



CFS OEWG-SDGs Meeting # 01

Date: 21 Jan 2016, 14.30 – 17.30

Location: Red Room

Webcast link: <http://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/4023/icode/>

## Outcomes

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

The meeting was webcast and can be viewed on:

<http://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/4023/icode/>

IISD reported on the meeting, available at:

<http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/sd/enbplus184num10e.pdf>

## Agenda

1. Word of welcome by OEWG Chair
2. Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - Setting the stage (for information) :
  - Update on the SDG process in New York and events of relevance for CFS (Erika Joergensen, Director of the WFP office in NY, on behalf of the RBAs NY)
  - A message from the UN Secretary General's Special Representative for Food Security and Nutrition and Special Adviser on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, David Nabarro (delivered by Gabriel Ferrero, Senior Policy Advisor to the SRSB)
  - RBA initiatives to respond to the 2030 Agenda (John McHarris, WFP);  
Developing the indicators' framework for the SDGs: update (Pietro Gennari, FAO)
3. Objectives, scope and work of the SDG OEWG in 2016 : finalization of the OEWG SDG workplan (for discussion)
4. The CFS and SDGs: addressing the guiding questions (for discussion)
5. Next steps

## Outcomes

### 1. Word of welcome by OEWG Chair

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming all OEWG participants. He presented the objectives of this OEWG, as stated in the MYPoW, the calendar for this OEWG's work this year and set out the envisaged steps in order to finalize the proposal by the last OEWG meeting on 22 June 2016.

### 2. Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - Setting the stage (for information) :

Erika Joergensen, Director of the WFP office in NY, speaking on behalf of the New York offices of FAO, IFAD and WFP through videoconference, gave participants a NY perspective on the implications

of the 2030 Agenda, including universality and the need for collective efforts to achieve the agenda. Ms Joergensen referred to the ongoing discussions on the architecture for financing, monitoring and reporting on the SDGs, and the important role which CFS can play to support the follow-up and review process conducted under the High Level Political Forum (HLPF). In a statement delivered on behalf of David Nabarro, Gabriel Ferrero stressed the importance of 2016 for collective efforts in support of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. He drew OEWG participants' attention to the upcoming Report of the Secretary-General on critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level, and the importance of thematic reviews taking place in the HLPF. He stressed the central role which CFS is called to play for the SDGs within its mandate and encouraged OEWG participants to show the way to other intergovernmental bodies working for the overall success of the 2030 Agenda. Speaking on behalf of the RBAs in Rome, John McHarris (WFP) provided OEWG participants with an overview of the RBA work to adapt their strategies to better serve the implementation of the SDGs, both in Rome and in country offices, as well as the agencies' involvement in various UN inter-agency work related to the implementation of the SDGs. Pietro Gennari (FAO) gave an update on the collaboration of the RBAs within and for the Interagency and Expert Group on SDG indicators (IAEG-SDG), with a list of indicators expected to be endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2016, as well as RBA collaboration in the discussions around these indicators.

Comments and questions from the floor concerned a collective position of the RBAs on mapping of their Strategic Plans with SDG targets, the specific role that CFS can play in the thematic reviews, the links of the RBA work on indicators with work carried by WHO, UNICEF and the WB on the nutrition-related targets of SDG2, and on how the RBAs, in the context of their work in the IAEG-SDG, are seeing CFS' position to be able to play a role in the follow-up and review.

### **3. Objectives, scope and work of the SDG OEWG in 2016 : finalization of the OEWG SDG workplan (for discussion)**

OEWG Participants finalized the workplan, for the work of the OEWG this year, deciding to reposition some of the initial objectives as intermediary steps under an overall primary objective. The creation of a technical taskteam to assist the secretariat in the elaboration of the draft proposal, was requested and agreed. The importance of ensuring coherence between the work of this OEWG and other CFS activities (nutrition, MYPoW, monitoring) was stressed. It was agreed the guiding questions provided by the Secretariat were intended to provoke debate and reflection, but reactions and written inputs could go beyond these to provide any useful input. The inclusion in the workplan of an intersessional meeting or workshop was suggested, in order to encourage a common understanding of the SDGs, and how these could serve as a base to strengthen the CFS mandate and functions.

### **4. The CFS and SDGs: addressing the guiding questions (for discussion)**

Interventions in the discussion inspired by the background questions confirmed that CFS was well positioned to make a rich contribution to future work supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; no essential changes in its mission or mandate were deemed necessary.

Recalling that the objective for CFS was to support to the best of its capacity country-driven implementation of the SDGs, CFS could make an important contribution by identifying challenges encountered by countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (particularly for least

developed countries), sharing experiences, reporting on progress of implementation. The importance of not duplicating work between organisations of the UN system was stressed, which decreases impact on the ground.

The centrality of SDG2 for CFS work was emphasized by several, together with the importance of considering related issues. Understanding the interlinkages between goals and between targets related to food security and nutrition was seen as one of CFS' comparative advantages. The HLPE could play an important role in this regard.

A challenge will be to define the Committee's role in the global governance architecture, and particularly on monitoring and review, for the SDGs (various UN bodies should not start reporting directly to the HLPF), acknowledging the importance of subsidiarity. In this respect, and considering the Committee's reporting link to the UN General Assembly through ECOSOC, it was suggested CFS could aim at clarifying, and enhancing its links with NY, the HLPF and UNGA, and enhancing collaboration with the HLTF and the agencies, to optimize CFS' contribution.

Analysing the relation between existing CFS products and the SDG targets would be helpful in understanding CFS's potential role in supporting countries meet the SDGs. Participants also stressed the importance of communication between actors.

## **5. Next Steps**

The Chair concluded the meeting by recalling the next steps of the process. A revised version of the workplan will be circulated by the Secretariat; should participants have any further comments, they were invited to send them by Wednesday 27 January, after which it would be sent to the Bureau and Advisory Group for agreement on 5 February.

The Chair reminded participants that they are requested to send written contributions to follow-up on the OEWG discussion, by 5 February at the latest. Contributions will serve as a basis for a first draft outline which will be presented to the next OEWG meeting. Unless participants specifically request that their contribution be treated as confidential, inputs received will be compiled, and shared with all.

After agreement on the workplan by the CFS Bureau, members of the Advisory Group will be contacted to form a technical taskteam, which will work on developing the outline discussed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> OEWG into a draft proposal, to be presented and discussed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> OEWG.