



Date: 20 March 2018

Time: 09:30-13:00

Location: Red Room, FAO HQ (Building A, 1st Floor)

### Overview of the Bureau Retreat – 19 March 2018

See the separate outcome document for more details

The participants in the retreat discussed ways to arrive at the Plenary Implementation Report (PIR) in an efficient and timely manner and make the best use of the remaining evaluation meetings that are scheduled. Several options were discussed for the implementation process, ways to synthesize the implementation of the response to the evaluation to form the core narrative of the PIR, and a general outline for the PIR. Much of the discussion focused on ways to synthesize the various elements into a holistic approach, which all had a similar objective – to highlight how the implementation of the evaluation recommendations will produce major changes or improvements to the work of CFS.

The general consensus from the discussion was to focus on a short concise document that synthesizes the responses to the evaluation, and move away from the detailed reaction to each Recommendation. However, we will still need to take stock action-by-action to ensure that all previous Plenary decisions are addressed and that any action that needs Plenary endorsement is clearly evident, and indicate those items that may need to be done post-Plenary (such as the CFS Reform implementation plan).

### Discussions on Recommendations 5, 7 & 11

It was noted that the outcomes of Recommendations 5 (Making Plenary more vibrant), 7 (Actions by Members to improve CFS) and 11 (Updated Communication Strategy) will be impacted by the outcomes of Recommendations 1 (Strategy) and 2 (MYPoW). Also the communication strategy will be circulated for consultation to the Bureau and Advisory Group after the outcomes of Recommendations 1 and 2 are decided and the strategy has been updated accordingly.

### **Recommendation 5 - Making Plenary more lively**

Several suggestions were made in addition to the ones circulated in advance by the Secretariat such as inviting Ministers to participate in particular sessions to report on how CFS work is used in their country. While high level participation should be encouraged, it should not be at the expense of inclusiveness and with the use of techno solutions, Plenary could be linked up to those on the ground. Leaders, thinkers and decision makers should be attracted and keynote speakers with an inspirational story could be invited. A further suggestion would be to have lectures from notable people. In an interactive critical and emerging issues session, Plenary could play a role in deciding the initial themes. Likewise parallel sessions on the same theme would give the opportunity for smaller groups to come up with different suggestions. A further suggestion was for CFS to get in touch with the organisers of TED talks, Davos and Green week to see if they have ideas for CFS. However, remaining within the budget is important.

It was felt important that Plenary be the place where countries share their experiences of what works and could be better linked to the Volunteer National Reviews. However, it should be remembered that ultimately CFS is a decision making body and adequate time should be allowed for due process.



**Recommendation 7 – Actions by Members to improve CFS**

The proposal to create a CFS repository listing regional and national multistakeholder platforms and CFS focal points in different institutions was well received. It was raised that indications should be provided on the type of support required from the national focal points. It was suggested to consider the possibility to organize regional CFS meetings to discuss regional priorities, trends and challenges with a view to informing the agenda setting of the Committee. It was also raised that actions to strengthen the uptake of CFS products at country level should not be limited to the development of communication tools. Partnerships with interested stakeholders should be promoted to facilitate technical discussions on how CFS products can be used at country level.

**Regarding Recommendation 11 – Updated Communication Strategy**

Several suggestions were made and where possible these will be incorporated in the updated communication strategy. It was generally agreed that while the CFS Secretariat is responsible for raising awareness at the global level, maintaining the website, etc., the use and application of the work of CFS is the responsibility of CFS Members and Participants and the strategy should reflect that. There is a need for guidelines and toolkits at the country level for CFS work and it was noted that the Rome-based Agencies and other partners working at the national level are skilled at producing such material. It was also noted that the communication strategy should be updated regularly to make sure it stays relevant.