

## **CFS Policy Convergence Process on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition**

### **Comments from Russian Federation**

Dear Mr. François Pythoud,

Let me thank you for your meaningful participation as a CFS Rapporteur on Sustainable Forestry in the 1st preparatory meeting for the CFS Policy Convergence Process on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition, which took place on July, 12. Through you, Your Excellency, I also would like to extend my congratulations to the HLPE team for the production of the Report on the Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition.

With regard to the request of the CFS Secretariat we are pleased to provide some comments and proposals on the form and focus of the CFS policy guidance on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition to be presented for endorsement by the CFS plenary.

1) We fully agree with the idea that the text should be no longer than two pages. Echoing what was said during the 1st preparatory meeting in July, there's a need to reduce the length and streamline certain recommendations. To our opinion it would be necessary to focus solely on the recommendations themselves rather than consider the summary part extracted from the HLPE Report.

2) While preparing the draft recommendations it is very important to respect the CFS mandate and not to go beyond it. It is necessary to avoid the use of contentious and not universally agreed terminology and concepts (e.g. NOT to mention the so called "rights-based approach/initiatives" in the text – para 25, 28, recommendations 6e, 7c);

Concerning the suggested wording ("rights-based approach/initiatives"), it would not be preferable or agreeable for us. We believe that the question of human rights in its complexity should be and has previously been addressed in the framework of the UN General Assembly, the UN Human Rights Council and the ECOSOC. Duplication of this work may lead to re-defining of approaches agreed within these fora. The references to human rights in the competence of FAO are implicit, not explicit. They are not to be found in the FAO Basic Texts (with the exception of the right to food in the context of the Committee on World Food Security and mostly with regard to the Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security of 2004). Therefore, measures planned or taken by CFS should be in conformity with its mandate and must not go beyond it, nor create any precedent in this respect within the UN system. The wording on "rights-based approach" risks to bring in the discussion a number of off-topic issues and make the outcome document less focused on its paramount objective.

Therefore, Russia will stand against the attempts to undermine the CFS mandate by bringing the human rights discussions to this very important and specialized fora.

The Russian delegation is eager to take part in the 2nd preparatory meeting scheduled for September, 19 where the rest of our comments and proposals to the certain recommendations of the HLPE report will be presented.