



COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

Forty-second Session

"Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition"

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CFS MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPoW) FOR 2016-2017

Table of Contents

	Pages
I. INTRODUCTION.....	3
II. CFS OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES.....	4
III. CFS WORKSTREAMS	5
CFS role and contribution to nutrition– 2016-2017	5
CFS engagement with Sustainable Development Goals – 2016-2017.....	6
Follow-up to the High-Level Forum on Connecting Smallholders to Markets - 2016.....	6
CFS Forum on Women’s empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition - 2017.....	7
CFS Forum on Urbanization, rural transformation and implications for food security and nutrition – 2016-2017	7
Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF) – 2016-2017	8
Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) – 2016-2017	8
Monitoring – 2016-2017	8
Evaluation of CFS effectiveness – 2016.....	8

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CFS Rules of Procedure – 2016-2017.....	8
CFS Outreach and linkages, including communication.....	9
IV. HLPE REPORTS	9
Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition, including the role of livestock - 2016.....	9
Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition - 2017	9
Nutrition and food systems - 2017	9
V. INDICATIVE BUDGET.....	10
VI. OVERVIEW OF PARALLEL ACTIVITIES	11
ANNEX 1 GUIDANCE NOTE FOR SELECTION OF CFS ACTIVITIES.....	12

MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Committee:

- a) Expresses its appreciation for the work of the Open-Ended Working Group on MYPoW (OEWG-MYPoW);
- b) Adopts the CFS MYPoW for 2016-2017;
- c) Adopts the revised Guidance note for the selection of CFS activities (Annex 1, CFS 2015/42/12);
- d) Recommends that the MYPoW OEWG continues its work in the biennium 2016-2017 to prepare the MYPoW for 2018-2019 according to the revised guidance note.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present document is the result of the work carried out during the last biennium by the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW). The process that was undertaken, although in line with the steps agreed upon at CFS 40, has been adapted to take into consideration funding and time constraints.

2. In the first inter-sessional year of the biennium 2014-2015, it included a multi-stakeholder dialogue held in the eve of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe and a discussion during the update on CFS held at the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, an electronic consultation was organized to collect proposals from a great variety of stakeholders in the area of food security and nutrition at global, regional and national levels.

3. The OEWG discussed the wide range of proposed topics and related activities with a view to streamlining the list and prioritizing the most relevant themes. The work of the OEWG was informed by the note on "*Critical and emerging issues in the area of food security and nutrition*" produced by the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE).

4. As a result of this work, the Committee at its 41st Session in October 2014 decided on the themes of the HLPE reports to be presented in 2016 and 2017.

5. During the second inter-sessional year, the OEWG further streamlined the list of proposed topics and activities with a view to reaching consensus on those that should be included in the MYPoW 2016-2017. Internal consultations within Regional Groups and CFS Advisory Groups constituencies were held in order to present their list of activities ranked in order of importance. The results of this ranking exercise were considered within the OEWG which developed and agreed on the final version of the programme of work for 2016-2017.

6. Following the request submitted by the Committee at CFS 41 in 2014 to revise the Guidance note for the selection and prioritization of CFS activities adopted in 2013 on the basis of the lessons learned during the current biennium, the MYPoW OEWG worked on a revised version of the document that is presented together with the MYPoW 2016-2017 for endorsement by CFS 42.

7. Following the present introduction and the description of CFS vision and roles (Section II), the document includes information regarding the implementation of the workstreams (Section III) as well as the themes of the HLPE Reports foreseen in the next biennium (section IV). A detailed indicative budget outlining the costs associated with the different proposed activities is also included in Section V. **It should be noted the activities contained in the MYPoW will only take place**

provided resources are made available by CFS stakeholders. An overview of the activities related to the proposed workstreams that will be held in parallel in the course of the biennium is presented in Section VI. The revised guidance note for the selection of CFS activities is in Annex 1.

II. CFS OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

8. As per the Reform Document endorsed in 2009, CFS “constitutes the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for a broad range of committed stakeholders to work together in a coordinated manner and in support of country-led processes towards the elimination of hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all human beings. CFS strives for a world free from hunger where countries implement the voluntary guidelines for the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security”.

9. The CFS is assisted by the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) for regular inclusion of food security and nutrition-related expertise to better inform CFS and help create synergies between academic/scientific knowledge, field experience, knowledge from social actors and practical application in various settings. The HLPE utilizes and synthesizes available research and analyses performed by numerous agencies, organizations and academic institutions, among others. Given the multidisciplinary complexity of food security, the effort is aimed at improving communication and information-sharing among the different stakeholders. The HLPE products also focus on better understanding of current food insecurity situations and look forward toward emerging issues.

10. The HLPE provides a key supporting role by providing evidence-based information in support of policy discussions. In addition, the three Rome-based Agencies provide technical support to the work of CFS.

11. Three interlinked outcomes are established for CFS in order to achieve this overall goal: coordination at global level, policy convergence, and strengthening of national and regional food security and nutrition actions. This description of outcomes is based on the six roles as described in the CFS Reform Document, but does not replace the agreed language as approved by CFS in 2009.

12. These outcomes are further supported by the development and implementation of a CFS outreach and communication strategy that aims at sensitizing the decision-makers to CFS recommendations and by the CFS participation in key international fora.

Outcome A: Enhanced global coordination on food security and nutrition questions

13. The CFS role of global coordination is to provide an inclusive and evidence-based platform for discussion and coordination to strengthen collaborative action among governments, international and regional organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs), the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, in a manner that is in alignment with country needs.

14. This role is conducted mainly through discussions at CFS Plenary sessions, including examination of food security and nutrition initiatives and frameworks, and inter-sessional activities that support the work of the Committee. The outcome considers not only coordination within CFS, but also the way CFS works with other important global and regional fora and initiatives. Coordination can also serve to encourage a more efficient use of resources and the identification of resource gaps.

Outcome B: Improved policy convergence on key food security and nutrition issues

15. CFS role in policy convergence is achieved through the formulation of policy recommendations, the development of international strategies, voluntary guidelines, principles and other policy frameworks, based on best practices, lessons learnt, inputs from the national and regional levels, expert advice and opinions from different stakeholders. Policy convergence will allow greater

integration and coherence horizontally (among countries, organizations and stakeholders and across sectors) as well as vertically (from local to global levels and vice versa).

Outcome C: Strengthened national and regional food security and nutrition actions

16. It is crucial that the work of CFS is based on the reality on the ground. It will be fundamental for CFS to nurture and maintain linkages with different actors at regional, sub regional and local levels to ensure on-going, two-way exchange of information, share of best practices and lessons learnt among these stakeholders during inter-sessional periods.

17. This represents a key element to advance CFS role within its capacity as a global multi-stakeholder committee in facilitating support and/or advice, at country and/or region request, in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of plans to eliminate hunger and achieve food security and nutrition, based on principles that promote participation, transparency and accountability.

III. CFS WORKSTREAMS

18. Terms of reference outlining the scope, expected outcomes and activities of the different thematic workstreams included in the present MYPoW will be prepared by the Secretariat with a view to being discussed and agreed at Bureau and Advisory Group level. As discussed by the Bureau and the Advisory Group and decided by the Bureau, the composition of technical task teams to support the different workstreams will be decided by the Bureau, following consultation with the Advisory Group.

CFS role and contribution to nutrition– 2016-2017

19. As recognized in the Rome Declaration on Nutrition adopted at the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) in November 2014, “*malnutrition in all its forms, including undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity, not only affects people’s health and wellbeing [...] but also poses a high burden in the form of negative social and economic consequences to individuals, families, communities and States*”. The complexity and multidimensionality of the causes and factors leading to malnutrition are also acknowledged. In addition, the effects of economic growth, urbanization, and changes in relative prices of food also influence changes in diets and food systems and lead to an acceleration of the nutritional transition, as was identified in the HLPE note on “*Critical and emerging issues in the area of food security and nutrition*”.

20. After CFS 42 in October 2015, a Task Team which will include, among others, representatives of the Rome-based agencies and UN agencies and bodies with a mandate in nutrition will be invited to identify, with the support of the CFS Secretariat, the opportunities arising from the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action adopted at ICN 2, and relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for greater CFS involvement, and present a proposal on potential areas where CFS can play a major role, in line with its mandate, particularly addressing issues of policy convergence and coordination at global level. The Task Team should conclude its work by the end of December 2015.

21. The work of the Task Team will be discussed within the **Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on nutrition** which will be formed to prepare a proposal on a CFS workstream on nutrition to be discussed by the Bureau, in consultation with the Advisory Group, and presented for endorsement at CFS 43 in October 2016. The proposal should result in a clear vision for CFS’ role on nutrition, with a workplan leading to concrete outcomes for 2017 and beyond. The OEWG will report to Plenary at CFS 43 and CFS 44.

CFS engagement with Sustainable Development Goals – 2016-2017

22. In September 2015, the United Nations will hold a summit of heads of state in New York for the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As the foremost inclusive international platform dealing with food security and nutrition issues, CFS represents an exceptional forum to discuss ways and approaches towards implementing the SDGs on issues related to sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition. Through its unique multi-stakeholder, broad-based and participatory platform, the Committee could identify strategic and coordinated actions and stay abreast of major international developments such as UNFCCC COP 21 in Paris, with a view to supporting country-led, national implementation of the SDGs.
23. An **OEWG** will be established as of November 2015 to analyse those SDGs that are related to sustainable agriculture and food security and nutrition. Agencies and bodies, in addition to the Rome-based agencies, invited to provide technical support to the OEWG will be agreed by the Bureau following consultation with the Advisory Group. The objective would be to agree on how CFS as a global, multi-stakeholder committee can provide a platform for sharing, learning and identifying challenges and achievements. It should act to address policy gaps that may impede SDG implementation and identify opportunities for accelerating progress on particular themes within the SDGs relevant to the mandate of CFS.
24. The work of the OEWG could also consider CFS outputs and previous work carried out by the Committee (including HLPE reports and recommendation of the policy roundtables) which could be relevant for advancing implementation of the SDGs, and mainstream nutrition throughout its work.
25. This process could also help promote inclusive and effective multi-stakeholder mechanisms at regional and national level that could advance implementation of the SDGs by sharing information and lessons learned via CFS' multi-stakeholder approach. This would be consistent with the indicative roles foreseen in phase 2 of the CFS Reform Document.
26. This preparatory phase will set the stage and enable discussion on the future objectives and expected outcomes of this work and its **results would be presented at CFS 43 in 2016**, which would take a decision on the next steps of the process.

Follow-up to the High-Level Forum on Connecting Smallholders to Markets - 2016

27. A High-Level Forum on Connecting Smallholders to Markets was held in 2015 within CFS. It brought together a wide range of concerned stakeholders to discuss issues, challenges and ways to improve the access of smallholders to markets with a view to identifying ways in which CFS can contribute to addressing those challenges and arrive at broad recommendations on areas for priority action to strengthen smallholder access to markets. It represented an opportunity to discuss policy implications based on the realities faced by smallholders as market actors in a globalized food system as well as lessons from concrete examples of how farmers and farm groups have found opportunities to link to markets.
28. The **Task Team** that was appointed to prepare the High-Level Forum will analyse the outcomes of the High-Level Forum with a view to extrapolating lessons from good practices arising from the background document and during discussions at the High Level Forum itself as well as identifying options for overcoming barriers and maximising opportunities, drawing on additional evidence and research as needed. The results of the work of the Task Team will inform the **discussions of one-off Open-Ended Working Group** that will take place before July 2016 and last up to two days according to the needs. The objective of the one-off Open-Ended Working Group would be to agree upon a set of policy recommendations and practices that evidence suggests can strengthen smallholders access to markets.

29. This agreed set of policy recommendations and practices will be presented for endorsement at CFS 43. These can be broadly disseminated with a view to informing future policy and be the basis for future stocktaking and sharing of lessons.

CFS Forum on Women's empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition - 2017

30. According to the State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) released by FAO in 2010-2011, despite their crucial role in agriculture, women still “face gender-specific constraints that reduce their productivity and limit their contributions to agricultural production, economic growth and the well-being of their families, communities and countries”. These result in a gender gap in terms of access to land and essential resources. According to FAO, if women were given the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields on their farms by 20-30 percent and raise agricultural outputs in developing countries by 2.5-4 percent which in theory could reduce the overall number of hungry people by 12-17 percent (SOFA 2010-2011, Women in Agriculture). Closing the gender gap and addressing women's nutritional challenges would have positive implications also on children's nutritional status given that when women have more influence over economic decisions, their families allocate more income to food, health, education, children's clothing and children's nutrition.

31. A CFS Forum will take place during or back-to-back to CFS 44 in October 2017 to discuss the challenges that remain in economic empowerment of women and help promote a shared understanding of how those issues are evolving in the agriculture and agri-food sector. Taking into account also the recommendations of the policy roundtable on “Gender, Food Security and Nutrition” held at CFS 37 in 2011, the discussion is expected to lead to **identification of policy gaps and good practices** which can be broadly disseminated with a view to informing future gender-sensitive policy and represent the basis for future stocktaking and sharing of lessons.

CFS Forum on Urbanization, rural transformation and implications for food security and nutrition – 2016-2017

32. Rapid urbanization and the transformation of agriculture, the food systems and the rural space are creating new challenges as well as opportunities for inclusive growth, poverty eradication, economic, environmental and social sustainability, support of local food systems and economies, and food security and nutrition. Those interlinked processes are changing the traditional challenges for food security and nutrition with impacts in terms of income inequalities, vulnerability and exclusion. Efforts are required at policy level to find coherence between agriculture, food security and nutrition and the broader rural development and social protection objectives and actions.

33. This workstream builds on outcomes of previous HLPE Reports and subsequent debates and intends to identify key areas for policy attention to deal with threats and opportunities arising from urbanization and rural transformation processes:

34. A **CFS Forum** will be held during or back-to-back to CFS 43 in October 2016. The objective would be to reach better understanding of the issues at stake and identify areas of intervention and possible CFS roles

35. Following the Forum, its **outcomes and results** will be reviewed and analysed by CFS participants in one-off open ended working group format of one or two days according to the needs with a view to identifying challenges and policy approaches that would contribute to overcoming existing constraints. The results of this work will be presented **for endorsement at CFS 44 in 2017**.

Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF) – 2016-2017

36. At its 40th Session in 2013, the Committee decided that a periodic updating of the GSF be carried out to review the full text and adjust its length, subject to available resources¹.

37. The periodic updating process would take the form of a targeted review in order to incorporate major new international developments in the area of food security and nutrition in the text, particularly in Chapter 3 “*The foundations and overarching frameworks*”. The Sustainable Development Goals as well as the outcomes of ICN 2 could represent the main pillars of such update. This process is also meant to carry out a minor technical update of Chapter 4 “*Policy, programme and other recommendations*” to streamline its content and reduce its length by primarily focusing on CFS recommendations.

38. The periodic updating process will also offer an opportunity to think about dissemination options for the GSF, including by making it a more user-friendly on-line resource that might offer more scope to include case studies.

39. The consultation process will be carried out within the **GSF OEWG** with a view to finalizing the revised version of the GSF before July 2017 and presenting it for **endorsement by the Committee at its 44th Plenary Session in October 2017**.

Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) – 2016-2017

40. The OEWG on CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) will continue its work in 2016-2017 to prepare the MYPoW for 2018-2019 on the basis of the revised process for the selection and prioritization of CFS activities (see Annex A) that is presented for adoption at CFS 42.

Monitoring – 2016-2017

41. Following CFS 41 and the implementation of the CFS Effectiveness Opinion Survey in 2015, the OEWG on Monitoring will continue its work in 2016-2017. Countries are invited to volunteer to pilot the implementation of voluntary in-depth country level assessments of CFS effectiveness and discuss the results with the OEWG. Additionally, the OEWG on Monitoring will take into consideration the implementation of CFS workstreams as outlined in CFS MYPoWs in order to develop best practices for future monitoring activities.

Evaluation of CFS effectiveness – 2016

42. An evaluation to assess the effectiveness of the CFS since its reform in 2009, as requested at CFS 40 within the MYPoW 2014-15, will be completed in 2016, subject to available resources.

CFS Rules of Procedure – 2016-2017

43. The Working Group may be re-established by the Bureau in the event any CFS Rules of Procedure-related matter is raised.

¹ CFS 2013/40/5 Rev.1, paragraph 4b and CFS 2013/40 Final Report, paragraph 58a.

CFS Outreach and linkages, including communication

44. The Secretariat will continue to strengthen outreach activities at the regional and national levels, including FAO Regional Conferences and by engaging with other major food security and nutrition fora, for instance by looking at opportunities for hosting side events. This will include producing material in different languages and different formats that can be tailored by CFS stakeholders to suit different situations. There will be a special focus on engaging with regionally-based bodies to understand how CFS products can support them in their work. Each CFS workstream and activity will be supported by an outreach and awareness raising strategy. There will also be a focus on further growing the CFS social media presence. The scope of these activities will depend on available resources.

IV. HLPE REPORTS

Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition, including the role of livestock - 2016

45. CFS 41, in October 2014, requested the HLPE, to undertake a study on “Sustainable Agricultural Development for Food Security and Nutrition, including the Role of Livestock” to be presented to the Plenary in 2016. The report will consider the issues of sustainable agricultural development, with the aim of assessing the economic, environmental, and social sustainability for food security and nutrition, in all of its dimensions (availability, access, utilization and stability). The HLPE report will focus particularly on the livestock component in agricultural systems, given its role as an engine for the development of the agriculture and food sector, and as a driver of major economic, social and environmental changes in food systems worldwide. It will review trends, drivers and projections for future food demand, including animal-sourced food. It will assess sustainability challenges, threats and opportunities to agricultural development for food security and nutrition. The report will explore pathways towards sustainable crop and livestock-based systems and options for enabling and managing the transition to sustainable systems, with a view to recommending appropriate actions by policy makers and stakeholders.

Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition - 2017

46. CFS 41, in October 2014, requested the HLPE, to undertake a study on “Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition” to be presented to the Plenary in 2017. This HLPE report will aim at an evidence-based, comprehensive analysis of the relations between forestry and food security and nutrition. It will describe the various contributions of forests and forestry, including plantations and agroforestry, to improved food security and better nutrition, given the specificities of the timescales of forestry-related activities. The analysis will review challenges and opportunities relevant to forests’ and forestry’s contribution to food security and nutrition of people living in the forests, at the forests’ margins, and outside forests, from local to global levels. To do so, the report will address relevant issues of land-use and relations between forests and agriculture. It will consider threats to and opportunities for the social, economic and environmental functions of forests and forestry, including biodiversity, the role of forests in the climate system and the impacts of climate change. The report will look at instruments, institutions, and governance, with a view to recommending appropriate actions by policy makers and stakeholders.

Nutrition and food systems - 2017

47. In consideration of the recognized compelling need to foster a solid technical background in support of the CFS workstream on nutrition, the HLPE will prepare a report on nutrition and food systems.

48. The Technical Task Team responsible for setting the technical stage for the OEWG on nutrition is also requested to propose the area of focus of this HLPE report as well as how it will feed the discussion of the CFS workstream on nutrition. In this regard, the Task Team will present a proposal to the OEWG on nutrition by the end of December 2015. The OEWG will present its proposal to the Bureau which, following discussion with the Advisory Group, will submit the request to the HLPE. The report is expected to be presented at CFS 44 in October 2017. After CFS 44 the OEWG on nutrition will present a proposal to the Bureau which in consultation with the Advisory Group will agree on further work to be undertaken arising from the report, including possible CFS outcomes that should be presented for endorsement in the next biennium.

V. INDICATIVE BUDGET

BUDGET FOR CFS PLENARY SESSION AND RELATED WORKSTREAMS 2016-17 (*)					
	2016	2017	TOTAL PLANNED COSTS	AVAILABLE BUDGET	GAP
CFS PLENARY SESSION AND CORE WORKSTREAMS					
Core staff and technical support to core workstreams	1,629,246	1,629,246	3,258,492		
Interpretation for CFS Plenary Session + 1 Information Session	154,000	154,000	308,000		
Documents production	172,400	172,400	344,800		
Travel of panellists and CFS Secretariat	60,000	47,500	107,500		
CFS Chair related activities (support to Chair and travel)	110,175	97,675	207,850		
Support CFS communication	70,000	70,000	140,000		
General Operating Expenses and logistics	94,138	94,138	188,276		
			0		
Plenary-related sub-total	2,289,959	2,264,959	4,554,918	4,132,638	
Workstreams					
Nutrition	114,770	114,770	229,540		
Sustainable Development Goals	114,770	114,770	229,540		
Smallholders	81,089	0	81,089		
Gender	41,319	111,479	152,798		
Rural transformation	122,229	41,319	163,548		
Monitoring	131,298	131,298	262,596		
CFS outreach	152,638	152,638	305,276		
CFS Evaluation	363,200	0	363,200		
Global Strategic Framework - periodic update	41,319	81,089	122,408		
Other costs (PSC 13%)	151,142	97,157	248,299		
workstreams-related sub-total	1,313,774	844,520	2,158,294		
CFS TOTAL	3,603,733	3,109,479	6,713,212	4,132,638	-2,580,574
HLPE TOTAL	1,012,000	1,245,000	2,257,000	686,000	-1,571,000
CSM TOTAL	800,000	800,000	1,600,000	700,000	-900,000
GRAND TOTAL 2016/17	5,415,733	5,154,479	10,570,212	5,518,638	-5,051,574

(*) For further information on the figures concerning the CFS Total, please write to CFS@fao.org, on HLPE Total write to CFS-HLPE@fao.org while on CSM Total write to cso4cfs@gmail.com

VI. OVERVIEW OF PARALLEL ACTIVITIES

TOPIC	YEAR 1		CFS 43	YEAR 2		CFS 44
Nutrition	Task Team	OEWG	Proposal for Plenary endorsement	OEWG		Report to Plenary
SDGs	OEWG		Presentation of results	Follow-up. OEWG?	to be determined	
Smallholders	Task Team follow-up	one-off OEWG	Plenary endorsement	-----		-----
Rural Transformation	Preparation process		CFS Forum	one-off OEWG		Plenary endorsement
Gender	-----		Preparation process	-----		Preparation process
MYPOW	Workplan	OEWG	Decision HLPE topics	OEWG		MYPOW adoption
Monitoring	To be decided					
GSF	OEWG		-----		OEWG	Periodic Update
Rules of Procedure	To be decided					
HLPE - Sustainable agricul. develop. & role of livestock	Launch	Decision-Box preparation	Policy Round Table		-----	
HLPE - Sustainable forestry for FSN	-----			Launch	Decision-box preparation	Policy Round Table
HLPE - Nutrition	-----					Launch

ANNEX 1

GUIDANCE NOTE FOR SELECTION OF CFS ACTIVITIES

I. INTRODUCTION

As the “foremost inclusive international intergovernmental platform”² aiming at reducing hunger and malnutrition and enhancing food security and nutrition for all human beings, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) needs a clear vision for the future. It is crucial that CFS is able to effectively identify and address emerging and challenging issues relative to its mandate in order to provide policy recommendations to its broad-range of committed stakeholders.

This Guidance Note aims to provide a regular, structured, coherent and inclusive process for selection of CFS future activities, to be carried out on a biennial basis. CFS activities include:

➤ **Work related to the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE).**

HLPE Reports. On the basis of a mandate given by CFS, reports are prepared by the HLPE following a scientifically open and inclusive process, to provide scientific and knowledge-based analysis and recommendations on specific policy-relevant issues from a food security and nutrition perspective. HLPE reports lead, every year, to CFS policy discussions, and can also feed into other CFS workstreams, as appropriate.

HLPE notes and advice. On the basis of a request submitted by CFS Plenary, or the Bureau (after consultation with the Advisory Group), the HLPE can provide notes and advice to help membership identify emerging issues, prioritize future actions and attention on key areas as well as advice on particular topics. One such example is the HLPE note on critical and emerging issues, which helped inform development of the 2016-17 MYPOW.

➤ **CFS workstreams.**

The nature of work carried out by CFS varies depending on the expected outcomes of the different processes.

- a) Thematic workstreams. This type of workstream is intended to address relevant and specific food security and nutrition-related topics with a view to promoting a common understanding on the issue at stake, learning about good practice, discussing potential actions by CFS and identifying broad recommendations on areas for priority action. Thematic workstreams could take the form of events such as high-level fora, roundtables, ad-hoc OEWGs to address specific topics or issues and/or workshops. Thematic workstreams may precede the decision to undertake a negotiation.
- **Negotiated outcomes.** Some thematic workstreams may lead to negotiated outcomes, which are characterized by a broad-based and relatively long consultation and negotiation process (usually two or more years) when there is a compelling need for negotiated policy convergence products on strategic topics recognized as being of major importance for food security and nutrition. They lead to key CFS policy convergence products (international strategies, voluntary guidelines, principles, action plans or other policy frameworks) developed on the basis of best practices, lessons

² CFS Reform Document. CFS: 2009/2 Rev.2, para 4.

learnt, inputs from the national and regional levels, expert advice and opinions from a wide-range of stakeholders, with a view to strengthening coordination, policy convergence and providing recommendations to global, regional and national levels. This type of workstream should be preceded preferably by an HLPE report, a high-level forum, thematic workstream or other preparatory work that could provide the required background information; help determine whether there is a global need for a negotiated policy product; and set the stage for the initial phase of the process.

- b) **CFS regular work.** This type of activity refers to regular CFS work related to its ongoing management that requires engagement and contribution of CFS stakeholders. These may take the form of Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) meetings (e.g. monitoring, programme of work and priorities) Discussions on the rules of procedure and regular updates of the Global Strategic Framework) also form part of CFS regular work.

The number of activities selected for the biennium should take in due account human and financial resources that are available;

CFS should not engage in more than one negotiation process at a time, given the resource demands these carry. Delays in the finalization of a negotiation process would automatically postpone the beginning of a subsequent one.

A maximum of two HLPE reports should be presented every year. Any request for a report or advice from the HLPE should be considered in relation to available resources and CFS workload.

A strong articulation should be sought between the different categories of activities and in particular between the HLPE Reports and those workstreams leading to negotiated products. Some resonance between the programmes of work of the three Rome-based agencies and CFS Workstreams would also be advisable as it could help mobilize technical resources for CFS activities.

II. SELECTION CRITERIA

All proposals for potential future CFS activities as well as deliberations and decisions must meet the following **minimum criteria**.

- a) **CFS MANDATE and VALUE ADDED:** the CFS is the best placed to carry out the proposed activity, taking into consideration its mandate and added value;
- b) **CONTRIBUTION TO CFS OVERALL OBJECTIVE:** the proposed activity contributes to the achievement of the CFS overall objective through one or several of its three outcomes; and
- c) **NO DUPLICATION:** the same proposed activity has not been carried out in the past or is not carried out at the same time by other actors with comparable mandates. Convergence with other existing frameworks is ensured and duplication avoided.

Once there is a list of topics that meet the basic requirements outlined by these criteria, these should be assessed against the following qualitative **selection criteria** that would assist CFS stakeholders in ranking the most appropriate and high impact topics for CFS to address.

- d) **RELEVANCE:** given the importance for CFS to anticipate and be responsive to key and urgent global issues on the international agenda that are relevant to food security and nutrition, the selected topics should be timely and relevant to the international agenda.
- e) **GLOBAL IMPACT:** the potential global impact of addressing specific problems of the selected activity should be taken in due account.

- f) **KNOWLEDGE AND EVIDENCE:** there is a strong evidence base to draw on to underpin discussion.
- g) **ROME-BASED AGENCIES SUPPORT:** the Rome-based agencies are well placed to provide technical support to the topic.
- h) **AVAILABLE RESOURCES:** there is enough time, resources and background knowledge to carry out the proposed activity. This criterion is fundamental to prioritize among the different activities, implement the selected ones in a thorough and encompassing manner and with the view to carefully managing CFS limited resources and not overloading its agenda.

The following criterion is an overarching one and should be the rule at every step of the process:

- i) **CONSENSUS:** there is a consensus among CFS members to address the issue within the CFS framework, and to select the proposed activity and include it in the CFS MYPoW.

III. THE PROCESS

The CFS MYPoW OEWG should take into account ongoing discussions, within and outside CFS on food security and nutrition-related matters that could be linked to future work of the Committee. The OEWG has the mandate to discuss the various aspects of a particular topic that could potentially be addressed by CFS and analyse the kind of activities that could be put in place. The OEWG should consider the outcomes of past CFS activities and assess whether follow-up activities are needed to follow through on the decisions taken by the Committee.

The work carried out by the OEWG will result in the Multi-Year Programme of Work for the subsequent biennium that will be presented in Plenary for endorsement.

YEAR 1 OF THE BIENNIUM

A. Preparatory phase

At the beginning of each biennium, the CFS Secretariat, under the guidance of the MYPoW OEWG Chair, will prepare a workplan of the MYPoW OEWG for the biennium which is in line with the present guidance note and highlights the different steps of the selection process and related deadlines. The workplan will be presented at the first OEWG meeting for approval by the members.

B. HLPE note on Critical and Emerging Issues

The starting point for the process is represented by a note prepared by the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) on Critical and Emerging Issues in the area of food security and nutrition. The note, depending on funding availability and the HLPE workload, should be updated at least every four years and released before the beginning of the period of work of the OEWG. Consistent with one of the HLPE roles³, the note will help the membership prioritize future actions and attention on a limited number of critical policy-relevant areas. The objective of this note is to provide an evidence-based perspective built on the knowledge of diverse actors and is intended to identify critical and emerging issues in the area of food security and nutrition as well as consult relevant institutions and knowledge holders. The purpose of the note is to feed the discussion within the OEWG on the possible themes to be addressed by the Committee.

C. OEWG consultation phase

Following the presentation of the HLPE note to the OEWG, the CFS Secretariat and the MYPoW OEWG Chair, in collaboration with technical units of the three Rome-based agencies, will carry out a

³ CFS Reform document, CFS:2009/2 Rev.2, para.37 (iii).

stocktaking of the outcomes of previous CFS plenary sessions with particular attention to the recommendations of the policy roundtables as well as thematic workstreams, to assess whether follow-up actions should be proposed; analyse the HLPE note; elaborate how the topics meet the criteria and what the potential outcomes of CFS work on the topics might be with a view to proposing a limited number of initial options and expected outcomes to facilitate the discussion of the OEWG.

One of the objectives of this initial exercise is to consider the technical issues raised by the HLPE as well as the results of previous CFS work to facilitate the debate on the type of activities that CFS can carry out to tackle those issues, and to propose a well considered initial list of potential initiatives that meet the criteria in section II for discussion in the OEWG.

OEWG members will be invited to respond to these with a view to finding political consensus on what deserves to be on the CFS agenda. This does not preclude the possibility of OEWG members proposing additional topics and themes that have a strong rationale for inclusion in CFS work and generate support among members. The MYPoW OEWG will allow space to study, consider and further analyse the different aspects of particular topics that need to be addressed by the Committee.

During this phase, a web consultation on the shortlist of proposed activities may be carried out if appropriate to receive feedback on the proposals.

D. Selection of themes for the HLPE Reports

Particular attention should be paid to the selection of the HLPE Reports in relation to the lead time needed to prepare them, including selecting the Project Teams. In order to allow enough time for the selection of the teams and the preparation of the reports, at the end of the first year of the biennium, the OEWG is requested to find consensus on the themes of the HLPE Reports for each of the two years of the following biennium. The selection of themes for the HLPE Reports will be informed by the results of the preparatory work outlined in Step C of the process. The proposal will then be presented for endorsement at CFS Plenary that is held at the end of the first year of the biennium.

In case compelling requests to address crucial emerging issues are presented after the decision is taken in Plenary, the OEWG can present a proposal to the subsequent Plenary for an additional HLPE Report to be presented, or for other advice to be provided by the HLPE, subject to resources being made available.

YEAR 2 OF THE BIENNIUM

E. The selection and ranking process

The MYPoW OEWG Chair, with support from the CFS Secretariat, is responsible for circulating to Regional and Advisory Group constituencies, through their respective CFS representatives, the collected inputs resulting from the OEWG discussions, drawing on the HLPE note and Rome-based agencies analysis. This list will include the most supported themes and related activities during the consultation phase as well as solid background information and the rationale behind each of them. Those constituencies will be invited to carry out a consultation process within their groups, if needed, with a view to presenting a ranked proposal for future CFS work drawing on the existing list. The intention of this exercise is to facilitate the consensus-building process by identifying the topics around which there is the greatest convergence among OEWG members. Following the presentation of the various proposals, the OEWG Chair will guide the discussion within the group to find consensus on list of activities to be included in the Multi-Year Programme of Work for the following biennium to be presented in Plenary for endorsement.

F. Resource implications

Once the list of activities is agreed upon within the OEWG, the CFS Secretariat and OEWG Chair will present an indicative budget associated with the draft MYPoW. OEWG members might prioritize the different proposed activities to address potential implications deriving from the presence of budget

constraints that inhibit ability to carry out all the activities included in the MYPoW. This prioritization process should be undertaken consistent with the selection criteria outlined in Section II of this document.

G. Final decision

The final decision remains in the hands of the CFS Plenary which will be invited to endorse the Multi-Year Programme of Work prepared by the OEWG at the Session closing the biennium. Finally, CFS stakeholders should take into account that depending on the issues and timeframes involved, CFS workstreams may not be concluded within the biennium, which carries resource implications for future MYPoWs, particularly given guidance on limiting the number of concurrent CFS workstreams.