

World Food Programme's contribution

Recommendation 4

Implementation of the CFS Evaluation

Paragraph 32 of the CFS Reform Document clearly defines the function of the CFS Advisory Group: *“The function of the Advisory Group is to provide input to the Bureau regarding the range of tasks which the CFS Plenary has instructed it to perform. Decision making will be in the hands of the member States. It is expected that members of the Advisory Group should be able to contribute substantive work and provide advice to the CFS Bureau”*.

Paragraph 23 of the [consultation report](#) endorsed at CFS 44 requests the review of only the Advisory Group's composition and processes, implicitly reaffirming the validity of its function as per Para 32 of the Reform Document: *“The Bureau does not currently take full advantage of the Advisory Group and the expertise and knowledge of the broad spectrum of voices of the constituencies it represents. CFS will review the composition and processes of the Advisory Group to ensure that it is able to perform its functions effectively”*.

Paragraphs 29-30 of the Reform Document should also be borne in mind. They remind us that the Bureau, amongst others, represents the broader membership of the CFS between Plenary sessions and performs tasks delegated to it by the Plenary. Within such clear, thus useful, normative framework, it becomes clear that the effectiveness of the Advisory Group can be improved only if the Bureau better exercises its functions through clearer and more specific requests to the Advisory Group to provide advice on well-defined issues. The Bureau's requests should provide the basis against which to judge the performance of the Advisory Group.

Currently, joint Bureau and Advisory Group meetings are followed by distinct Bureau meetings, whose agendas however precisely mirror the discussions of the joint B/AG. One single setting (i.e. “extended Bureau” as per proposal below) with final decision-making power in the hands of Bureau Members would be more suitable.

In addition, WFP aligns itself with the vision outlined in paragraph 20 of the Reform Document which stresses that Plenary is CFS' central body where all relevant stakeholders at global level debate, coordinate, share information and lessons-learned, converge and take decisions on relevant and specific issues pertaining to food security and nutrition. Plenary should retain this important function.

Proposal

- Establish an extended Bureau to replace the existing joint Bureau and Advisory Group. It will not substitute the existing Open-Ended Working Groups. All five categories of CFS Participants will be represented in the extended Bureau.
- A limited number of meetings of the extended Bureau (maximum two per year) is foreseen with its agenda set by Bureau Members.
- Bureau Members will specify the advice required/needed. In order for Bureau Members to benefit from a substantive and informed advice, sufficient time ahead of

the meetings will be given to stakeholders to consult internally with their constituencies.

- Depending on the topics on the agenda, Bureau Members should decide to invite ad hoc participants from different constituencies of CFS participants and other relevant stakeholders, including the HLPE.

This is consistent with paragraph 13 of the Reform Document which states that “*the Committee or its Bureau may invite other interested organizations relevant to its work to observe entire sessions or specific agenda items. ...*”

- Decision-making power will ultimately rest on the Bureau Members only.