



CFS policy convergence workstream on “Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition”

First Open-Ended Working Group meeting

23 January 2024, 9.30-12.30 Hybrid meeting (Malaysia Room B227 + Zoom platform)

Agenda

- 1. Introductory remarks by the Rapporteur**
- 2. Inputs on priority issues and policy relevant areas to be included in the Zero Draft**
- 3. Next steps/Workplan overview**
- 4. Wrap-up by the Rapporteur**

The first Open Ended Group Meeting for the policy convergence workstream on “Reducing Inequalities for food security and nutrition” was opened by the CFS Chairperson, H.E. Nosipho Jezile, Permanent Representative of South Africa to UN Rome-based Agencies, who highlighted the implementation of a human rights-based approach as an effective tool to respond to current inequalities within and across countries. The Chairperson encouraged all stakeholders to actively engage in the process under the leadership of the Rapporteur, Ms Lara Lobo, Alternate Permanent Representative of Brazil to FAO, IFAD and WFP.

1. Introductory remarks by the Rapporteur

The Rapporteur recalled the contribution of Dr. Josué de Castro, a renowned Brazilian geographer, physician, former FAO Independent Chair of the Council and hunger activist, whose life work was dedicated to deepening our understanding of hunger, not only as the result of food scarcity but mainly as a condition that is rooted in social and economic inequalities.

In line with this conceptual framework, the Rapporteur also mentioned the role that Brazil will be playing in the context of the G20 Presidency towards the launch of a Global Alliance against Poverty and Hunger.

2. Inputs on priority issues and policy relevant areas to be included in the Zero Draft

The central role of the HLPE-FSN Report as a sound basis for the policy convergence process was highlighted and overall agreement was expressed on the outline of the policy recommendations as presented by the Rapporteur.

The Rapporteur and CFS Secretariat took note of the numerous comments, proposals and suggestions on policy areas were provided by CFS stakeholders, including those that were not deepened by the HLPE-FSN. The Rapporteur also informed OEWG participants that all inputs provided in the meetings, together with the written inputs to be sent to the CFS Secretariat by 23 January, will feed into the preparation of the Zero Draft of the policy recommendations. All written inputs are available in the CFS [Working Space](#).

In line with ongoing discussions in the context of the CFS “Uptake” workstream, the desire to produce a concise, action-oriented and implementable document was reiterated by many.

3. Next steps/Workplan overview

The Rapporteur presented the workplan as agreed by the Bureau in December 2023, noting that there will be changes with regards to the dates of the two rounds of negotiations. Pending final confirmation by FAO, the new dates will be circulated to all CFS stakeholders.

The Rapporteur reminded OEWG participants about the Thematic Discussion on 29 January (14:30-16:30) which, through the participation of the HLPE-FSN team leader - Dr. Bhavani Shankar - will provide the opportunity to analyze specific concepts and policy areas contained in the HLPE-FSN Report on Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition.

4. Wrap-up by the Rapporteur

The Rapporteur welcomed the constructive dialogue initiated during this first Open-Ended Working Group Meeting and encouraged all stakeholders who still wanted to submit written inputs, to do so by sending them to the CFS Secretariat.