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CFS OEWG-SDGs Meeting # 3

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Zero-draft Proposal

CFS engagement in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

At its 42nd Plenary Session in October 2015, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) decided to put the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the center of its work, and to this end, established an Open Ended Working Group, requested to present a proposal on “a way forward and a concrete role for CFS in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. This paper, submitted to the 43rd Session of the Committee (CFS43) for decision, proposes a framework for CFS engagement to “support country-led progress in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals relevant to its mandate”.

I - INTRODUCTION

1. In September 2015, 193 countries adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda, centered around “People”, “Planet”, “Prosperity”, “Peace”, and “Partnership”, commits world leaders to ending poverty and hunger in all its dimensions, everywhere, and shifting to a sustainable development path balancing economic, social and environmental dimensions. It is universal, applicable to countries at all levels of development, and integrated and indivisible, with 17 goals and 169 associated targets closely interconnected. Progress will be reviewed through a “robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated follow-up and review framework”, overseen at the global level by the High Level Political Forum, building on the work of existing bodies and platforms. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development reaffirms explicitly the important role and inclusive nature of the Committee on World Food Security. For CFS, this represents both new challenges and new opportunities.
2. The Committee on World Food Security is “*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*”, striving 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*”¹. CFS shares

¹ CFS Reform document, ref CFS:2009/2 Rev.2

the collective responsibility for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Distinct from other intergovernmental committees hosted and led by an individual agency, CFS works with the participation and contribution of *all key players* with a mandate related to food security and nutrition in the UN, and well beyond. CFS reports to the UN General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which has a key role in overseeing the follow-up and review of progress on delivering the 2030 Agenda, and convenes the HLPF at ministerial level.

3. Convinced that policy discussions on global food security and nutrition cannot take place without the involvement of the primary actors, among which are food producers and those most affected by food insecurity, the Committee allows for the participation in its deliberation of a variety of stakeholders. In addition to member countries and UN bodies, civil society and non-governmental organisations, private sector and philanthropic foundations, academia and research institutions, and international and regional financial institutions are full participants in the work of the Committee. Work commissioned from an independent High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE), and technical expertise provided by the Rome-based Agencies, ensure an interface between science and policy, resulting in evidence based, participatory and multisectorial policy discussions within the Committee.

4. CFS roles to support country-led efforts to eradicate hunger and malnutrition are well aligned with requisites to support the implementation, and review, of the 2030 Agenda through inclusive, evidence based and cross-sectorial processes. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals, the means of implementation, and the follow-up and review, will be driven by countries. An enabling space facilitating joint policy deliberations, review, and an open and transparent exchange on challenges and accelerating factors, is an essential condition for country progress on food security and nutrition targets. There is clear alignment between the mandates of CFS and the HLPF. The Committee's mandate is to foster **coordination** among actors and policies, by promoting **policy coherence** and convergence, offering a platform for dialogue and **mutual learning** between policy makers and with various stakeholders, and for collective **review of progress** in the eradication of hunger and malnutrition. At the global level, the High Level Political Forum's mandate is to **review** global progress, facilitate **sharing of experiences** "including success, challenges and lessons learned", provide **political guidance** and promote system-wide coherence and **coordination** of sustainable development policies, by including relevant UN entities as well as other stakeholders.

II - FACILITATING THE CFS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SDGS

5. The Committee, after having reflected on the implications of the 2030 Agenda; and after having examined its mandate, vision and roles, *concluded that the CFS has a key role to play for the achievement of the SDGs.*

6. CFS is referred in the 2030 Agenda, and its policy tools² are included in the outcome of the Third Financing for Development Conference, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, as immediately available instruments for countries to advance a comprehensive approach to food security,

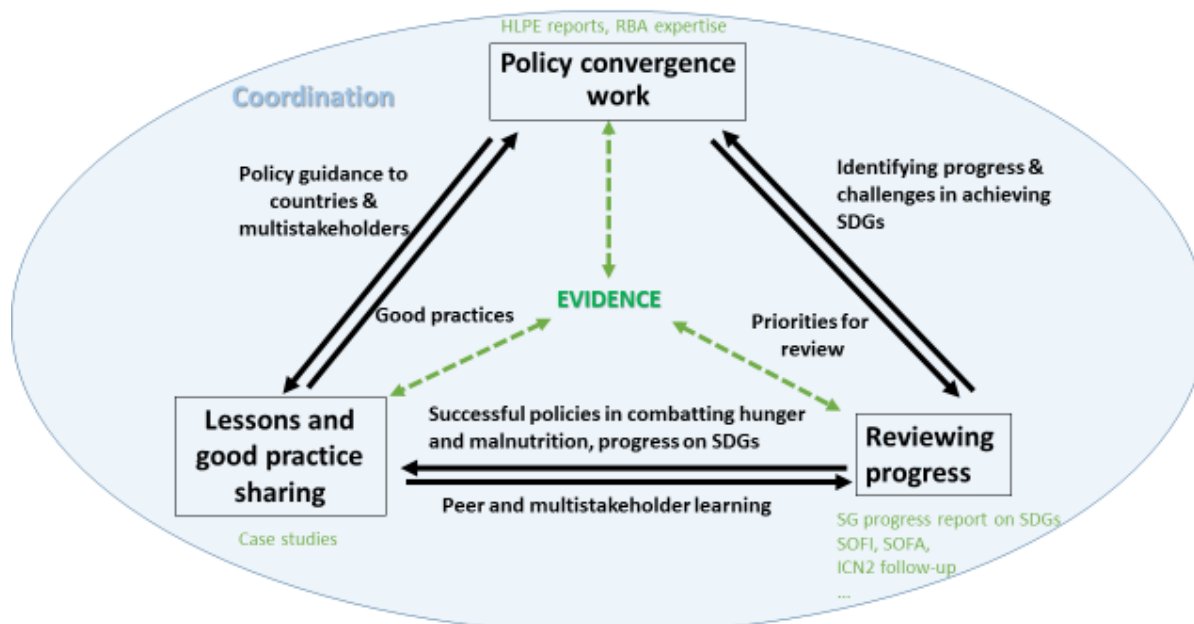
² In particular: the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forestry in the Context of National Food Security, VGGTS, and the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, the RAI Principles

nutrition and sustainable agriculture. CFS and its role are also referred to in the resolution on food security and agricultural development, annually presented and discussed by the UN General Assembly. The UN Resolution declaring 2016-2025 the Decade of Action on Nutrition³ foresees a specific role for the Committee, in supporting FAO and WHO develop and implement a programme of work to sustain collective efforts to combat malnutrition in all its forms in the coming decade, in order to achieve the nutrition-related targets of the SDGs.

7. Agriculture, food security and nutrition, although primarily addressed by goal 2 “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture”, are transversal, and have interlinkages with many issues covered by other SDGs. Therefore, CFS has a role to play both on SDG2 as well as across the SDGs; its policy products have the potential to advance an integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda from the angle of food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture by systematically addressing nexus issues⁴. In consideration of its multistakeholder character, CFS can also make a unique contribution to achieving goal 17 by advancing a collaborative and partnership-based approach at all levels.

i. CFS work in relation to the SDGs

8. The Committee supports coordination among governments, with and between a wide range of stakeholders at different levels, by fostering dialogue, mutual understanding, and action in a spirit of collaboration and partnership. The roles foreseen by the CFS Reform document, coordination at global, regional and national levels, policy convergence, support and advice to countries, promotion of accountability and lesson sharing, and development of a Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition, are reflected in three inter-dependent functions: building mutual understanding and sharing lessons, promoting policy convergence, and reviewing progress, all of which strongly rely on, and substantiate CFS’ coordination mandate.



³ Ref A/70/L.42

⁴ As an example, the VGGTS are directly relevant to SDG1, 2, 14, 15, and 17, with indirect contribution to many additional SDGs. The Framework for FSN in protracted crises, works on the nexus between food security, resilience of livelihoods, and peace and security with many other contributions.

1.1 Policy convergence:

9. To promote policy convergence, CFS develops policy instruments that address selected key challenges for advancing food security and nutrition in a comprehensive and integrated way across the three dimensions of sustainable development. Existing CFS policy instruments, collated in a Global Strategic Framework for food security and nutrition regularly updated by the Committee, provide policy frameworks and recommendations for stakeholder action at all levels. Future policy convergence instruments or frameworks of CFS will logically contribute to advancing the 2030 Agenda. Policy work could be commissioned for its specific contribution to supporting countries and multistakeholders achieve food security and nutrition related SDGs.

10. As a first step, such policy work could be supported by an independent, evidence-based HLPE report commissioned by CFS on a topic relevant to the advancement of the 2030 Agenda and thematic intersections which have not yet been addressed in previous reports. An example of an HLPE report which would be useful to CFS’ work in this respect would be a report on “nexus” issues related to food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture targets, and other goals, by identifying the combination of drivers impacting global and regional food security and nutrition, and their relative importance, or identifying new drivers. Another example includes commissioning HLPE reports based on the HLPF themes for the coming years (see activity 3.1.3).

Activities	Who	When	Outcome
1.1.1 Commission HLPE report supporting CFS policy work advancing 2030 Agenda implementation	CFS Plenary	CFS 43	HLPE report in 2018 or 2019

1.2 Sharing of lessons and exchange on good practices

11. In line with its mandate to strengthen coordination, collaborative action and partnerships, CFS activities aim to encourage countries and stakeholders to share lessons and exchange good practices in order to support global level learning. Sharing of experiences is of crucial importance in the process of policy reform: it is not only instrumental in helping decision makers make more informed national food security and nutrition policy choices, it also feeds other the CFS functions of global policy convergence and review and monitoring of progress.

12. Until now sharing of good practices and lessons have mostly been held in CFS Plenary through global, regional and national segments focused on “coordination and linkages”. Building on past experience, and in order to advance the 2030 Agenda, lesson learning sessions in CFS plenary will be strengthened and focused, in order to identify and document concrete good practices and experiences to share more broadly, including, if appropriate, with the High Level Political Forum. Given the strong focus on country ownership, events should particularly capitalize on the practical experience of countries.

13. CFS can organize various types of good practice sharing and lesson learning sessions :

- **thematic sessions**, examining successful collaborations at different levels on a specific issue⁵
- **stock-taking sessions** dedicated to good practices around country uptake of CFS products⁶
- **country reviews** building on inclusive voluntary national country reports and presentations in the HLPF on their progress to advance the SDGs⁷.

Such discussions, based on contributions by countries and multistakeholders, including the RBAs country offices, can be prepared in collaboration with regional bodies and in particular regional peer review mechanisms. Success stories should address how the good practice has contributed to progress on the SDG targets. Outcomes of the sessions will be documented and discussed during the CFS session dedicated to a CFS contribution to the HLPF.

Activities	Who	When	Outcome
1.2.1 Thematic lessons learned & good practice sharing session with focus relevant to SDG process	Plenary	Annual, starting CFS44 on nutrition (see Nutrition Proposal) Plenary and possibly intersessional	Identification of policy challenges and successes related to achieving FSN. Peer learning Conclusions for CFS which will be conveyed to the HLPF
1.2.2 Stock-taking events on good practices around the use of CFS products	OEWG MYPoW (commissioning)	Starting CFS43 and then as determined through MYPOW and/or Bureau and Advisory Group Plenary and/or intersessional	Cases documented on CFS products contributing to the 2030 Agenda
1.2.3 Session “learning from inclusive country level implementation of the SDGs” building on HLPF reviews	Plenary	Annually or biennially Or Intersessional	- Identification of policy challenges and successes related to achieving FSN. - Building synergies and interacting with the HLPF

1.3 Inclusive and participatory monitoring and review of the global food security and nutrition situation

14. Coordinated monitoring and review will allow CFS to identify effective policies and good practices, as well as areas requiring future policy convergence work. Building on the previous

⁵ An example could be : “country experiences in supporting nutrition-sensitive value chains”

⁶ An example could be : “good practices around the use of the VGGTs” to serve as a pilot

⁷ An example could be : “How do the SDGs catalyze progress on national food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture? Learning about country progress from the volunteer national reviews to the HLPF”

annual “State of Food Insecurity in the World (SOFI) discussion”, a standing item in CFS Plenary will be dedicated to inclusive and integrated review of global, regional and country progress in combatting hunger and malnutrition. CFS discussions will include as background documents relevant global reports⁸ in addition to the revised SOFI⁹. The quantitative findings of these reports, providing both data and an analysis identifying challenges and accelerating factors in achieving SDGs, will be complemented by a qualitative discussion capturing the broad knowledge of stakeholders involved. Outcomes of the session will be considered part of the CFS contribution to the HLPF.

Activities	Who	When	Outcome
1.3.1 Discussion on progress and challenges in achieving the SDGs, based on UN system reporting	Plenary	Each plenary	Findings/conclusions agreed on progress implementing SDGs related to food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture, identifying challenges and accelerating factors and assessing the need for future CFS policy convergence work

ii. Engagement with the HLPF

15. Global thematic reviews in the HLPF “will be supported by the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies and forums which should reflect the integrated nature of the Goals as well as the interlinkages between them. They will engage all relevant stakeholders and, where possible, feed into, and be aligned with, the cycle of the high-level political forum”¹⁰. The Committee should make a proactive contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development global follow-up and review framework, in particular through the global thematic reviews, reviews of progress on Goal 17 and the revitalization of the Global Partnership for sustainable development, and of the Means of Implementation, in the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York, and ensure an efficient two-way communication between itself and the HLPF.

16. CFS will provide its inputs consistent with the final decision on modalities for follow-up and review defined in New York¹¹, and taking into account outcomes of the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) and the Secretary General’s progress reports on SDGs. The CFS Chair and CFS Secretariat will engage proactively to facilitate the Committee’s contribution. CFS inputs will aim to assist the work of the HLPF; their format will be tailored to HLPF discussions, to ensure that they make an effective and solid contribution to transversal discussions taking place in NY. CFS inputs will be responsive, when applicable, to guidance or requests received.

⁸ These could include: the State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) report, the World Nutrition Report, the Global Food Watch, the annual report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, the ICN2 progress report and the new Secretary General’s SDG global progress report on SDGs.

⁹ The annual State of Food Insecurity in the World report, jointly published by FAO, IFAD and WFP, will be enhanced to cover next to food security, also nutritional outcomes and how these outcomes relate to achievements on other relevant SDG targets; WHO, UNICEF and the World Bank are also expected to contribute to the “new SOFI”.

¹⁰ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, paragraph 85.

¹¹ [Add quote once agreed]

17. The content of CFS’ contribution will comprise the outcomes of existing CFS discussions and work, as relevant. This could include :

CFS inputs	to support HLPF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVER LETTER drawing out the key recommendations to be considered in the HLPF 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outcomes of CFS sessions on overall review of progress and challenge identification 	→ Review global progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lessons learned on specific themes 	→ Identify valuable lessons learned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorsed CFS policy frameworks and recommendations Independent thematic reports from the CFS HLPE 	→ Make global recommendations and provide political guidance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CFS-HLPE <i>Note on Critical and Emerging Issues</i> 	→ Identify emerging issues and trends

18. CFS’ contribution, tailored to the needs (and when appropriate to the annual theme) of the HLPF), and including a cover letter drawing recommendations for the HLPF, will be discussed and agreed in Plenary based on a session document prepared by the CFS Secretariat and agreed in the Bureau and Advisory Group in the intersessional period (see paragraph 27 and activity 3.2.2).

19. In addition to the Chair’s participation in the HLPF meetings conveying a CFS contribution, an annual (side) event could be organized during the HLPF by the CFS Secretariat considering the topic addressed by HLPF annual meeting, as appropriate, and emphasizing cross-cutting issues with food security and nutrition.

20. The Committee will consider a different, high-level contribution to the HLPF when it is meeting under the auspices of the UN General Assembly (see paragraph 28 and activity 3.2.3).

Activities	Who	When	Outcome
2.1 CFS presents its contribution to the HLPF, consisting of (as relevant to HLPF discussion): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cover note summarising recommendations for consideration by the HLPF - outcomes of progress review and identification of challenges - lessons learned on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- specific issues, 	Bur/AG (preparation) Plenary (endorsement) CFS Chair (presentation)	Annually	CFS contributes to HLPF

Activities	Who	When	Outcome
2- from specific countries, 3- on the use of CFS products - CFS policy frameworks and recommendations - relevant HLPE reports - HLPE Note on critical and emerging issues			
2.2 Annual (side-)event in the HLPF, considering the topic addressed by HLPF annual meeting, as appropriate	CFS Secretariat	annually	Annual engagement of CFS with HLPF emphasizing cross-cutting issues between FSN and HLPF themes
2.3 Agreed negotiated message to the HLPF delivered by the CFS Chair when convened under the UNGA (see paragraph 28)	Plenary (endorsement) CFS Chair (presentation)	2019, 2023, 2027	High-Level CFS contribution to the HLPF

iii. Agenda setting

3.1 CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW)¹²:

[The section below proposes options for consideration by the CFS Open Ended Working Group on MYPoW.]

21. Presently CFS sets its future work agendas based on proposals from its members and participants, and informed by advice from the CFS-HLPE on *Critical and Emerging Issues for food security and nutrition*. As per past practice, the elaboration of major CFS products (VGGT, RAI, FFA) goes beyond a two-year MYPoW. A longer MYPoW would allow a more realistic and predictable plan of work and avoid overloading CFS, while a half-term review after two years would allow flexibility to adjust, or respond to emerging or urgent issues. To be more able to realistically plan future work and respond to the long-term challenges of the implementation of the SDGs, CFS could consider longer Multi-Year Programmes of Work of 4 years, from 2019 onwards, with a half-term review after two years.
22. CFS discussions can be of greater depth on food security and nutrition than is likely to be feasible in HLPF sessions dedicated to the global follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. To strengthen the contribution of CFS policy work to the 2030 Agenda, the Committee can decide to prioritize future policy topics taking into account their relevance to the achievement of the SDGs and more broadly the 2030 Agenda in all its inter-related dimensions. This can be done by adding a selection criterion for prioritizing future work that assesses the relationship of the topic with the SDGs. The Multi-Year Programme of Work should also articulate the contribution of future activities to progress towards the SDGs.

¹² See also some of the activities already mentioned under “policy convergence”, “lesson sharing”, and “monitoring and review”, which would also be included in the MYPoW.

23. The CFS MYPoW can commission work and activities informed by the annual themes of the HLPF in order to foster a meaningful contribution to the HLPF reviews.
24. The CFS-HLPE note on critical and emerging issues will continue to inform CFS future work and agenda setting. In addition, the Committee could also decide to consider the HLPE *Note on Critical and Emerging issues* as an important contribution to support the global thematic reviews conducted in the High Level Political Forum, in particular with regards to the HLPF’s mission to “address new and emerging issues and look into the long term” (see paragraph 17).

Activities	Who	When	Outcome
3.1.1 Four-year MYPoW, with half-term review discussion	CFS Plenary	CFS 44	CFS activities planned in coherence with HLPF agenda
3.1.2 MYPoW updates note for selection criteria of future CFS activities (including HLPE reports)	OEWG MYPOW	2016-2017 for endorsement in CFS44	CFS activities harmonized with the 2030 Agenda
3.1.3 MYPoW work/activities (including HLPE reports) informed by HLPF annual themes	OEWG MYPoW, Plenary	CFS 44	CFS activities contribute to global review of cross-cutting issues
3.1.4 MYPoW activities articulate the relationship to the 2030 Agenda	OEWG MYPOW	2016-2017 for endorsement in CFS44 and future MYPoWs to 2030	CFS activities harmonized with the 2030 Agenda

3.2 CFS Plenary

25. The Committee sets the agenda of its Plenary deliberations (Plenary annotated agenda) on the basis of the MYPoW, past plenary decisions, and proposals from its Bureau and Advisory Group.
26. In order to sustain the focus around the 2030 Agenda and ensure that CFS Plenary discussions consistently consider their contribution to global efforts to achieve the SDGs, CFS can ensure that relevant decisions explicitly mention how they contribute to the 2030 agenda.
27. The Committee can decide to dedicate a standing agenda item of its Plenary to a CFS contribution to the supporting global follow-up and review of SDG process in the HLPF. Based on intersessional preparatory work by the CFS Secretariat and the Bureau and Advisory Group, this session could determine CFS’ contribution to the HLPF, high-lighting key aspects of CFS workstreams and plenary activities of relevance for the SDG process, as well as outcomes of previous HLPF discussions which are of relevance to the work of the Committee.

28. In the lead up to HLPF meetings held under the auspices of the General Assembly (Heads of State and Government), CFS could also consider the organization of a special high-level Plenary every four years.

Activities	Who	When	Outcome
3.2.1 Section in each relevant decision referring to the items' relevance to the SDG process	B/AG, CFS Plenary	Intersessional, Plenary	CFS final report outlining, as appropriate, the relevance of each item to SDG discussions, making it easy to share these decisions in other SDG-related discussions
3.2.2 Standing agenda item in CFS Plenary to reflect on how CFS work and activities contribute to the annual discussion on follow-up and review of SDGs in NY, and on the implications of the last HLPF discussions for future work	CFS Plenary	Plenary	CFS contribution to the HLPF
3.2.3 Special High-Level CFS Plenary to prepare HLPF-UNGA meetings	CFS Plenary	2018, 2022, 2026	High-Level Political Declaration

3.3 Communication, outreach and coordination

29. To be effective, it is important for the Committee to **improve communication and dissemination of CFS products in the context of the SDGs**, with the aim of scaling-up their uptake at country level. Regular stock-taking sessions starting with the use of CFS major, strategic and catalytic products, can be complemented by information on the CFS website linking CFS frameworks, policy recommendations, lessons learned to SDGs.

30. Stronger engagement with other actors of the global process, including regional and other UN entities and institutions based in NY, is crucial for CFS to deliver on its mandate, and goes beyond the CFS Chair's important role in outreach and communication. The engagement of the Committee with the HLPF and the NY entities would involve:

- direct reporting through the CFS Chair,
- support from the RBA offices in New York
- the organization of a standing side-event during meetings of the HLPF,
- active involvement of all CFS constituencies during the HLPF week, through direct participation or mobilization of their members and partners in HLPF

31. CFS members and participants could consider how CFS could improve collaboration with other bodies, in particular regional bodies (see also paragraph 13).

Activities	Who	When	Outcome
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<p>3.3.1 Develop communication strategy on CFS products, based on their contribution to SDGs, and disseminate to country-users, NY stakeholders, and HLPF participants</p>	<p>CFS Secretariat All CFS members and stakeholders</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Strengthened knowledge and impact of CFS products</p>
<p>3.3.2 Enhance collaboration with other global and regional organisations or fora, which play a role in the SDGs by considering their participation in CFS Plenary meetings.</p>	<p>CFS Plenary</p>	<p>CFS 43</p>	<p>Global and regional organisations with work of direct relevance to CFS are able to participate in CFS debates¹³</p>
<p>3.3.3 Increased engagement of CFS in NY through: - Members and participants coordination with counterparts/ constituencies in NY - Chair travels and regular participation in events of relevance (Partnership forum, financing for development, etc.)</p>	<p>All CFS members and stakeholders CFS Chair</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Enhanced understanding between CFS in NY , greater recognition of value of CFS model and products</p>

¹³ The current Rules of Procedure of CFS only allow regional bodies to attend CFS debates as observers.