

Implementation of the CFS Evaluation Recommendation 4

Comments by PSM

A. Role and Composition of Advisory Group

PSM welcomes the approach of the Bureau (31/1/2018) and the co-chairs (5/2/2018) to address the issues raised by the Evaluation and during the consultation process last year. The role of the Advisory Group has evolved in at least two ways since its inception through the CFS reform process: first, through the growing number of stakeholders engaged in FSN processes, both formally and informally; and second, in the increased diversity and complexity of the issues that the CFS and the Bureau are having to address, as evidenced by the HLPE critical issues paper. The Bureau is therefore in a position of needing more nuanced advice across a spectrum of social, economic, political, and technical spheres.

Following consultation with its membership, the PSM would advocate for the needed advice to the Bureau coming from a broader spectrum of participants, both permanent to the Advisory Group (AG) and 'ad-hoc' for the topic(s) being addressed by the Advisory Group, as per 'Rules of Procedure'. This requires timely planning of AGs, with agendas established and distributed to both permanent and 'ad-hoc' participants at least four weeks in advance. As an example, when matters of financial advice were required, the World Bank may be asked to suggest 'ad-hoc' participants from regional development banks or the Green Climate Fund. Similarly, CGIAR would be asked to include National Research agencies when particular research topics were being discussed. Notwithstanding its request for parity of seats with CSM, the PSM would also use timely and detailed circulation of agendas to alert national private sector representatives to provide the necessary advice/comment, either in person or by remote audiovisual means.

B. Joint Proposal by Egypt and Iceland

The PSM Governing Council has reviewed and endorsed the joint proposal by Egypt and Iceland. With regard to Proposal 1, the PSM agrees that three regular sessions per year provide, in the light of comments above on the role of the AG, the opportunity for timely, well-structured, and well-attended AGs that provide the requisite knowledge and advice to the Bureau. Regarding the second Proposal,

the PSM believes the Bureau is well aware of the growing diversity of potential participants, the complex nature of issues facing FSN, and the need to clearly place CFS at the forefront of addressing these issues. The PSM believes the Bureau is well placed to determine the composition of the AG while ensuring adequate representation of the five categories of constituency.

The PSM Governing Council has reviewed the third proposal and welcomes the Bureau's consideration of the initiative. Since the CFS reform, participation and dialogue with both of the Mechanisms have allowed CFS and its processes to mature into a platform that is more representative and potentially more capable of addressing the issues of FSN. The proposed roles of the Mechanisms in the Bureau reflect this.