



Open Ended Working Group (OEWG)

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Document No: CFS OEWG-SDGs/2016/04/27/04

CFS OEWG-SDGs Meeting # 3

Date: 27 April 2016, Time: 14:30-17:30

Location: Red Room, FAO HQ

Outcomes

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

Webcast: <http://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/4077/icode/>

IISD reported on the meeting, available at:

<http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/sd/enbplus184num13e.pdf>

Agenda

- 1- Opening : Video message from David Nabarro, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (for information)
- 2- Updates : Roadmap for informal consultations on the follow-up and review at global level, and SDG process (Zak Bleicher, IFAD office in NY) (for information)
- 3- Zero-draft proposal on CFS engagement to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (for discussion)
- 4- Invitation from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the CFS Chair to “offer substantive inputs to the 2016 HLPF” (for discussion)
- 5- CFS products for the 2030 Agenda : mapping (for discussion)
- 6- Next steps

Outcomes

1. Opening

The meeting was opened with a video message from David Nabarro, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, commending the OEWG for the progress of discussions, and sharing views on the contribution which CFS, “a vital space for policy development and exchange”, can make across the SDGs through its different functions.

2. Updates : Roadmap for informal consultations on the follow-up and review at global level

Zak Bleicher, IFAD representative in New York, presented on behalf of all three RBAs in New York updates on the continued momentum around the 2030 Agenda through the inaugural forum of Financing for Development, the President of the General Assembly’s High Level event on Implementing the SDGs (with the participation of the CFS Chair), and the signing of the Paris

Agreement on Climate. Other updates included progress on the consultations on the follow-up and review (FuR) process at global level, and the co-facilitators “elements paper” identifying the main issues: themes of the reviews, format and accessibility of inputs to the HLPF, and coherence between ECOSOC and intergovernmental bodies. Lastly, participants were informed that the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) would be an important element of the follow-up and review process aiming to strengthen the interface between science and policy, produced every four years to support the HLPF meetings under the auspices of the General Assembly.

3. Proposal on CFS engagement to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (for discussion)

The Chair introduced the zero-draft proposal (document CFS OEWG-SDGs/2016/04/27/02), drafted by the CFS Secretariat with inputs from the SDG technical taskteam, based on discussions on the annotated outline and written inputs following the last OEWG meeting. The Chair structured the discussion around two parts: (i) general observations along with the introduction (paragraphs 1-8), and (ii) the proposals to enhance CFS’ contribution to the 2030 Agenda (paragraphs 9-31), with a focus on the issues outlined in the invitation email: a possible HLPE report related to the 2030 Agenda; the proposal for a content, format and process around a CFS contribution to the annual HLPF reviews; and suggestions to strengthen CFS’ communication and outreach activities.

Participants welcomed the zero-draft proposal, supporting its structure and balance as a good starting point, and appreciated its concrete proposals while remaining flexible enough to make adjustments when arrangements on the follow-up and review process would be agreed in New York (May/June, and ministerial declaration in the HLPF on July 2016).

Comments evolved around the need for clarification of some references, a more concise text, better mainstreaming of human rights and gender equality throughout the document, strengthening the notion of countries driving the process, and better recognition that dealing with nexus issues and partnerships were the main added value of CFS.

The OEWG generally supported the functions proposed through which CFS would contribute to the achievement of the SDGs: the proposal for CFS to directly engage with the High Level Political Forum in New York; the reflection on the MYPoW process and the organization of Plenary; and the activities proposed.

Suggestions were to strengthen the policy convergence text; recognise that policy convergence did not solely rely on HLPE reports; and further discuss the idea of commissioning HLPE reports in coherence with the annual themes for HLPF reviews. There was a preliminary discussion on different possible topics for a future HLPE report and on the frequency of the HLPE Note on critical and emerging issues and its use to support CFS policy work. Participants asked for stronger text on lesson sharing and for clarifying the proposed activities, which could include south-south cooperation. The coordination role of CFS was emphasized. Clarifying the relationship between the “review and follow-up” function and the other functions was called for, making full use of reports available to ground discussions (such as the “new SOFI”), and stressing accountability.

It was generally agreed the CFS Contribution to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) after 2016 should be a political process, finalized in Plenary. While the format and themes of future contributions will only be endorsed at the end of the HLPF 2016 meeting, participants welcomed the suggested structure based on the report of the Secretary General on Critical Milestones for Follow up and Review, and welcomed the idea of dedicated sessions to finalise the contribution (there was some discussion over whether this should be during Plenary week or intersessionally to be closer to

the HLPF; many participants raised the issue of the time-lag between CFS plenary sessions and HLPF meetings).

In response to a question, the Secretariat confirmed that in the current proposal a High-Level CFS Session to prepare for the HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly would not include an additional session (and costs). It was clarified that the activities proposed would only imply one additional session in Plenary, as the activities suggested correspond to an adjustment of already existing plenary discussions such as the “SOFI presentation”, “coordination and linkages”, or “stock-taking of the use of CFS products”.

Interventions welcomed the idea of a 4-year MYPoW, while stressing the importance of maintaining flexibility, asking for clarification on the implications on funding, and suggesting that this reflection take place within the MYPoW OEWG. Several participants stressed the importance for CFS activities to be focused on providing support to countries to achieve the SDGs. In this regard, participants asked for greater clarity on how CFS will link with regional bodies and platforms.

4. Invitation from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the CFS Chair to “offer substantive inputs to the 2016 HLPF” (for discussion)

Participants discussed the letter received by the CFS Chair (along with 80 different intergovernmental bodies) from the President of ECOSOC, inviting her to “offer substantive inputs to the 2016 HLPF” on the theme “ensuring that no-one is left behind”, by considering a specific template (document CFS OEWG-SDGs/2016/04/27/03). Participants agreed that the response should be under the Chair’s authority; that inputs should be based largely on CFS decisions, show-casing the policy instruments and referencing the HLPE reports, as well as using elements from the reform document, while remaining concise, to the point, and easily digestible. It was suggested that the Chair and secretariat consult with the technical taskteam on SDGs.

5. Mapping document (for discussion)

Participants welcomed the consolidated version of the document mapping the CFS scope and products across the SDG targets (document CFS OEWG-SDGs/2016/02/24/05.rev), and requested that a second table be prepared, taking each CFS product as the departure point and mapping the related SDG targets.

6. Next steps

- The “elements paper” on pending issues related to the FuR process in New York will be circulated to the OEWG
- OEWG participants are invited to send written comments to follow-up the 3rd OEWG discussion of the zero-draft proposal by 6 May 2016 at the latest
- A revised version of the proposal will be shared with the OEWG at the end of May, for a quick round of consultations (one week) before finalization for the 4th OEWG meeting on 22 June.