



CFS OEWG-SDGs Meeting # 1

Date: 21 January 2016

Time: 14:30-17:30

Location: Red Room, FAO (Building A 1st Floor)

Possible guiding questions to discuss CFS work on SDGs

This document is a secretariat background document, suggesting questions that the OEWG on SDGs could discuss in the course of its work in 2016; it is not intended to be negotiated or endorsed.

The questions below aim at recalling or making explicit some of the main principles behind the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in New-York on 25 September 2015 and recalling the main features of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), in order to support a collective reflection of possible CFS work and activities in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the SDGs between 2015-2030.

More specifically, these questions aim to :

- *stimulate reflection in anticipation of the first CFS Open Ended Working Group meeting on SDGs (21 January 2015),*
- *provoke and initiate a discussion during the meeting,*
- *support participants in their work on written inputs to be sent between the first and second OEWG meetings,*
- *accompany the work of the OEWG throughout the intersessional period leading up to CFS43.*

CFS Open Ended Working Group meeting on SDGs participants may raise additional questions they deem relevant to the work of the OEWG.

1. CFS : mission, functions and processes

As per its reform, CFS has 3 main functions :

- contributing to advancing coordination and partnerships;
- contributing to policy convergence on food security and nutrition; and
- strengthening national and regional food security actions (by producing guidance or by facilitating lesson exchange, etc.)

which it fulfils through the development and endorsement of multi-stakeholder and multi-sectorial policy products, evidence-based policy recommendations, by convening inter-sessional events, or through an annual plenary week with coordination and linkages sessions show-casing successful FSN actions at global, regional and national levels.

- Are the current functions of CFS and its processes and activities relevant to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs? Should they be revisited? Would this benefit CFS's effectiveness/impact?

2. CFS and Agenda 2030

- The implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals, is country-driven, will be primarily led by national governments with the support of all partners, and will require new global enabling policy frameworks and resources. How can CFS, as an intergovernmental multi-stakeholder policy-making body, play a constructive role in support of these processes?
- The process leading to Agenda 2030 has been inclusive and participatory; the CFS model has often been referenced during this process, and has inspired discussions about possible new governance mechanisms for the UN development system after 2015. How can CFS, through its work and model, strengthen this fruitful interaction?
- In thinking of contributing to the Agenda 2030 and the achievement of the SDGs, on which SDG or SDGs should be the CFS focusing?

3. The 2030 Agenda: “integration” and “universality”

A key feature of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs is their **integrated nature**, aiming to break down silos. Not one of the 17 goals can be considered as a single stand-alone: successful achievement of any one goal depends on the progress made on other goals of Agenda 2030; and reversely, failure to achieve a goal will jeopardize or hinder progress on other goals.

- What does this mean for CFS?
- To what extent should the CFS reach out to other relevant governing bodies and coordinate its work with them?

The 2030 agenda is **universal**, and applies to all countries, developed and developing, and all actors, policy makers and multi-stakeholders, as agents responsible for collectively building global and national enabling environments.

- 'What implications, if any, will the universality of the SDGs have on the work of the CFS? How can CFS, given its inclusive nature, contribute to strengthening the sense of joint responsibility and accountability of its multi-stakeholders?

4. Follow-up and review, reporting

The 2030 Agenda calls for a follow-up and review framework which will *“promote accountability to our citizens, support effective international cooperation in achieving this Agenda and **foster exchanges of best practices and mutual learning. It will mobilize support to overcome shared challenges and identify new and emerging issues.**”*

- How can CFS provide a forum for effective multi-stakeholder follow-up and review? Should this process target primarily the progress of CFS policy product implementation that has clear linkages to progress on the SDGs, or directly country progress on SDG targets ?

In 2009, CFS was reformed, and now reports to both the FAO Conference, and to the General Assembly through the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in NY. A follow-up and review scheme is currently under discussion in NY, with the aim to design an architectural framework which would

support the new High Level Political Forum (HLPF) deliver on its mission to review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and progress on all targets of all 17 SDGs at global level. The architectural framework will include follow-up and review processes at national and regional levels (likely involving Regional institutions and supported by UN Regional Economic Commissions, or other regional bodies). At the global level, the HLPF will be at the center of this architecture. The 2030 Agenda calls for thematic reviews of progress on the SDGs, including cross-cutting issues supported by reviews by the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council “**and other intergovernmental bodies and fora**” which should reflect the integrated nature of the Goals as well as the interlinkages between them. The 2030 Agenda further affirms that these various bodies and fora “will engage all relevant stakeholders and, where possible, feed into, and be aligned with, the cycle of the high-level political forum.”

- How should CFS consider articulating its work and activities to fit in this global follow-up and review framework?
- What would this imply for CFS (resourcing, mandate, etc)?

5. “Towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda: responding to new policy challenges ”

Successful achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals requires regular stock-taking of progress during the period, identifying challenges slowing down progress or qualifying successful results, their causes, and addressing these by formulating adequate policy guidance easily and broadly implementable at country-level.

Supporting the achievement of the SDGs will require global policy deliberations to address trade-offs, conflicts of interests and establish policy instruments and frameworks on complex issues. CFS has proven successful in providing such a space, delivering products and recommendations.

- How can CFS best identify challenges to progress on the SDGs and facilitate appropriate action to address this challenges?