



Document No: CFS OEWG-Monitoring/2016/02/03

CFS OEWG-Monitoring Meeting # 01

Date: 3 February 2016

Time: 9.30 – 12.30

Location: German Room

Outcomes

First meeting of the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Monitoring

Agenda

The following agenda was approved after amendments:

- 1- Welcome by OEWG Chair
- 2- Introduction to the work of the OEWG on monitoring in 2016
- 3- Terms of Reference for sharing experiences and best practices (*for discussion*)
- 4- Workplan of the OEWG on Monitoring (*for discussion*)

Outcomes

1- Welcome by OEWG Chair

The Chair opened the meeting and presented the agenda, proposing to cancel Agenda Item 4: “Best practices for future monitoring activities”, which was agreed. This Agenda Item, which was part of the decisions made at CFS 42, aimed to provide general guidance to the OEWG on Monitoring but was not meant to be part of its activities.

The Chair informed the participants that comments received from the UN Special Rapporteur on Right to Food on CFS monitoring activities had been distributed to participants.

2- Introduction to the work of the OEWG on monitoring in 2016

The Secretariat introduced the Background Note prepared for the meeting, which recapped the CFS 42 decisions on monitoring and the OEWG’s decision to work along two streams; (i) monitoring of CFS decisions and recommendations; and (ii) helping countries monitoring the outcomes related to food security and nutrition at country and regional levels, together with the decision to focus monitoring efforts on CFS products/final outcomes (VGGT, RAI and FFA).

3- Terms of Reference for sharing experiences and best practices

This agenda item included a brief presentation of: (i) the TORs prepared by the Secretariat to provide guidance to CFS stakeholders for sharing their experiences and good practices in applying CFS products; (ii) a proposal prepared by CSM; and (iii) a proposal by France serving as an example of the innovative mechanism to initiate a reporting process in pilot countries on a voluntary basis. It was noted that the three proposals shared many common elements and proposed to integrate some other elements of the CSM and French proposals into the Secretariat’s draft TORs.

Participants appreciated that the approach envisaged in the three proposals was country-owned, serving first of all countries' own priorities, that it was not prescriptive, that it had a regional dimension, was light and based on existing multi-stakeholder platforms and initiatives. Costs were expected to be contained and it was noted that RBA's decentralized offices could also be invited to support the process. It was noted that these platforms could fulfil a role which goes well beyond monitoring in the context of CFS (Streams 1 and 2) and could be used for instance for monitoring SDGs or for other objectives than monitoring.

Other comments acknowledged that additional resources would inevitably be required for the organization of events and reporting, which would largely fall to national contributions. It was also recommended that costs for the CFS Secretariat associated with the reporting mechanism proposed by France be determined. Participants underlined the importance of the approach being human rights based, promoting accountability and being positioned within country efforts to monitor SDGs implementation for Stream 2. They highlighted that sharing experiences and good practices events would contribute to build the CFS innovative monitoring mechanism but was not sufficient for monitoring purposes. They noted that CFS products are hardly known in countries and raising awareness should be a primary priority for all CFS stakeholders. The need to support countries where there was no multistakeholder platform was also mentioned.

Countries volunteering to hold national activities or events were encouraged to start implementing the proposed approach on a pilot basis, recognising that the TORs for sharing experiences and good practices would only formally be approved at CFS 43, and they could share the results during the CFS plenary VGGT event in October 2016.

In order to make timely arrangements for the holding of the VGGT event at CFS 43, it was agreed to start reaching out to CFS members and participants to identify good practices in the use and application of VGG. The Secretariat would prepare a template to help solicit input. The date of the next meeting of the OEWG will be postponed to give sufficient time to rework the TORs.

4- Workplan of the OEWG on Monitoring

The workplan of the OEWG for 2016 was discussed and finalized with the following changes:

- Rewording of the first objective of the OEWG to better reflect the objective of the TORs for sharing experiences and best practices;
- Cancelling the second objective ("Develop best practices for future monitoring activities") after the clarification provided by the Chair that this CFS decision was not meant to be part of OEWG activities.

Next steps

- A new date for the next OEWG meeting will be announced (likely 17 March 2016);
- The TORs prepared by the CFS Secretariat for sharing experiences and good practices will be revised, incorporating participants' comments and circulated two weeks ahead of the next OEWG meeting;
- A template will be sent to CFS member countries and constituencies by end of February to solicit inputs for the preparation of the VGGT event at CFS 43, specifically asking to share good practices that have been identified in the use and application of the VGGT;

- The revised version of the OEWG workplan for 2016 will be submitted to the next Bureau/AG meeting on 31 march 2016 for discussion and approval by the Bureau.