

Comments by Afghanistan on Implementation Report of the CFS Evaluation

Co-Facilitators' Proposal- Zero Draft

Afghanistan wishes to restate its position expressed earlier that the Implementation Report of CFS Evaluation to the Plenary for decision has to be short, Succinct and focused. Each of its paragraphs has to have a clear message. Packing more than one message in a single paragraph is counterproductive because it may lead to confusion in the Plenary. Therefore, Afghanistan's observations on the various sections of the Zero Draft proposed by the Co-Facilitators are intended to convey this central requirement of the Implementation Report (being short, succinct and focused).

Afghanistan's observations are provided section by section for Part I and Part II of the Zero Draft (Part III and IV are yet to be produced). Afghanistan's comments on selected aspects of the texts related to recommendation 1, 2 and 10 are also covered in this note.

I. INTRODUCTION

Paragraph 1: We propose changing the word "vital" in the second line to "respective" and in the third line, to replace the word "intended" for "developed".

Paragraph 2: Is this paragraph that necessary? We do not think it is.

II. AREAS OF ATTENTION

Paragraph 5: In the second line, we propose substituting the word "adjusting" for "changing". In the fifth line, we propose changing "comparative and unique advantages" into "unique role and comparative advantages". We propose the last sentence to read "To make good use of the findings and recommendations of the evaluation and to better address the difficulties and challenges ahead, the

Committee is determined to implement actions that will sharpen the roles and functions of CFS in achieving its global vision”.

Paragraph 6: We propose a redraft of the first 4 lines of paragraph 6 to read

“The twenty-nine actions endorsed by CSF 44 as response to the recommendations of the evaluation, and to be presented to CSF45, are clustered around areas of attention so as to make the implementation process more holistic. The areas of attention are”.

1. Direction: Remove the word “guide” and at the end of the line add the phrase “including alignment with the SDGs”
2. Demand driven: Substitute “the most vulnerable and marginalized” for “beneficiaries” and substitute “anchored in” for “linked to”
3. Prioritization: Modify the second line to read “achieving the strategic objectives of the next four-year MYPoW, and reinforcing CFS roles and vision”
4. Evidence/Science-based: Simplify to read “Ensure that the work of CFS is built on science-based evidence”
5. Ownership: Modify the first line to read “ Enabling political momentum and commitment to CFS, leading to the involvement”
6. Uptake: Modify the first line to read “Increasing awareness of CFS and promoting the dissemination and use”
7. Funding: Modify the text to read “Ensuring adequate and sustainable funding for the core budget of CFS Plenary and workstreams, and of HLPE and CSM”

Paragraph 7: We suggest the integration of paragraph 7 into paragraph 4.

Paragraph 8: We propose a modification in the 5th line to read “As an intergovernmental Committee, CSF”

Direction

We propose the language in italics to read “*providing more strategic direction to CFS work, including alignment with the SDGs*”

Paragraph 9: We propose the following changes in this paragraph.

- In line 2, replace the phrase “will set the focus of” by “shape”
- In line 4, the word “or” must be “over”
- In the last line, we suggest changing “entities” into “stakeholders”.

Paragraph 10: It is a very good paragraph. However, in the first line the word “time” can replace “energy”

Paragraph 11: We propose adding the word “development” before the last word of the paragraph.

Paragraph 12: We propose adding the words “and outcomes” after the last word of the paragraph.

Demand-Driven

We propose the language in italics to read “*Ensuring CFS work is guided by the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized and anchored in realities on the ground*”

Paragraph 13: In the first line, we propose changing the word “developed” to “designed” and in the 3rd line substitute “they” by “The activities”.

Paragraph 16: We propose the following text for this unfinished paragraph

“The role and contribution of the Advisory Group in the work of CFS hinges on their acquired scientific knowledge and field experience covering the entire range of FSN, their willingness and strength to provide well- tailored advice to the CFS Bureau on critical and emerging issues and their capacity to render services on request through their outreach activities at country and regional level. The Advisory Group is not to duplicate the work of HLPE”.

Prioritization

We propose synchronization of the text in Italics with point 3 of paragraph 6. The text in Italics could read “*Prioritizing critical, emerging and urgent FSN issues in achieving the strategic objectives of the next four-year MYPoW*” .

We propose amending the texts of paragraph 17 to 20 with a view to making them sharp and focused. The amended versions include:

Paragraph 17: “Prioritization of CFS thematic activities will receive greater scrutiny under the newly four-year MYPoW. The ownership and commitment of CFS stakeholders in policy implementation will be enhanced and the inclusion of new activities will be judged on the basis of the size of the workload and resource availability”

Paragraph 18: “Improvement in the prioritization process would allow sufficient time for involved stakeholders to consult their constituencies and facilitate active participation of CFS Members and participants. CFS will refrain from engaging in more than one policy convergence process at a time”

Paragraph 19: “Based on an inclusive process, the CFS Bureau , in consultation with the Advisory Group, will finalize the MYPoW for consideration and endorsement by the CFS Plenary”

Paragraph 20: “The principal criteria used in prioritizing CFS thematic activities will include:

- Unequivocal relevance of the thematic activity to FSN, especially for the most vulnerable and marginalized;
- Expressed demand from stakeholders for the thematic activity and the marketability of its product among potential users;
- Value of the thematic activity for multidisciplinary and cross-sector initiatives by CFS;
- Potential of partnership with other stakeholders;
- Technical capacity of CFS Secretariat in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the thematic activity;
- Availability of the required funding for the completion of the thematic activity”

Evidence/Science-based

Paragraph 21: We propose shortening the text to read “HLPE sponsored activities/reports should exhibit (i) alliance with the work of CFS (ii) pathway by which the policy recommendations are internalized by stakeholders (iii) mechanism for the filtration of the HLPE policy recommendations into the intended development processes, especially at the country level”

Paragraph 22: We suggest simplifying the paragraph to read “To maximize the value added from HLPE sponsored activities, the interaction between the HLPE Steering Committee and the Bureau and Advisory Group needs to be improved”.

Ownership

We propose to modify the first line of the text in italics to read “ *Ownership of FSN requires political momentum and commitment by high level representatives*”

Paragraph 23: The paragraph should be shortened to read “ In line with the Reform Document, the Plenary has a substantive role and obligation in creating the necessary political momentum and commitment for the work of CFS and in the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security”.

Paragraph 24: The paragraph is too lengthy and duplicative with paragraph 25. We suggest combining the two paragraphs which would read.

“The Plenary should be vibrant with a stimulating agenda that can attract Ministers and other high level representatives with authority to introduce positive changes. The agenda of the Plenary should provide for roundtables on innovative subjects, debating sessions on emerging issues, Ministerial Declarations on specific subjects of global priority and other multi-stakeholder fora for generating new ideas”

Paragraph 26: We do not see the necessity for the second and third sentence. The first sentence carries the core message of the paragraph.

Paragraph 29: Does Reform Document support the text of this paragraph? We do not think so. By the way, the Chair of CFS is part of the CFS Bureau and his function should conform with paragraphs 29-32 of the Reform Document, especially paragraph 31.

Uptake

On the whole, this section is a bit overblown and needs to have a reality check.

Paragraph 30: We suggest combining Paragraphs 30 and 31 into one short paragraph which will read “The prime responsibility for raising awareness about CFS and promoting the use of its policies, products and recommendations at all levels rests with CFS members working in partnership with the RBAs, other relevant UN agencies, CSM, PSM, philanthropic and financial institutions and other concerned actors at regional and national levels. HLPE reports used by the Committee for policy convergence should also be disseminated to relevant institutions at country and regional level ”

Paragraph 35: Does this paragraph fit with the role of CFS Chair as stated in the Reform Document? We do not think so. We propose the following text as a substitute which will read “The CFS Chair is expected to advocate the contributions of CFS to FSN, promote the use of CFS policies and products by engaging with partners for support at the country and regional levels and in fund raising for CFS workstream”

Paragraph 36: Too many things are packed in this paragraph. It could be simplified to read “CFS will promote accountability of FSN at all levels as well as the sharing of best practices. A variety of instruments would be used for this purpose such as situation and trend analysis of FSN, assessing the effectiveness and impact of CFS policy guidelines, recommendations and HLPE reports. The Global Thematic Event in the Plenary every two years will continue. Member countries will also be encouraged to conduct inclusive national multistakeholder dialogues for the purpose of accountability and sharing best practices”

Funding

As the funding of CFS activities has been a matter of concern to Members, it is important that this section of the Implementation Report be made punchy and pungent and in expressing urgency. We feel that the current three paragraphs fall short of what is required.

We can accept the one line in italics. But we wish to submit revised drafts for paragraphs 37 to 39.

Paragraph 37: “The process for adequate and predictable funding will become an integral part of the comprehensive planning phase leading to the prioritization of activities to be included in the CFS four-year MYPoW. Every item of the MYPoW’s workstreams will show its budget estimate with a written notification of commitment by partner/partners willing to provide the required resources, in cash and in kind, within the given time period. For the sake of transparency and accountability, the budget estimate will provide details. No workstream will be entertained in the MYPoW unless the availability of the required funds is firmly confirmed. The Bureau will take responsibility to ensure that this process is strictly observed and that fund raising is in accord with FAO guidelines to prevent potential conflict of interest”.

Paragraph 38: “A robust resource mobilization strategy covering diversified sources (public, semi-public and private contribution) is essential in meeting the cost of the CFS Plenary, workstreams, HLPE and CSM. Advice received from the RBAs will be of major help in formulating such a strategy for fund raising. Efforts will continue to expand the donor base for CFS, including reaching out to CFS Member States, private foundations, financial institutions and the private sector”.

Paragraph 39: As providers of core funding, the RBAs will be requested to formalize their annual contributions, both in cash and in kind, with a view to assuring predictability of adequate resources for the core functions of CSF. In this respect, Members of CFS will play a proactive role in the Governing Bodies of the RBAs with a view to raising their contribution to the core budget. A similar

process can be initiated in the Governing Bodies of other UN agencies for fund raising.

Suggestions on the text of Recommendation 1

Suggestion1: With respect to table 1 (pages 3 – 5), we note that for each of the six roles there is a statement indicating its connection with the other roles. We feel that all the six roles are inter-connected and therefore we recommend removing the text that refers to the connection of a given role to other selected roles. Instead, we recommend adding a sentence in paragraph 7 (page 3) which could read “It should be emphasized that there is a strong synergy between the six roles and actions are required to take advantage of them at all levels of implementation ”.

Suggestion II: We suggest removing the two “notes” in the last column on page 4. But adding a sentence in paragraph 7 to read “ CFS has neither the mandate nor the capacity to (i) render advice and support for actions at national and regional level (ii) play a coordinating role at national and regional levels”.

Suggestions on the text of Recommendation2

Suggestion 1: We are not comfortable with the “criteria for prioritizing thematic activities to be included in MYPoW”. We find the 4 criteria to be rather too general for selecting an activity to be included in MYPoW. The criteria have to be made more specific like the six criteria suggested on page 4 of this note under paragraph 20.

Suggestions on the text of Recommendation10

We do not grasp the essence of the Table 1 (page 3) for monitoring purposes. First, CFS has no resources to monitor everything that it attempts to do. Given the constraints of data and resources, CFS will be

well-advised to monitor outcomes and impact when it is considered as essential. Therefore, it is better to concentrate monitoring on global outcomes and impacts and use evaluation when necessary. At the same time, CSF should try to capture the results of reviews of FSN at country and regional level by other stakeholders, including civil societies and the private sector. In short, reporting on CFS monitoring should have two components, CFS initiated monitoring and monitoring by other stakeholders of value to CFS.

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