Outcomes

Second meeting of the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

IISD reported on the meeting, available at:

Agenda

1. Opening
2. Updates: Presentation of the Secretary General’s Report on critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at global level (Gabriel Ferrero, Senior Policy Advisory to the UN Secretary General’s Special Representative for Food Security and Nutrition and Special Adviser on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, David Nabarro)
3. Outline of a proposal on CFS engagement to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (for discussion)
4. CFS products for the 2030 Agenda: preliminary mapping (for discussion)
5. Next steps

Outcomes

1. Opening
The meeting was opened by Jim Harvey, Chief of Staff of WFP, who noted the references to CFS in the 2030 Agenda and in the Secretary General’s Report on critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at global level. He said the work of the OEWG was important for meaningfully outlining CFS’ role and engagement in advancing implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

2. Updates: Presentation of the Secretary General’s Report on critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at global level
Gabriel Ferrero, Senior Policy Advisor to the UN Secretary General’s Special Adviser on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, presented the Secretary General’s Report, stressing the prominent references to CFS as an example of an intergovernmental forum which could decide to support the global thematic reviews on FSN in the HLPF. He recalled that the report proposes
options for the Follow up and Review architecture and processes, to be further discussed through intergovernmental negotiations in the next months. Questions pertained to the probability that 2017 remains the year for global thematic report on food security issues and whether 2018 would allow better preparedness for CFS to play its role.

3. Outline of a proposal on CFS engagement to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (for discussion)

The Chair introduced the draft annotated proposal outline (document CFS OEWG-SDGs/2016/02/24/04) which was based on the written contributions received from participants (summarized and compiled in documents CFS OEWG-SDGs/2016/02/24/03 and 03.bis), and asked for feedback on the structure and logical flow; on whether the outline represented the various views, and whether important elements were missing.

Participants generally welcomed the draft annotated outline and the proposed structure, as well as the summary of written contributions, as comprehensive and well balanced. There was convergence that CFS work should focus on food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture as central issues within its mandate, with an appreciation of the interlinkages with other issues and SDGs.

Some participants requested that a part be added in the proposal on expected outcomes. Interventions evolved around the need to further elaborate and refine some aspects of the proposal, including:

- the introductory framing and foundational principles of CFS, with a stronger focus on the centrality of Human Rights in CFS work, and a reference to the overarching text of the 2030 Agenda and the “5 Ps”;
- wording in the titles of the different parts of the proposal;
- what activities, considering CFS resources, will allow CFS to carry-out its role of identifying policy gaps and challenges for global thematic review;
- stressing the added value of CFS in allowing a qualitative dimension to Follow-up and Review activities (undertaken elsewhere based on numbers and statistics) through its inclusive multistakeholder nature;
- better reflection on the potential of nexus and partnerships throughout the proposal when suggesting concrete ways to engage;
- further reflection on how CFS will engage with the HLPF;
- elaborating on how, in its possible interaction with NY, as well as on the dissemination of its products at country level, CFS relates to the RBAs and other specialized agencies and international bodies.

Clarification was provided that references to “re-assessing” existing CFS products in relation to their relevance for SDG implementation simply meant considering existed negotiated products in light of their potential to contribute to achieving various SDG targets, as has been attempted in the “mapping document” (CFS OEWG-SDGs/2016/02/24/05).

4. CFS products for the 2030 Agenda : preliminary mapping (for discussion)

Participants welcomed the preliminary mapping document, recognizing that it had proven useful in support of this OEWG’s reflection and should remain a Secretariat document, not for negotiation.
Comments and suggestions were made to improve its usefulness by reducing the scope of the analysis (focusing on the 1st column including targets which widely fall under the scope of CFS). It was agreed that the Secretariat would seek further technical feedback on the consistency of the analysis for each CFS product across the SDG targets of the 2030 Agenda, and that a consolidated document would be shared with OEWG-SDG participants to discuss whether the analysis can be used in support of CFS outreach efforts and activities in the future.

5. Next steps

Participants were invited to send written comments complementing their oral interventions during the OEWG meeting until Friday 4 March COB. The CFS Secretariat will develop a proposal, based on the comments received on the draft annotated outline, together with the technical taskteam, and send this draft proposal 2 weeks before the 3rd OEWG meeting, the date of which has been rescheduled to 27 April.