



COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

Forty-first Session

"Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition"

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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CFS RULES OF PROCEDURE AND OUTCOMES OF THE WORK OF THE CFS RULES OF PROCEDURE WORKING GROUP

Matters to be brought to the attention of the Committee:

1) Selection criteria for the appointment of the members of the HLPE Steering Committee

The Committee:

- Amends Rule V (High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition) of the CFS Rules of Procedure, as contained in Annex I of this document.

2) Role and composition of the Advisory Group

The Committee:

- Amends Rule IV (Advisory Group) of the CFS Rules of Procedure, as contained in Annex II of this document;
- Endorses the recommendation of the Bureau to retain the five categories of the CFS Advisory Group unchanged;
- Takes note of the decision of the Bureau to maintain the present composition of the Advisory Group and the distribution of seats among its respective categories;
- Takes note of the decision of the Bureau to maintain the current practice for the selection of each category of the Advisory Group.

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3) CFS Participants and Observers

The Committee:

- Endorses the recommendation of the Bureau to allow representatives of academia to participate as Observers in CFS meetings;
- Acknowledge the work carried out during the last inter-sessional period concerning the participation of civil society and non-governmental organizations, and private sector associations in CFS proceedings and mandates the Bureau to further review the matter with a view to ensure an effective involvement of CSOs/NGOs and the private sector representatives in CFS proceedings and work.

I. BACKGROUND

At its 40th Session in October 2013, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) mandated the Bureau to:

- a) *Consider which of the selection criteria for the appointment of Members of the HLPE Steering Committee mentioned in paragraph 43 of the CFS Reform Document¹ and paragraph 10 of the Rules and Procedure of the Work of the HLPE², should be included in Rule V of the CFS Rules of Procedure with a view to submitting a proposal to the Committee during its Plenary Session in October 2014;*
- b) *In consultation with the Advisory Group to urgently analyze the role of the Advisory Group, its composition, categories and the selection process for each category in order to strengthen its contribution. The Bureau will submit a proposal the Committee at its Plenary Session in October 2014;*
- c) *Further clarify the CFS Reform Document regarding the distinction between CFS Participants and Observers with a view to submitting a proposal to the Committee at its next Plenary Session in October 2014³.*

During the last inter-sessional period, the Bureau, in consultation with the Advisory Group, and with key inputs from the Working Group on CFS Rules of Procedure (hereinafter “the Working Group”), considered the selection criteria for the appointment of the members of the HLPE Steering Committee, the role and composition of the CFS Advisory Group, and the issue of CFS Participants and Observers. These topics are addressed in Parts I, II and III of this document respectively.

PART I – SELECTION CRITERIA FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE HLPE STEERING COMMITTEE

In implementing the decision by the 40th session of the Committee, the Bureau delegated the review of the selection criteria for the members of the HLPE Steering Committee to the Working Group, chaired by Mr Guo Handi, Deputy Representative of China.

On 20 January 2014, the Working Group examined the selection criteria mentioned in the CFS Reform Document and the Rules and Procedure of the Work of the HLPE and identified, by consensus, additional criteria for the members of the HLPE Steering Committee to be included in Rule V of the CFS Rules of Procedure. The Working Group proposal was submitted to the Bureau which, at its meeting on 7 March 2014, agreed to the proposed amendments to the CFS Rules of Procedure

The Committee is invited to approve the proposed amendments to Rule V of the CFS Rules of Procedure, as contained in Annex I of this document, in accordance with Rule XIII – Amendment of Rules – of the CFS Rules of Procedure⁴.

PART II – ROLE AND COMPOSITION OF THE ADVISORY GROUP

Following the mandate given by the 40th Session of CFS, the Bureau, in consultation with the Advisory Group, analyzed three issues related to the Advisory Group: (a) its role; (b) its categories and composition; and (c) the selection procedure for each category.

¹ http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/Docs0910/ReformDoc/CFS_2009_2_Rev_2_E_K7197.pdf

² http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/hlpe/hlpe_documents/HLPE_-_Rules_and_procedures.pdf

³ CFS 2013/40 REPORT, paragraph 64. Available at <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/029/mi744e.pdf>

⁴ Rule XIII of the CFS Rules of Procedure reads: “*The Committee may, by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, amend its Rules of Procedure provided that such amendment is consistent with the Constitution of the Food and Agriculture Organization and the CFS Reform Document. No proposal for the amendment of these Rules of Procedure shall be included in the agenda of any session of the Committee, unless notice thereof has been dispatched by the Secretary to Members of the Committee at least 30 days before the opening of the session.*”

a) The role of the Advisory Group

At its meeting of 23 April 2014, the Bureau reviewed the functions carried out by the Advisory Group and considered the possibility to enhance its role. The Bureau recommended that the Committee consider entrusting the CFS Advisory Group members with additional roles.

The Bureau also agreed that the Advisory Group members should report to the Bureau on the work carried out during the inter-sessional period to fulfil their respective roles as convenors of their constituencies.

The recommended additional roles and the proposed reporting by the Advisory Group members are reflected in the proposed amendments to Rule IV, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the CFS Rules of Procedure.

The Committee is invited to approve the proposed amendments to Rule IV, paragraphs 3 and 4 of the CFS Rules of Procedure, as contained in Annex II to this document, in accordance with Rule XIII – Amendment of Rules – of the CFS Rules of Procedure⁵.

b) Categories and composition of the Advisory Group

The Bureau reviewed the present composition of the Advisory Group and its five categories. Upon review of the relevant provisions in the CFS Reform Document regarding the composition of the Advisory Group and considering that the five categories represent a wide range of stakeholders involved in the field of food security and nutrition, the Bureau recommended to the Committee to retain the current five Advisory Group categories.

Bearing in mind that the distribution of the existing number of seats assigned to each category of the Advisory Group is within its prerogative⁶, the Bureau decided not to change at this point in time the distribution of seats among the five categories. It also noted that the matter could be reconsidered by the Bureau Members to be elected at the 42nd Session of CFS in October 2015.

Furthermore, in order to ensure a wide engagement of interested stakeholders and promote the participation of other actors in CFS inter-sessional activities, the Bureau agreed on the possibility for the CFS Chair to appoint, in consultation with the Bureau, ad hoc participants to the Advisory Group. The mandate of the ad hoc participants will be limited to a particular topic, a specific activity and limited in duration. The proposal is reflected in the proposed amendments to Rule IV, paragraph 5, of the CFS Rules of Procedure.

The Committee is invited to:

- Endorse the recommendation of the Bureau to maintain the five Advisory Group categories unchanged
- Take note of the decision of the Bureau to maintain the present composition of the Advisory Group and the distribution of seats among its categories;

⁵ See footnote 4 above.

⁶ In accordance with Rule IV, paragraph 1, of the CFS Rules of Procedure, “the Bureau shall establish an Advisory Group from among representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and other organizations allowed to participate in the proceedings of the Committee under paragraph 11 of the CFS Reform Document and paragraph 3 of Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The members of the Advisory group shall be appointed for a term of two years. The number of members of the Advisory Group shall not exceed that of the members of the Bureau including the Chairperson, unless otherwise decided by the Committee”.

- Approve the proposed amendments to Rule IV, paragraph 5, of the CFS Rules of Procedure, as contained in Annex II of this document, in accordance with Rule XIII- Amendment of Rules – of the CFS Rules of Procedure⁷.

c) Selection procedure for each Advisory Group category

As regards the procedure for the selection of the Advisory Group members, and in accordance with Rule IV, paragraph 1, of the CFS Rules of Procedure⁸, the Bureau decided to maintain the practice currently in place for the selection of each category of the Advisory Group.

The Committee is invited to take note of the decision of the Bureau to maintain the current practice for the selection of each category of the Advisory Group.

PART III - CFS PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS

In pursuance of the mandate given by the 40th Session of the Committee, the Bureau addressed two particular matters related to CFS Participants and Observers:

- a) The possibility for representatives of academia participating in CFS Sessions as Observers;
- b) The participation of civil society and non-governmental organizations (CSOs and NGOs) and private sector associations in CFS proceedings.

With respect to the first matter, general consensus was expressed towards allowing representatives of academia to participate in CFS Sessions as Observers.

The question of the participation of CSOs/NGOs and private sector representatives in CFS Sessions was extensively debated in three meetings of the Bureau, three Joint Bureau and Advisory Group meetings, as well as two meetings of the Working Group.

The Bureau Members and the Working Group examined two options, described below, for the participation of CSOs/NGOs and private sector associations in CFS sessions, taking into consideration the legal and political implications, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of each option.

i. Geographical criteria

At the Joint Bureau and Advisory Group meeting of 15 January 2014, an initial proposal was presented based on the application of geographical criteria to distinguish between those CSOs and NGOs that are eligible as Participants and those others eligible as Observers. According to this option, CSOs and NGOs acting at international and regional level would participate as CFS Participants in CFS Sessions, while CSOs and NGOs acting at national and local level would participate as Observers.

The criteria would apply only to those CSOs/NGOs that request to attend CFS meetings in their individual capacities and not through the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM). Those CSOs/NGOs that express their interest to attend CFS meetings as part of their respective mechanisms would continue to participate as Participants. Though the CFS Reform Document does not foresee the participation of private sector associations as Observers, some Bureau Members considered that similar criteria should apply to private sector associations, which request to attend CFS meetings in their individual capacity and not through the Private Sector Mechanism (PSM).

In line with the guiding principle of inclusiveness that characterizes the CFS reform, this option would have the advantage of guaranteeing the possibility for a number of CSOs and NGOs that are not part, or do not wish to be part, of the CSM to participate as Participants in CFS meetings.

⁷ See Footnote 4 above.

⁸ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/022/K8024E.pdf#page=125>

Some Members further observed that, based on the CFS Reform Document, there is a need to preserve the coordination role of the autonomous coordinating mechanisms and pointed out at the risk that allowing for a large number of Participants outside the CSM could weaken the coordinating mechanisms and/or make CFS sessions difficult to manage.

ii. Participation through the coordination mechanisms

Upon invitation by the CFS Chairperson in March 2014, three Regional Groups⁹ submitted their proposals on the modalities for the participation of CSOs/NGOs and Private Sector associations in CFS proceedings¹⁰. The three Regional Groups provided support to the proposal that representatives of CSOs, NGOs and private sector associations be allowed to participate in CFS meetings as Participants only through the respective coordinating mechanisms, whereas all other CSOs, NGOs and private sector associations which do not desire to participate as members of a coordinating mechanisms should participate in their individual capacity as Observers.

It was noted that reserving the status of Participant only to CSM and PSM members would enhance the coordinating role of the mechanisms and maximize the manageability of CFS Sessions.

However, the CFS legal framework currently in place allows CSOs, NGOs and private sector associations to request to participate in CFS meetings as Participants either through the coordinating mechanisms or in their individual capacity.

From a political viewpoint, the proposal to reserve the status of CFS Participants only to CSOs/NGOs and private sector associations that are members of the CSM and PSM may be in contrast with the principle of inclusiveness that represents one of the guiding principles of the reform of the CFS. Furthermore, some Members emphasized the need for more transparency in the criteria and modalities applied for admitting or excluding CSOs, NGOs and private sector representatives to/from the respective coordinating mechanisms.

In this regard, it was highlighted that before endorsing this option, these concerns should be addressed with a view to strengthening the functioning and inclusiveness of the coordinating mechanisms and ensuring that a transparent process of admission to the CSM and PSM be participatory, with a view to involving all relevant stakeholders. Mechanisms could be invited to communicate a proposal to address these concerns to the Bureau, upon recommendation of CFS Members.

Noting that no consensus could be reached on any of the above mentioned options, at its meeting on 11 July 2014, the Bureau recognized the need to further review the matter and, therefore, to request the Committee to give the Bureau more time in the next inter-sessional period to discuss it with a view to presenting a proposal to CFS 42 in 2015.

The Committee is invited to:

- Endorse the recommendation of the Bureau to allow representatives of academia to participate as Observers in CFS meetings;
- Acknowledge the work carried out during the last inter-sessional period concerning the participation of civil society and non-governmental organizations and private sector associations in CFS proceedings and mandate the Bureau to further review to matter with a view to ensure an effective involvement of CSOs/NGOs and the private sector representatives in CFS proceedings and work.

⁹ The European Regional Group, GRULAC and the Near East Regional Group.

¹⁰ Following the submission of the three proposals that emphasized the need to establish the same criteria both for CSO/NGOs and private sector associations, the discussion was expanded to discuss also about criteria for private sector associations.

ANNEX I

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RULE V OF THE CFS RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule V

High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition¹¹

1. The Committee shall be assisted by a High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition, hereinafter referred to as “the High-Level Panel”. Its ~~composition and~~ functions, *structure and modus operandi* are provided for in paragraphs *36 to 42* of the Reform Document and in Rule XXXIII, paragraphs 12 and 13 of the General Rules of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
2. [unchanged]
3. The Steering Committee shall consist of between ten and fifteen highly reputable, internationally-recognized experts on food security and nutrition-related fields, appointed in their personal capacity for a term of office of two years, renewable consecutively only once. *The Steering Committee should reflect an assortment of technical disciplines, balance of regional expertise as well as consideration of gender representation. Ideal candidates will have relevant experience working with cross-disciplinary expert processes. They should be internationally recognized experts in their field related to food security and nutrition, and*¹² *have a broad vision and substantial experience in cross-disciplinary expert processes. They should be experienced professionals, holding an advanced university degree, proven record of publications and/or solid background in field/research project management in the area of food security and nutrition. Most importantly they should have strong experience in managing groups or networks of experts, extensive communication and inter-personal skills, leadership skills, and, drawing from their inter-national recognition by peers, the capacity to attract and draw expert networks.*
4. [last part of old paragraph 3 unchanged] The members of the Steering Committee shall be appointed by the Bureau of the Committee on the basis of a recommendation of an ad hoc technical selection committee consisting of representatives of FAO, the World Food Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, Bioversity International and a representative of civil society organizations. The Steering Committee shall normally hold two sessions every year, unless otherwise decided by the Committee itself in extraordinary circumstances. The functions of the Steering Committee shall be:
 - a) to ensure and follow the preparation of state-of-the-art studies and analysis for consideration by the Committee on a variety of food security and nutrition issues;
 - b) to assemble expert Project Teams to prepare studies and analysis in support of decisions of the Committee;
 - c) to establish and keep under review working methodologies, plans of work and terms of reference for Project Teams and, in general, manage their work;
 - d) to review work methodologies and to propose work plans;
 - e) to perform such related functions as may be required.
5. [new] *Members of the Steering Committee will participate in their individual capacities, and not as representatives of their respective governments, institutions or organizations.*

¹¹ Deletions are indicated using ~~strikethrough~~ and insertions are indicated using *underlined italics*

¹² It is suggested to delete this part as it repeats the first sentence of Rule V paragraph 3 almost word by word.

- ~~4.~~ 6. [old paragraph 4 unchanged]
- ~~5.~~ 7. [old paragraph 5 unchanged]
- ~~6.~~ 8. [old paragraph 6 unchanged]

ANNEX II

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RULE IV OF THE CFS RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule IV

Advisory Group¹³

1. The Bureau shall establish an Advisory Group from among representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and other organizations allowed to participate in the proceedings of the Committee under paragraph 11 of the CFS Reform Document and paragraph 3 of Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The members of the Advisory group shall be appointed for a term of two years. The number of members of the Advisory Group shall not exceed that of the members of the Bureau including the Chairperson, unless otherwise decided by the Committee.
2. The Advisory Group shall assist the Bureau by sharing with it the expertise and knowledge of the broad range of organizations it represents and its outreach to constituencies. It shall contribute regularly with substantive work to the intersessional activities of the Committee, and its members may propose issues to the Bureau for consideration.
3. [new] Each member of the Advisory Group should be responsible for the establishment, maintenance and strengthening of regular linkages with organizations and entities within the category it represents with a view to:
 - a) Promote the engagement of interested organizations and entities that are represented in each of the five categories of the Advisory Group in order to ensure a two way exchange of information during CFS inter-sessional periods;
 - b) Facilitate the participation and provision of inputs, comments and proposals regarding ongoing CFS activities from those entities represented in each category that could provide relevant contributions to CFS discussions;
 - c) Assist the Bureau in the identification of important developments in the area of food security and nutrition at global, regional and national levels and raise awareness towards the ongoing activities carried out by the different entities represented in each category;
 - d) Contribute to the dissemination of CFS outcomes and deliberations.
4. [new] At the end of each inter-sessional period, each member of the Advisory Group should prepare a report to inform the Bureau about the work carried out during the year to fulfil their roles. Particular attention should be devoted to the achievements obtained in involving their constituencies and facilitating a two way exchange of information and inputs among their stakeholders and the Committee.
5. [new] The CFS Chair, after consulting the Bureau, may decide to appoint ad hoc Participants whose mandate would be limited to a particular topic, a specific activity and a limited period of time. The ad hoc Participants' expertise and background should add value to the deliberations and contribute to the work of the Advisory Group. The appointed ad hoc Participant could participate, with the right to intervene in discussions on the subject matters for which he/she was appointed, in the Joint Bureau and Advisory Group meetings.

¹³ Deletions are indicated using ~~strikethrough~~ and insertions are indicated using underlined italics