

Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF)

OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP MEETING 27–29 June 2012

BACKGROUND NOTE

An intergovernmental open-ended working group will convene from 27 to 29 June, 2012, to review Draft Two of the GSF and to agree on the text of the First Version of the GSF to be submitted to the CFS Plenary in October. This note provides background on the process and informs about the next steps.

Nature and purpose of the GSF

The GSF is designed to be a dynamic document to be updated by the CFS Plenary on the basis of regular CFS processes and policy debates. The purpose of the GSF is to improve coordination and guide synchronized action by a wide range of stakeholders in support of global, regional and country-led actions to prevent future food crises, eliminate hunger and ensure food security and nutrition for all human beings. Endorsement of the GSF will not be binding, but will rather constitute an acknowledgement that the document is a sound framework to improve convergence and synchronized action in food security and nutrition governance.¹

The principal users of the GSF are expected to be decision-makers and policymakers in countries responsible for the development and implementation of policies and programmes for delivering food security and nutrition and the progressive realization of the right of adequate food. The GSF is also intended to be a tool for policymakers and decision-makers in donor countries and development agencies responsible for development cooperation programmes. The GSF offers guidelines and recommendations for coherent action at the global, regional and country levels by the full range of stakeholders, while emphasizing the central role of country ownership of programmes to combat food insecurity and malnutrition.

Process so far

The 36th Session of the CFS gave the Bureau a mandate for the preparation of the GSF, and the Bureau agreed on its purposes, basic principles, structure and process of elaboration.

Following confirmation by the 37th Session of the CFS, the Secretariat and a Task Team made up of Advisory Group members prepared an Annotated Outline of the GSF, which was the subject of a global online consultation in the summer of 2011. The Secretariat and Task Team then prepared the First Draft of the GSF based on the results of the consultation. The process was overseen by the CFS Bureau through an Open-Ended Working Group established for that purpose.

Draft Two of the GSF has been prepared by the CFS Secretariat based on the results of consultations on the First Draft between March and May 2012, including multi-stakeholder discussions at the FAO Regional Conferences and a second online consultation.

¹ CFS:2010/2, paragraph 20; CFS:2011/Inf.14

NEXT STEPS

Draft Two of the GSF takes account of the comments received on the First Draft. Changes made include revisions to the text, a reorganization of material between chapters and the addition of endnotes indicating the sources of material in the text, all with the aim of reflecting the existing state of consensus.

Draft Two of the GSF has been colour coded in order to simplify consideration of the text by the OEWG. Text that originates directly from agreed decisions of the CFS Plenary is shaded in grey. Text or issues that may require further consideration by stakeholders are highlighted in yellow. All remaining text is free of colour in order to indicate that, based on previous stages of consultation, it should meet the consensus of CFS stakeholders.

Open-Ended Working Group to finalize the First Version of the GSF

As indicated, the intergovernmental OEWG will review Draft Two of the GSF and agree on the text of the First Version to be submitted to the CFS Plenary in October. The meeting will be opened by the Chair of the CFS and facilitated by the Chair of the OEWG. There will be six sessions, two per day, each lasting three hours and served by simultaneous interpretation in all official languages.

Proceedings of the OEWG

Considering that the First Version of the GSF is intended to reflect existing consensus rather than to break new ground, the Chair proposes that the following procedure be adopted: line-by-line textual negotiations will not be employed; chapters will be considered as a whole, and finalized *en bloc*, on a “no-objection basis”, once all issues raised by the floor for that specific section have been addressed.

Delegations are advised to equip themselves with printed copies of Draft Two, in their preferred language, since text projections on-screen will only be used if the OEWG needs to consider extensive or complicated text modifications.

Delegates are encouraged to keep their interventions short and to the point; any amendments or proposals made should be in line with the principles agreed for the elaboration of the First Version of the GSF (see below). The Chair will discourage introduction of new language or concepts that cannot be captured under those principles

While preparing their comments and interventions on specific parts of the text, delegations are advised to take into consideration the reference sources, which are indicated in the endnotes, especially when proposing language amendments.

Closer attention will be given to the parts of the document highlighted in yellow, which indicate a need for the OEWG to confirm consensus. Language already negotiated and adopted as part of previous CFS decisions, is specifically marked as such (in grey) in Draft Two and will not be reopened.

During consideration of the text, the Chair of the OEWG and the Secretariat will facilitate discussion and respond to any questions, including on the wording of the text. The OEWG is encouraged to debate and address issues and concerns raised by delegates in their substance, before considering any possible text solutions. Whenever possible, the OEWG is encouraged to find solutions that minimize text modifications, particularly in the case of language that has originated elsewhere. The

Secretariat may be called upon to help with solutions to the text that address the concerns raised, which will be then be considered by the OEWG. If necessary, the Chair may ask delegates to volunteer as “Friends of the Chair” to facilitate debate on specific issues.

Agreement on issues or revised text will be incorporated by the Secretariat in the First Version of the GSF.

Principles for preparation of the First Version of the GSF:

The principles for the preparation of the GSF are recalled in order to guide the OEWG in its discussions.

Based on the mandate provided by the agreement on purposes, basic principles, structure and process², the process for the elaboration of the First Version of the GSF should not try to negotiate or debate controversial or outstanding issues, and instead be limited to:

- Setting out the basic structure and framework for a document that will be a major regular output of the CFS;
- Incorporating past agreed decisions and recommendations of the CFS Plenary;
- Consolidating the main agreed principles and recommendations from multilaterally-agreed instruments, frameworks and decisions related to food security and nutrition;
- Reflecting common denominators based on the results of the regional and electronic consultations

The GSF may also reflect common denominators based on relevant food security and nutrition frameworks of a non-intergovernmental nature and identify key differences in food security and nutrition that might benefit from future consensus-building and convergence.

Preparatory steps

In order to facilitate and speed-up consideration of changes to the document, the Chair of the OEWG urges CFS stakeholders to forward any written comments or proposals on Draft Two in advance of the Working Group meeting, if possible by 22 June to CFS@fao.org.

² CFS 37th Final Report, paragraph 56 (i), and CFS:2011/Inf 14, paragraphs 5-12.