

## Outcomes of the global discussions on the follow-up to the Evaluation Meetings of 26 & 28 September 2017

The objectives of the meetings were to discuss and agree on the following:

1. Response to evaluation recommendations 8, 9 and 4
2. Amendments to the draft decisions of the consultation report, taking into consideration the response to evaluation recommendations 8, 9 and 4

### **1. Response to evaluation recommendations 8, 9 and 4**

Ms. Amira Gornass, CFS Chairperson, and Ms. Gerda Verburg, former CFS Chairperson, were invited to share their views on recommendations 8 and 9, in particular on the functions of CFS Chair that best contribute to CFS work, their main outcomes and the challenges met to fulfill these additional functions. Participants were then invited to provide inputs on these issues to prepare the response to recommendations 8 and 9.

#### Recommendation 8

Participants confirmed interest in developing the Terms of Reference of the CFS Chairperson and agreed that these should not be prescriptive. The CFS Chairperson plays an important role in providing strategic leadership to CFS. Having experience as a Permanent Representative, or a Member of a Permanent Representation, and familiarity with the work of CFS and the Rome-based Agencies, enable wider reach and influence among membership and RBAs.

It is expected that the Chairperson will raise CFS profile, undertake outreach and engage with stakeholders at global, regional and national levels; build trust amongst stakeholders, promoting coherence in food security and nutrition work; and advocate the use of CFS products by stakeholders, including in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Chairperson is also expected to play a leadership role in intersessional work towards reaching consensus among stakeholders; strengthen on-going engagement and collaboration with RBAs; and contribute to expanding the funding base from membership and other stakeholders, through political support and advocacy for resource mobilization.

Some participants requested that the Bureau's roles and functions be considered when developing the Terms of Reference of the Chair and when reviewing the Terms of Reference of the Secretary, including in outreach and communication. It was also requested to make reference to the response to Recommendation 11 on outreach and communication. Participants agreed that clarification on the accountabilities of the CFS Chair, Secretary and FAO was necessary, and reporting lines between them should be made explicit. This will contribute to greater transparency and accountability.

Participants agreed that the Bureau will implement this recommendation, seeking inputs from stakeholders such as the Advisory Group, FAO Legal Office, other Committees, the CFS Secretary and RBAs.

#### Recommendation 9

Participants agreed that there was a need to review and revise the structure of the CFS Secretariat to ensure that it can effectively support CFS and to make the most efficient use of staff and resources. RBAs supported this recommendation and indicated their readiness to review and revise the levels and terms of reference of the positions in the joint CFS Secretariat in collaboration with the CFS Secretary. It was clarified that the existing provision for other UN entities to contribute staff to the Secretariat will continue to apply. Participants noted that the expected contribution from Technical Task Teams will be addressed in Action A6.3 through the establishment of Terms of Reference for alternative working arrangements, which include Technical Task Teams.

RBAs will look for efficient ways to ensure that their biennial commitments linked to Recommendation 3 (iii) are met on a timely basis, in line with the guiding principles mentioned in Action A3.3. RBAs shared that the provision of financial and staffing support to the joint CFS Secretariat was already a priority within the current RBA collaboration agreement and committed to consider ways to strengthen this as necessary.

Participants agreed that the RBAs will implement both Actions A9.1 and A9.2, and Action A9.1 will be implemented in collaboration with the CFS Secretary and submitted to the Bureau for consultation.

#### Recommendation 4

Participants agreed that the Bureau should review the process and composition of the Advisory Group to ensure that it is able to perform its functions effectively. The review should consider the following process and composition related elements:

##### a) Process-related:

Participants stressed the fact that the Advisory Group is first expected to contribute substantive input to the Bureau on food security and nutrition. The Bureau has to clarify its expectations from the Advisory Group before appointing it and the Advisory Group needs to receive clear indications of issues on which advice is required. The Bureau expects active engagement and physical or virtual attendance at the Bureau and Advisory Group meetings. Regular reporting on contributions to CFS work was also very important.

##### b) Composition-related

Participants recognized the fact that the quality and relevance of advice provided were key factors to consider for assessing the requests for seats on the Advisory Group. The five categories of constituencies remained relevant and concerns about inclusiveness should drive composition. Several participants noted that the Bureau should be open to receiving advice from more stakeholders. Flexibility existed to better respond to CFS priorities in agreed MYPoW through the appointment of *ad hoc* participants with a mandate limited to a particular topic, a specific activity and a limited period of time.

Some participants noted that the evaluation report provided concrete guidance when it came to how to assess and discuss the interests of other constituencies who want to be included in the Advisory Group. On the composition of the Advisory Group, participants reiterated the importance for the Bureau to have flexibility to appoint its own Advisory Group and decide how to do it, possibly considering the creation of new categories of participants or additional seats.

## 2. Amendments to the draft decisions of the consultation report, taking into consideration the response to recommendations 8, 9 and 4

The draft decisions were revised to include Recommendation 9 under Point c) (third bullet point), adding Point d) for Recommendation 8 and amending Point e) to include Recommendation 4 as follows:

The Committee:

- c) Requests the Bureau, after consultation with the Advisory Group, seeking additional inputs as needed, to:
  - o Finalize the Plan of Action for endorsement at CFS 45, as outlined in Annex 1 of document CFS 2017/44/12 Rev.1, by preparing the response to all recommendations that have not been presented to CFS 44.
  - o Implement the response to the recommendations that do not require plenary endorsement, as listed in Annex 2 of document 2017/44/12 Rev.1, and report to CFS 45.
  - o Implement the response to Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 5, ~~and 6~~ and 9, based on the indications in document CFS 2017/44/12 Rev.1, and report to CFS 45
- d) Requests the Bureau to implement the response to Recommendation 8, seeking additional input as needed, considering the indications in document CFS 2017/44/12 Rev.1, and report to CFS 45.
- e) Decides, exceptionally, that the Bureau may appoint its Advisory Group until March 2018 and therefore consider if changes are needed in in-order-to-enable-a-review-of the composition and processes of the Advisory Group for the remainder of the Bureau's term, taking into account to ensure that it is able to perform its functions effectively, in the implementation of the response to CFS Evaluation #Recommendation 4 and the need for any plenary decisions.; ~~recognizing that Rule IV of the CFS Rules of Procedure states the appointment of the Bureau's Advisory Group is for two years.~~

### Conclusion and Follow-up

The consultation report will be revised to include recommendations 8, 9 and 4, and reflect the agreed changes to the draft decisions. The revised version will be sent to the Bureau and Advisory Group and participants for information and then submitted to CFS 44 for endorsement.