



6th May 2014

Finalization of the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems

Process for the Negotiation

FAO Rome 19-23 (24th) May 2014

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) will convene the negotiation of the *Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems* at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome, Italy May 19th – 23rd, and the 24th if required. The objective of this meeting is to finalize the principles for subsequent submission to the CFS Plenary for final approval in October 2014.

Negotiation will be based on the First Draft which is available in all UN languages at www.fao.org/cfs/rai. The First Draft is a result of the feedback received during the global consultation process undertaken from November 2013 – March 2014, on what should be added, changed, and improved based on the Zero Draft. A Chair's Summary of each consultation, and the collection of contributions received through the global e-consultation are available on the CFS RAI page.

Procedures: The negotiation will follow the rules and procedures established by the reformed CFS. The negotiation will be facilitated by the Open Ended Working Group Chair, Ms. Christina Blank. The CFS Secretariat and the Technical Support Team will support the process as needed. The negotiation will be conducted in all official UN languages. Punctuality is required due to the schedule for interpretation. In the interest of time, the Chair asks all Members and Participants to abstain from making opening statements and to make all interventions short and concise, preferably with a concrete text proposal.

Format: The negotiation will begin with page 1 of the Introduction and proceed paragraph by paragraph until the full document is negotiated and agreed. Bracketing rules of the UN will be applied. The format of the negotiation of each section (heading listed in the table of contents) will be:

- Introduction on the section by the Secretariat, including where appropriate a member of the Technical Support Team
- Short unrecorded discussion among all Members and Participants
- Changes, amendments, or deletions (paragraph by paragraph if a section includes more than one paragraph) can be suggested and will be recorded by scribes
 - Uncontested changes will be accepted
 - Differing or multiple suggestions on the same paragraph will be negotiated to reach consensus
 - Where no agreement is possible, the Chair will ask for a neutral Friend of the Chair to work in parallel with interested parties, as plenary continues
 - Friends of the Chair will send back revised section to plenary for final agreement

- Text discussed and approved in plenary will be marked by an asterisk. Text with asterisks will not be reopened by the Chair. There will be some flexibility where necessary for language discussed in subsequent sections to be inserted in already asterisked paragraphs, given the inter-linkages between the sections.

There will be two sessions per day Monday through Friday, and if necessary evening sessions Tuesday through Friday and two sessions Saturday. Each session will last 3 hours, and will be translated in all official UN languages. The Secretariat will be present to answer technical questions about the document, and will also provide scribing services to capture amendments to the Principles.



Negotiation, May 19th – 23rd (24th)

Provisional timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9.30 – 12.30		9.00 – 12.00 (tbc)				
14.30 – 17.30		13.00 – 15.00 (tbc)				
18.30 – 21.30		17.30 – 20.30 (tbc)				

Regular sessions	Possible Night – or Saturday sessions	No sessions
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• Location: Green room

• Interpretation in all UN-languages will be provided for the Plenary sessions



Friends of the Chair: Each regional group, CSM, and PSM are asked to nominate at least one and up to three representatives who could serve as Friends of the Chair by May 10th. Any Member or Participant can serve as a Friend of the Chair. The Chair can ask for assistance from the Friends of the Chair as needed during the negotiations for assistance in reaching agreement and will aim to ensure representative participation of all concerned groups/regions. The Friends of the Chair will work in parallel as plenary continues. The Friends of the Chair may also address specific language harmonization issues, in which case Members and Participants with technical and/or legal backgrounds are encouraged to assist. Friends of the Chair working on language harmonization will ensure agreed language is consistent throughout the document and assist with reaching agreement on specific terms and language. All Friends of the Chair discussions will be held in English. Any decisions reached in the Friends of the Chair discussions will be presented in plenary in all official UN languages for adoption.

The Chair of the OEWG strongly urges Members and Participants to review the First Draft of the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, prior to the negotiations and to take note of the presentation delivered on April 29th, 2014 which provides further explanation on how specific issues raised by various delegations and regions have been addressed. All delegations are encouraged to arrive with clear instructions/mandate to agree on the Final Draft of the Principles. I am certain that you share my concern for the need to reach a successful conclusion to the negotiation of the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, during the week of May 19th -23th.



Sincerely,

Ms. Christina Blank,

OEWG-RAI Chair