



Date: 23 April 2018

Time: 09:30-12:30 and 14:00-17:00

Location: Ethiopia Room, FAO HQ (Building C, 2d Floor)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) carried out the reform in 2009 so that it can fully play its respective role in the area of food security and nutrition (FSN)¹. The Reform Document remains the cornerstone of CFS work. The Implementation Report documents the implementation of the response to the recommendations from the CFS Independent Evaluation conducted in 2016-2017². The report seeks to clarify or revitalize particular elements of the reform to strengthen CFS as the most important global platform of FSN, considering the new global FSN environment, shaped by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, and the UN Decade on Family Farming 2019-2028.
2. The CFS Bureau, who was given the mandate at CFS 44 to finalize and implement the response to the evaluation process, nominated two co-facilitators to lead the process, which included inclusive discussions with all stakeholders in the form of open meetings, as well as a Bureau retreat to brainstorm on how best to proceed with an effective and efficient implementation process. Written inputs and bilateral meetings along the way ensured voices were heard and well communicated. All information was shared with CFS stakeholders in an open and timely manner through the CFS Working Space so as to keep the process transparent and synchronized with stakeholders.
3. The implementation of the response to the evaluation recommendations (Plan of Action) is intended to improve the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of CFS, stimulating the potential of CFS and its policy products and recommendations towards the realization of the CFS vision, better responding to future challenges. CFS will serve as an inclusive global platform dealing with FSN guided by the 3 key principles of the reform: inclusiveness, strong linkages to the reality on the ground and flexibility in implementation.

CFS vision³

CFS constitutes the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental Committee for a broad range of committed stakeholders to work together in a coordinated manner and in support of country-led processes towards the elimination of hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all human beings. The CFS will strive for a world free from hunger where countries implement the voluntary guidelines for the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

¹ CFS:2009/2 Rev.2

² CFS:2017/44/Inf.23

³ CFS:2009/2 Rev.2

4. Section II presents the measures that have been taken to address the challenges faced by CFS, which were identified during the preparation of the Plan of Action. Section III provides more detailed information on specific issues summarized in this document.

II. KEY ELEMENTS TO IMPROVE CFS

5. The Implementation of the Plan of Action is directed toward reaffirming the CFS reform and strengthening CFS for future challenges in a world, where food insecurity and malnutrition are on the rise again. CFS should make full use of its unique role to prioritize and focus on FSN issues with a clearer strategic direction where it has comparative advantage. The huge efforts that have been made to discuss the evaluation results and reach consensus on the content of the implementation report show that the reformed CFS continues to be fully relevant within the UN architecture. The intensive debates about the implementation are a signal of commitment by all to CFS, to reaffirm long-term support for its vision, activities and policy convergence and coherence work.
6. Seven key elements to address the challenges that CFS faces have been identified ⁴to provide the basis of a holistic approach for the implementation process. The following paragraphs describe how these elements will improve CFS:
 - 1) **DIRECTION** – Providing more strategic direction to strengthen CFS to achieve its vision.
 - 2) **DEMAND DRIVEN**- Ensuring that CFS work is guided by the needs of the people most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition and anchored to realities on the ground.
 - 3) **PRIORITIZATION** – Focusing on FSN issues which can most directly contribute to making positive change for food insecure and malnourished people in line with CFS vision, taking into account CFS criteria for selecting activities, resources and workload.
 - 4) **EVIDENCE/SCIENCE-BASED** – Maximizing the value of the inputs from the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE).
 - 5) **OWNERSHIP** - Creating political momentum, resulting in the involvement and commitment of high level representatives of Members.
 - 6) **UPTAKE** – Increasing awareness of CFS and promoting the dissemination, voluntary use and application, and follow-up and review of CFS products and recommendations at all levels.
 - 7) **FUNDING** - Ensuring adequate and sustainable funding for CFS Plenary and workstreams, HLPE and the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM).

DIRECTION

Providing more strategic direction to strengthen CFS to achieve its vision

⁴ A detailed overview of the implementation of the Evaluation Plan of Action, action by action, is provided in an information note for Plenary (ref...)

7. In order to provide more medium-to-long term strategic direction to guide its work, CFS has clarified the contribution of its six roles set out in the Reform Document to CFS vision and how and by whom they should be performed, and developed strategic objectives and expected outcomes that will set the focus of CFS activities for the next 4-year MYPoW. All roles were recognized to be important and interconnected, jointly contributing to achieving CFS vision, requiring the active involvement of CFS member states and stakeholders at all levels.
8. The MYPoW strategic objectives are based on the CFS roles, referring to global priorities in the field of FSN, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and informed by HLPE Critical and Emerging Issues Notes, the RBAs technical work and other relevant UN sources. They will promote the recognition of CFS as the leading and most inclusive global platform for FSN and keep FSN high on the global development agenda.
9. For the next MYPoW, CFS will focus its resources on performing Roles 1 (coordination at global level) and 2 (policy convergence) in a more demand-driven way and with greater efficiency and effectiveness as well as the lessons sharing part of Role 5 (promoting accountability and best practices) and Role 6 (Global Strategic Framework). Roles 3 (support and advise to countries), 4 (coordination at national and regional level) and the accountability part of Role 5 were mostly beyond the direct control of CFS as a Rome-based Committee and relied on government initiatives in partnerships with RBAs, other UN bodies and other stakeholders that have an implementation and coordination role at national and regional levels.
10. Three interlinked strategic objectives will help channel CFS energy and resources for **the next 4-year MYPoW activities** that will contribute to achieving the CFS vision and supporting country-led implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, namely:
 - Strategic Objective 1 – PLATFORM: Leverage the convening power as the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform to exchange views on situation of FSN at all levels and develop key policy messages on FSN
 - Strategic Objective 2 – POLICY: Develop global policy guidance for policy convergence and coherence building on national policies that address food insecurity and malnutrition
 - Strategic Objective 3 – UPTAKE: Foster the uptake of CFS work on FSN at all levels

DEMAND-DRIVEN

Ensuring that CFS work is guided by the needs of the people most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition and anchored to realities on the ground

11. CFS work will focus on activities that identify and address the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition with a focus on people most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition. CFS activities will be designed to support country-led implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular SDG2 on ending hunger, by focusing on the nexus and interlinkages between SDG2 and other SDGs and targets, guided by the strategic objectives and the CFS vision.

12. A more prominent role is given to the CFS Plenary in proposing, discussing and giving guidance on issues to be considered in MYPoW. This is in line with the provision of the CFS Reform Document which states that the Plenary “should focus on relevant and specific issues related to FSN in order to provide guidance and actionable recommendations to assist all stakeholders in eradicating hunger”. The CFS Plenary should provide a space for multistakeholder dialogue on priority issues in the field of FSN where key stakeholders can converge to exchange views.
13. The role of the Advisory Group in ensuring CFS work is demand-driven [*to be further discussed*]. Advisory Group members will inform the Bureau of the needs for policy work in FSN areas on behalf of their constituencies regularly consulted in an open format].

PRIORITIZATION

Focusing on FSN issues which can most directly contribute to making positive change for food insecure and malnourished people in line with CFS vision, taking into account CFS criteria for selecting activities, resources and workload.

14. The new MYPoW preparation process will lead to a more effective prioritization of CFS thematic activities, with expected reduction of resource needs and workload, with the enforcement of the decision that the inclusion of new activities in MYPoW will be subject to concrete indications of resource availability and the volume of planned activities. The new process will also contribute to strengthening ownership and commitment of CFS stakeholders in implementing the results of CFS policy work as well as optimizing the use of HLPE inputs to support CFS thematic workstreams.
15. The various CFS activities aim at producing different types of outputs, including policy messages from inclusive discussions, voluntary global policy guidance resulting from negotiations, the Global Strategic Framework, and communication and outreach. An appropriate prioritization process is key to reduce the number of activities, enhance the relevance and improve the quality of outputs, allowing sufficient time for stakeholders to coordinate with their constituencies. CFS will not engage in more than one major policy negotiation process at a time.
16. The CFS Bureau, in consultation with the Advisory Group, will be more directly involved in the finalization of the draft MYPoW, which will be prepared through an inclusive process, to be presented to the CFS Plenary for consideration, possible adjustments and endorsement.
17. According to the CFS vision and strategic objectives, fewer and clearer criteria for prioritizing CFS thematic activities will be applied which include their contribution to the elimination of hunger and malnutrition, the focus on people most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition, their relevance to FSN global priorities, their added value compared to existing policy work considering CFS comparative advantages, concrete indications of available resources and existing workload as well as the commitment of CFS stakeholders. The HLPE Notes on Critical and Emerging Issues on FSN, together with technical inputs from the RBAs and other inputs from other UN bodies, will also serve for the selection of the themes to be discussed.

EVIDENCE/SCIENCE-BASED

Maximizing the value of the inputs from the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE)

18. The HLPE supports CFS discussions with structured expertise and its key functions⁵ so that the decisions and the work of the CFS are based on hard evidence and state of the art knowledge. Regular and sustained interaction between the HLPE Steering Committee and the Bureau and Advisory Group should be set up, in particular on substantive issues. Advice and focused interventions will be provided by the HLPE at the request of CFS, subject to HLPE resources, to maximize the value of the HLPE in supporting CFS policy convergence and coherence work.
19. The decision to request the HLPE to produce a report or other inputs will be based on a clear understanding of how the report will support the preparation of policy guidance, how the report will feed into the process considering the timescale, and the availability of evidence, research, data and technical studies on the subject under discussion. The HLPE will be requested to continue to produce a note regularly on critical and emerging issues which will be discussed at Plenary, providing guidance to the MYPOW process.

OWNERSHIP

Creating political momentum, resulting in the involvement and commitment of high-level representatives of Members

20. As outlined in the Reform Document, the CFS Plenary is the central body for decision-taking, debate, coordination, lesson-learning and convergence by all stakeholders at global level on issues pertaining to FSN and the achievement of CFS vision, while voting and decision taking remain the exclusive prerogative of Members. The CFS Plenary plays a critical role in creating political momentum and all efforts will be made to make Plenary more vibrant with an agenda that attracts high level participants who have the ability to bring about changes at national level. The communication strategy will include a media plan for Plenary.
21. The agenda will reflect critical and emerging issues on the global FSN agenda, with high-level, innovative roundtables and forums that include stakeholders from the CSM and Private Sector Mechanism (PSM), think tanks, financial institutions and researchers to encourage more interactive and substantive dialogues on FSN, while ensuring a balance with its decision-taking function. This will contribute to reinforce CFS role as a platform and confirm that CFS is a place for generating ideas and synergies.
22. The comprehensive planning phase leading to the prioritization of MYPoW thematic activities will strengthen stakeholders' ownership through their direct involvement from the initiation phase and their voluntary commitment to the implementation of the policy work resulting from the proposed activity.

⁵ CFS:2009/2 Rev.2

23. The participation and involvement of all member countries in CFS intersessional activities will be strengthened through regular exchange between Bureau members and their constituencies and member countries and capitals. Bureau members will brief their regional groups on a regular basis and communicate to the Bureau the feedback they receive from the countries. All member countries will keep their respective countries regularly informed of CFS activities and progress and inform Bureau members of their countries' priorities and concerns to be reported during Bureau and Advisory Group meetings.
24. As outlined in the Reform Document, the Bureau, immediately following its election, will establish an Advisory Group. The Bureau should also decide the working mechanism including the frequency and organization format of meetings with its Advisory Group after the establishment of the Advisory Group. The Bureau will send out clear requests on substantive work to the Advisory Group.
25. The Chair has an important political and strategic role in Rome and beyond to achieve CFS vision and objectives and will provide strategic leadership to CFS in Plenary and the intersessional period.

UPTAKE

Increasing awareness of CFS and promoting the dissemination, voluntary use and application, and follow-up and review of CFS products and recommendations at all levels

26. CFS members have primary responsibility for promoting CFS and the voluntary use and application of CFS policy products and recommendations at all levels, working in partnership with the RBAs, other relevant UN agencies, CSM, PSM, philanthropic and financial institutions and other concerned actors.
27. Communication is the responsibility of all CFS Members and other stakeholders. Communication refers to two distinct sets of activities: (i) activities aiming at raising awareness of CFS and its work that will be supported by the CFS Secretariat and (ii) activities towards the voluntary use and application of CFS products and recommendations at country level for which Member countries are responsible and could be implemented in partnership with other CFS stakeholders. CFS stakeholders will support the dissemination of CFS-endorsed policy recommendations to the relevant ministries and are encouraged to continue disseminating HLPE reports, recognizing that they are not CFS-endorsed deliverables.
28. The CFS Secretariat will continue to focus on raising awareness of CFS and its work through the CFS website and social media, reporting to the required global bodies such as UNGA through ECOSOC and sharing information with other UN bodies as appropriate, and subject to available resources, supporting outreach efforts of the CFS Chair in consultation with the Bureau.
29. The RBAs have a role to play in mainstreaming CFS products and recommendations in their own work and facilitating their use and application at all levels. They provide advice and technical support on specific topics, at the request of countries, drawing upon various resources including the work of CFS. All these activities and achievements will be reported to the Bureau on annual basis.

30. Role of Advisory Group in uptake: Advisory Group members are encouraged to organize events at all levels that can foster the uptake of CFS. Outcomes of these events will be shared with all CFS stakeholders and reported to the Bureau. *[elements to be extrapolated from response to Recommendation 4]*
31. The CFS Chair will continue to play an active role in promoting the use and application of CFS products and recommendations. The CFS Chair will advocate for the consideration of CFS policy outcomes and collaborate with all relevant stakeholders to find opportunities to raise awareness of the work carried out by the Committee.
32. CFS will also promote accountability and share best practices at all levels, including through: follow-up and review of both global and country/region specific FSN situations, trends, progress, challenges and sharing lessons; assessing the effectiveness of CFS and follow-up and review of the use and application of its policy guidelines and recommendations; and facilitating advice regarding recommended approaches to country/regional review and follow-up of FSN objectives. CFS will continue to hold Global Thematic Events in Plenary every 2 years and to encourage stakeholders to organize national and regional events to support Global Thematic Events.

FUNDING

Ensuring adequate and sustainable funding for CFS Plenary and workstreams, HLPE and CSM

33. A robust resource mobilization strategy will help support CFS Plenary and workstreams, the HLPE and the CSM to support CFS priorities as identified in the MYPOW with clear safeguards in line with FAO guidelines to prevent potential conflicts of interest regarding funding. Continued efforts will be made to expand and diversify the financing base, including by reaching out to CFS Member States, private foundations and the private sectors, and financial institutions.
34. CFS Members will request the RBAs to formalize their contribution for more predictability. CFS Members, as appropriate, will request the Governing Bodies of the RBAs to adjust their contribution to cover the core budget for CFS Plenary and Workstreams starting from the 2020-21 biennium.

III. ANNEX