Friends of the Right to Food**

The CFS Chairperson opened the floor for an update on the Group of Friends of the RtF. Brazil, as part of the Group of Friends of the RtF, informed participants that this Group, led by Alejandro Grinspun (FAO), is expanding and actively attending several high-level events worldwide, putting the Right to Food at the center of all policies within the human rights framework. Members of the CFS who are not yet part of this Group of Friends of the RtF were invited to join. The group meets roughly 3-4 times a year with the objective of advancing the RtF issues.

b) Update on the recent works of the Special Rapporteur on the RtF

It was highlighted that the SR RtF has been in Geneva, presenting his report on small-scale fisheries and the right to food at the Human Rights Council. He was involved in press talks and interviews concerning the situation in Gaza, raising the alarm about an imminent famine. The SR on the RtF, along with other UN experts, is joining a press release to stress the alarming situation of an entire civilian population suffering from unprecedented starvation, with children suffering from acute malnutrition, and the risk of famine continuing to rise.

c) Current conflicts, particularly in the Gaza Strip, by CSIPM.

The CSIPM expressed concern about the worsening situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, particularly in the Gaza Strip. They informed that a formal letter will be sent to the CFS to express their concerns and indicate possible actions that the CFS could take at this time. They stressed that the CFS can leverage its convening power to strengthen coordinated global policy responses to multiple dimensions of food crisis, especially regarding the crisis in Gaza. The CSIPM suggested that the situation in Gaza be addressed during the first biannual meeting of the workstream on collaborative governance and coordinated policy responses, as its first meeting is intended to examine and take stock of food crises and give particular attention to the voices of the most affected countries and constituencies.

d) Global Alliance Against Poverty and Hunger proposal under the Brazilian Presidency of the G20

An overview of the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty was provided. In particular, it was highlighted that the President declared the following main priorities during Brazil's presidency of the G20: reducing inequalities, with a focus on social inclusion and the fight against hunger and poverty; promoting sustainable development and energy transition; and reforming international institutions of global governance. Concerning the first priority, the President decided to establish a Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty to accelerate efforts to eliminate hunger and poverty, and achieve the SDGs, with the overall objective of realizing the right to adequate food.

Bureau and Advisory Group members were informed about the establishment of a Task Force, and it was mentioned that invitations were extended to the CFS Chair, as well as other international organizations, including the RBAs.

**Bureau discussion**

The Bureau discussion mirrored the morning's session particularly briefing Bureau Members on the meeting of the Group of Friends of the Right to Food; and on the Global Alliance Against Poverty and Hunger proposal under the Brazilian Presidency of the G20.

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

**CFS Bureau Members:** Ambassador Nosipho Jezile (Chair), Ms Jenny Reid (Vice-Chair/New Zealand); Ms Lara Lobo (Brazil); Mr Emile Butoyi (Burundi); Mr Hanghao Li (China); Mr Michel Leveque (France); Ms Christina Blank (Switzerland); Ms Danielle Maniscalco, Mr Chris Tatum (USA).

**CFS Bureau Alternates:** Mr Maarten de Groot (Canada); Ms Claudia Gonzalez (Cuba); Ambassador Aly Coulibaly (Mali); Mr Abdelaziz Zidani (Morocco); Ms Emily Ryen Gloinsson (Norway); Ms Catalina Costantin (Romania); Ms Ratchanok Sangpenchan, Ms Supajit Sriariyawat; Ms Pathumwadee Imtour (Thailand).

**Advisory Group:** Ms Elena Bertusi, Mr Shantanu Mathur (IFAD); Mr Marco Cavalcante, Mr Jacopo Valentini, Ms Shanon Howard (WFP); Ms Trudy Wijnhoven (UN-Nutrition); Mr James Garrett (CGIAR); Mr Fabrizio Moscatelli (Gates Foundation); Ms Ludovica Donati (PFM); Ms Hala Barakat, Ms Nora McKeon, Ms Marion Girard Cisneros, Mr Luca Bianchi, Mr Andrea Meloni, Mr Tylor Short (CSIPM); Ms Robynne Anderson, Mr Brian Baldwin (PSM); Ms Francesca Mancarella (WFO).

**Observers:** Mr Matthijs van Huijgevoort (EU Delegation); Ms Kai Kasenurm (Estonia); Mr Roman Diatka (Czechia); Ms Carolin Weber (Germany); Ms Eleni Pavlakou (Greece); Ms Maria Buttigieg (Malta); Mr Matej Hudec (Slovakia).

**Support to the CFS Chairperson:** Mr Bennie Lombard (South Africa)

**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 Secretariat).

## Annex 2: Attendance list Bureau meeting

**CFS Bureau Members:** Ambassador Nosipho Jezile (Chair); Ms Jenny Reid (Vice-Chair/New Zealand); Ms Lara Lobo (Brazil); Mr Emile Butoyi (Burundi); Mr Michel Leveque (France); Ms Christina Blank (Switzerland); Ms Danielle Maniscalco, Mr Chris Tatum, Ms Brenda Lyell (USA).

**CFS Bureau Alternates:** Mr Maarten de Groot (Canada); Ms Claudia Gonzalez (Cuba); Ms Moira Vargas (Dominican Republic); Ambassador Aly Coulibaly (Mali); Mr Abdelaziz Zidani (Morocco); Ms Emily Ryen Gloinsson (Norway); Ms Catalina Costantin (Romania); Ms Ratchanok Sangpenchan, Ms Pathumwadee Imtour, Ms Supajit Sriariyawat (Thailand).

**Support to the CFS Chairperson:** Mr Bennie Lombard (South Africa)

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