



Open Ended Working Group (OEWG)

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

CFS OEWG-SDGs Meeting # 1

Date: 27 January 2017

Time: 14:00-17:00

Location: Green room, FAO HQ

Outcomes

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

Agenda

- 1- Word of welcome by OEWG Chair
- 2- Updates on NY developments, including the Resolution adopted in the Second Committee of UNGA and preparations for the HLPF 2017 (*for information and discussion*)
- 3- CFS strategy for stakeholders to better engage with the HLPF in 2017 beyond the written contribution (*for discussion*)
- 4- OEWG workplan 2017 (*for discussion and agreement*)
- 5- Zero-draft key messages and zero-draft contribution outline to the 2017 HLPF review based on guidance received from CFS 43 Plenary (*for discussion*)

Outcomes

1- Welcome by OEWG Chair

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming all OEWG participants. He recalled the decision in CFS' 43rd Plenary to participate in the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda by sending regular inputs to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF). The Plenary also gave a mandate to the OEWG to develop, based on guidance given by Plenary, the contribution to the 2017 review held under the theme "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world" (in which SDG 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 14 will also be reviewed), which will be endorsed by the CFS Bureau.

2- Updates on NY developments, including the Resolution adopted in the Second Committee of UNGA and preparations for the HLPF 2017 (*for information and discussion*)

Updates were given by the Rome based agencies' teams in New York on recent developments of relevance to the work of the OEWG this year. These included among others the endorsement of the UNGA Second Committee resolution on Agriculture development, food security and nutrition, in which CFS work was well reflected, and which recalled the important role which CFS could play "*in support of the integrated implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those related to ending hunger and malnutrition*". Updates were also given on the preparatory process for the 2017 HLPF meeting. It includes several events, such as preparatory meetings focused on the various SDGs under in-depth review such as the ECOSOC Youth Forum (30-31 January), the ECOSOC Special Meeting on Industrialization, Infrastructure and Innovation (10 May), the Second Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (15-16 May), the Financing for Development Forum (22-25 May), and the UN Oceans Conference on SDG 14 (5-9 June), the outcomes of which will inform the HLPF review.

The Vice-Chair of CFS was also invited to share with OEWG participants updates from the ECOSOC Presidential Retreat on “Advancing implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through effective policy integration”, which he attended on behalf of the CFS Chair. He informed the OEWG that the modalities to prepare the voluntary national reviews (VNRs), still very open, represent a space for CFS to intensify its communication on its products, and for CFS members and stakeholders to do further outreach. As the 40 2017 VNRs will likely take up most of the HLPF week, the Vice-Chair shared his thoughts on the importance to ensure that CFS plays an active role in conveying messages beyond its written contribution, as well as to ensure that thematic discussions, such as on SDG2, feature prominently in country reports.

3- CFS strategy for stakeholders to better engage with the HLPF in 2017 beyond the written contribution (*for discussion*)

OEWG participants stressed the need for an “orchestrated outreach” in New York by CFS through its members and stakeholders in preparation of the HLPF, supported by common messages developed by the OEWG, going beyond conveying a written contribution on the overall review theme. Participants suggested that CFS could contribute to the overall progress review through the VNRs, with for example a letter from the CFS Chair to Rome-based representatives of the countries volunteering for the 2017 HLPF, informing them of CFS outcomes of relevance to achieve 2030 Agenda FSN targets in an integrated approach, and encouraging them to draw their capital’s attention to these integrated policy products during the preparation process of the report. Interventions also stressed the specific role which CFS special mechanisms such as CSM and PSM can play. Some stakeholders suggested efforts to hold, beyond a side-event, a thematic discussion in New York with CFS-like modalities of participation, building on the success of the Global Thematic Event on the VGGT in CFS 43, and ensuring that representatives of the most vulnerable directly participate in reviews. Other suggestions included participation of the CFS Chair in regional sustainable development fora to ensure that CFS products are considered in the preparations of country reviews, as well as in mandated regional inputs to the HLPF. Participants stressed the importance of national-level discussions and of the VNR preparations, to foster national-level discussions and strategies for food security and nutrition. OEWG participants suggested that the HLPF could make a specific request to CFS to encourage its efforts in monitoring the implementation of its outcomes.

4- OEWG workplan 2017 (*for discussion and agreement*)

The Chair presented the draft workplan for this intersessional year, drawing participants’ attention on the need to prepare two contributions to HLPF global reviews, in order to comply, starting in 2017, with the request for CFS Plenary to endorse the finalized contributions to the HLPF. He also high-lighted the need for a reflection on the future of the workstream, in support of MYPoW discussions for the biennium ahead. Minor edits were suggested in order to ensure that the wording of the workplan is aligned with CFS 43 decisions.

5- Zero-draft key messages and zero-draft contribution outline to the 2017 HLPF review based on guidance received from CFS 43 Plenary (*for discussion*)

Interventions focused mostly on the zero-draft contribution outline (as the basis to develop the key messages), and welcomed it as a good basis. The document should be kept short, preferably not longer than its current length. There were suggestions for a different framing of some issues, as well as for a number of additional thematic issues to be referenced. Some participants stressed the

importance for the contribution to be tailored to a non Rome-based readership. The Chair of the HLPE Steering Committee joined through videoconference and presented a summary of the HLPE reports and policy recommendations, and an HLPE contribution to the SDG2 review. Interventions called for greater prominence of the work of the CFS HLPE in the contribution, and a clearer differentiation between CFS work that was subject to an intergovernmental process leading to endorsement, and work that was not. It was suggested an annex could list the different products, particularly those of relevance to the theme and SDGs under review. Several interventions called for an introductory paragraph presenting the main features of CFS. Participants called for greater clarity on how both the overall review theme, and the particular SDGs under in-depth review, could be addressed in CFS' contribution. Participants suggested a number of interlinkages to be stressed, but there was overall agreement that, since not all cross-cutting issues could be listed in this short document, the contribution would focus for this year on the interlinkages with the SDGs under in depth review, and dedicate more space to the links with other SDGs when these will be under in-depth review in the coming years.

In his conclusion, the OEWG Chair recalled that written comments were welcome and would help the CFS Secretariat and taskteam revise the draft contribution, and called for a prioritization of issues in the next draft to be presented to the 2nd OEWG meeting.