



Open Ended Working Group (OEWG)

Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW)

Document No: CFS OEWG- MYPoW/2017/02/06/02

CFS OEWG-MYPoW Meeting # 01

Date: 6 February 2017

Time: 14.00 – 17.00

Location: German Room, FAO Headquarters

Implications of a longer-term MYPoW

INTRODUCTION

The Committee at its 43rd Session in October 2016 endorsed the document CFS 2016/43/6 “*CFS engagement in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*” which addresses how CFS will support country-led implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and national achievement of the SDGs.

In paragraph 11, it states that “*CFS could also consider future annual HLPF review themes beyond a biennial horizon, and programme its policy work from 2019 accordingly, to ensure there is enough time for an HLPE report to be prepared (minimum 18 months). The OEWG MYPoW is invited to consider the possibility and opportunity of a longer-term planning horizon (for instance, 4 years). This would facilitate future CFS programming by allowing for policy work to be finalized and delivered in synergy with relevant processes outside CFS, such as HLPF thematic reviews, or major international conferences and processes*”.

The MYPoW OEWG is expected to discuss this suggestion and submit a response to CFS 44 in 2017.

CONSIDERATIONS

The option of having a longer-term MYPoW needs a thorough discussion in order to consider the implications. In order to inform the OEWG discussion on the matter, a number of initial considerations are outlined below:

- a) Funding - A longer term MYPoW where main objectives, activities and cost estimates are defined from the outset could assist potential donors who would have a longer term horizon for planning contributions;
- b) Implementation – A longer term MYPoW would enable more realistic planning of activities and the timeframes for completing them, rather than needing to accommodate a number of existing incomplete activities when developing a new MYPoW. This may assist with workload balance;
- c) Preparation process – It would be important to establish a preparation process that retained sufficient flexibility to adjust for emerging issues, and that was not a more resource-intensive process than the present one (where it takes 2 years to develop a 2 year MYPoW);

- d) Chairs' mandate – A longer term MYPoW would exceed the two-year mandate of the CFS Chair and Bureau, but this does not present procedural constraints;
- e) Linkages with High Level Political Forum on SDGs – A longer term MYPoW would facilitate planning the CFS policy work taking into consideration the HLPF review themes. The themes of the next HLPF reviews are known in advance and have been set up to 2019 (2017: *Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world*; 2018: *Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies*; 2019: *Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality*) which means that they can influence the CFS priority setting beyond a biennial horizon. The structure of HLPF reviews beyond 2019 will be discussed at the end of the first review cycle and could be taken into account in a future longer term MYPoW (eg 2020-2023);
- f) Priority setting – The HLPF reviews and the HLPE note on critical and emerging issues could be considered as foundation inputs for the identification of the priorities and objectives around which the longer-term MYPoW is developed in order to establish from the outset the MYPoW direction for the period of reference.

NEXT STEPS

At the meeting on 6 February, OEWG members are invited to consider the elements outlined in this document and suggest further considerations that deserve to be discussed in the context of MYPoW planning, as the first step of an ongoing discussion which is expected to lead to a report to CFS 44 in October 2017.