

CFS 45

Invitations and Registration

The CFS Provisional Agenda and Draft Timetable are on the [CFS 45 page](#) in English. Other languages coming soon.

The invitations to CFS Members, Participants and Observers are now being processed. Likewise the invitation letters to high level attendees including the UN Secretary General are being processed. Registration is now open. For Member and Non Members of CFS, the registration is the same as in previous years. This is the link: <http://www.fao.org/members-gateway/en/>

For Participants and Observers, a new registration system called CVENT is being used which replaces the Expression of Interest systems used in previous years for civil society. For CFS 45 all Participants and Observers should register at this link: <https://event-services.fao.org/cfs45>

Side events

A total of 95 Side Event Requests were received, the highest number yet. Most of them met the criteria and guidance. Organizers will be informed of the result on 27 July.

Information Marketplace

Due to the World Food Day display planned for the Atrium, this year it will not be possible for CFS to locate its Information Marketplace there. Discussions are ongoing regarding other space that could be used for a limited number of display tables.

World Food Day

Discussions are ongoing regarding the roll out of World Food Day. An update will be given at the Bureau and Advisory Group meeting.

Nutrition

The CFS Nutrition OEWG, chaired by Mr Khaled El-Taweel (Egypt), successfully finalized the Terms of Reference (TORs) for the preparation of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition. The TORs which will be presented for endorsement by CFS 45 are intended to guide the next steps of the preparation of the Voluntary Guidelines.

The TORs are the result of an intense and inclusive process which saw the participation of a high number of interested stakeholders. They responded to the guidance provided by CFS Plenary and meet the request made by the OEWG to adopt a comprehensive and systemic approach to food systems, building on the evidence provided in the HLPE report, aiming at addressing the existing policy fragmentation between the food, agriculture and health sectors. In this regard, the OEWG reiterated that the HLPE report should be used as the basis and as the guiding element for the process.

An “elements paper” will be made available in the CFS Nutrition Working Space to set the stage by highlighting a number of issues that might be discussed in the course of the preparation process and,

in case of agreement, addressed in the Voluntary Guidelines. This is a working document, to be updated regularly by the Secretariat, which presents suggestions being provided by OEWG members on the issues and topics that could be addressed in the Voluntary Guidelines.

A second working document will be made available to list references to relevant international guidance concerning food systems and nutrition in order to further inform the next steps of the process.

The Secretariat, in collaboration with the Technical Task Team, will develop a proposal for an intersessional event on food system frameworks and typologies. However, the lack of additional financial resources may lead to the postponement of the event, originally foreseen in September 2018.

Attention should be paid by CFS Members and other stakeholders to the funding needs concerning the implementation of this important workstream. It is key to secure the financial resources needed to enable the implementation of the different steps of the policy convergence process. The budget estimate for this workstream is presented in the last section of the TORs.

2030 Agenda

At its last meeting on 25 June the OEWG discussed the key messages to be included in the 2019 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) contribution, as well as the decision text to be submitted to CFS 45. Both documents are expected to be finalized by the end of July.

A joint CFS and UNSCN side event at the 2018 HLPF in New York called “Moving to sustainable and resilient societies: the food security and nutrition dimensions” will be held Wednesday 11 July. See more details and register [here](#).

Monitoring

An OEWG meeting was held on 15 June 2018. The objectives were to discuss and agree on:

- (i) the draft report for Plenary and outline of the Global Thematic Event (GTE) that will be held at CFS 45. The GTE will be dedicated to monitoring the use and application of the Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security;
- (ii) how to proceed for organizing events for monitoring other CFS policy recommendations.

As requested at the Evaluation meeting on 26 June 2018, the draft decisions for monitoring were prepared through a separate process.

The draft report for Plenary, the outline of the GTE, proposal(s) for organizing events for monitoring other CFS policy recommendations, and draft decisions for monitoring are for discussion at the Bureau and Advisory Group meeting on 23 July 2018 and for decision at the Bureau meeting on 25 July 2018.

Evaluation

Four meetings, including two “Friends of the Co-facilitators” meetings, have been held since the last Bur/AG meeting in early May to discuss and agree on the Implementation Report (core and annex) that will be a CFS 45 document. All sections of the Implementation Report were agreed at the 26

June meeting. The Implementation Report, together with the Draft Decisions, will be presented to the Bureau/AG meeting for discussion and to the Bureau for decision. Two other documents that will be provided as information documents at CFS 45 are the Overview of the implementation status of the Evaluation Plan of Action and the Communication Strategy 2020-2023.

Chair's outreach activities

The CFS Chair has been participating in several events held in Rome to raise awareness of CFS policy work and its multistakeholder model. In particular he participated in the Opening of the 24th Session of COFO to promote the CFS Policy recommendations on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition; and in a side-event on South-South and Triangular Cooperation held during the 159th FAO Council to promote the inclusive format of CFS. The Chair also recorded a video-message for an Expert Group Meeting on Nutrition organized by UNSCN in New York, highlighting the ongoing CFS policy convergence work on nutrition and food systems and encouraging the experts' engagement to come up with solid and effective policy guidelines. The Chair was also invited to the EAT Forum in Stockholm to speak at the Dialogues on Food Systems. While in Rome, the Chair met with a high-level delegation from the China State Council Information Office.

The Vice-Chair participated in a seminar in FAO held to celebrate the World Day to Combat Land Degradation, where she promoted the VGGTs and the CFS-RAI Principles as policy tools to preserve land and natural resources for achieving food security and nutrition.

HLPE

Report #13 on Multistakeholder Partnerships to finance and improve food security and nutrition in the framework of the 2030 Agenda

The HLPE Report on Multistakeholder Partnerships (MSPs), as well as the corresponding recommendations, have been validated by the HLPE Steering Committee in its last meeting in May 2018 in Yaoundé Cameroon. As per usual practice, it was discussed in Roma III University on the 26 June and officially launched in FAO HQ on 27 June 2018.

During the launch, participants thanked the HLPE for this excellent and informative report providing an overall picture of MSPs, their diversity, their potential and challenges. They recognized the specific challenges the HLPE faced for the elaboration of this report. They stressed that the report, along with the questionnaire submitted during the open consultation, clarifies the concepts and terminology, provides a logical framework to better understand the contribution of MSPs to food security and nutrition and sustainable development, and can provide useful guidance when setting-up new MSPs. The logical framework suggested in the report can also be used by academia and other stakeholders to set-up a strengthened learning process on MSPs, and their contributions at different scales (from national to global). In the concluding remarks, the CFS Chair stressed that this report provides food for thought for CFS itself as the 2030 deadline is approaching.

Participants recalled that translating the report is critical for enabling an inclusive and fruitful policy discussion. Further contributions to the HLPE Trust Fund have been announced by the European Union, France and Switzerland. However, with the funds already available at this moment, the HLPE Trust Fund is not able to finance the translation of the MSP report. Additional funds should be secured as soon as possible for the report to be translated in all the UN languages in time for CFS 45 in October 2018.

Report #14 on Agroecological approaches and other innovations for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition

The kick-off meeting of the HLPE Project Team (PT) for this report was held in ICRAF (Nairobi, Kenya) from the 15 to 18 May 2018. During this first face-to-face meeting, PT discussed the main concepts and questions to be covered in the report, the conceptual framework and the outline. They agreed on a method of work and on a provisional timeline for the study. The open consultation on the V0 draft of this report is currently planned before the end of 2018.

Report #15

In order for an HLPE report to be delivered and presented to CFS Plenary in October 2020, a CFS request has to be prepared and endorsed in CFS 45 Plenary in October 2018.

Readability and accessibility of the HLPE reports

As per the CFS request below, beyond the usual expert independent peer-review, the V1 draft of the MSP report has been reviewed by non-experts who focused their review on the clarity and readability of the report. A communication kit (an A5 flyer and an A5 executive summary of around 30 pages) has also been prepared by the HLPE Secretariat for the latest two reports (#12 on Nutrition and #13 on MSPs). This communication kit has been discussed and validated by the Steering Committee during its last meeting in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

The MSP communication kit has been distributed after the launch of the report. Depending on the available resources, the HLPE Secretariat, in collaboration with the CFS Secretariat, can print and send on request hard copies of the HLPE reports, flyers, and executive summary to strengthen outreach and communication around CFS and HLPE work.

“HLPE has taken steps to ensure that their reports are accessible to a diverse audience, both in terms of substance and format of its reports. The HLPE will give specific attention to the format and readability of future reports and consider the following:

- *Having future reports also reviewed by non-experts in order to assess their readability.*
- *Preparing for future reports a shorter document containing the main findings and recommendations of the report, adapted to diverse readers, subject to the HLPE workload and available resources” (see proposed answer to REC 14 in CFS/BurAg/2018/01/31/03).*