



CFS Evaluation
Doc No: Evaluation/2018/03/20/02
20 March 2018

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESPONSE TO THE CFS EVALUATION RECOMMENDATION 5 (Making Plenary more vibrant)

CFS ENDORSED RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION 5

Plenary needs to be vibrant and the agenda needs to attract Ministers who have the ability to bring about changes at national level and high-level representatives. Instead of having long plenary statements, Plenary should have an attractive agenda reflecting an interesting MYPoW with high-level, innovative roundtables or forums that comprise stakeholders from the mechanisms, think tanks and research mechanisms to encourage more interactive and substantive dialogues on food security and nutrition, ensuring a balance with the decision-making function of Plenary. This would reinforce CFS' function as a platform and CFS would be seen as a place for generating ideas.

Suggestions for making plenary vibrant and attractive included a possible joint declaration by Ministers or heads of delegations, high level roundtables and debate sessions to catalyze partnerships, a communication strategy to increase the visibility of CFS, which would include a media plan for plenary and the presentation of important reports and global developments related to FSN.

It should be noted that the Committee commended the practice of having negotiations in advance of the plenary week at CFS 43 [Final report of 2016, para. 15].

Actions to be taken	Implementing body	Timeframe	Further funding required (Y or N)
A5.1. Prepare a proposal for making the plenary more vibrant, attractive and substantive, taking into account ideas generated through the consultation process.	CFS Bureau, after consultation with the Advisory Group	By February 2018	Depending on the proposal, might require more funding

Proposal for Making CFS Plenary more vibrant, attractive and substantive

The annual Plenary Session has been increasingly well attended, although consistent high level participation at the Ministerial level has not been established. In previous years, at the suggestion of the Bureau and Advisory Group, high level personalities such as Mary Robinson, the former President of Ireland and John Kufuor, former President of Ghana have been invited to participate in the opening

session. However, while their presence was appreciated, these sessions tended to be dominated by delegate statements, some of which were lengthy and some not related to the topic being discussed. From this experience it is now recognized that dedicated space for delegate statements should be provided in the timetable and that such space should be separate from the engagement of high level personalities. The proposals below would not be part of the delegate statement sessions.

The exact needs of each Plenary are different depending on the number of decisions that need to be taken, their nature and the time available. It must be recognized that not all these sessions can be “lively” as there is Committee work to be done. The suggestions below would not have outcomes forwarded to the Drafting Committee and some may require additional funding.

1 Dynamic “Davos style” Ministerial/High Level Round Tables

In this context “Davos Style” means a facilitated focused discussion on topics or themes of interest to the audience. According to the topic on the agenda, Ministers and other high level stakeholders from different regions could be invited to interact. In order to use the time effectively, participation from the floor could be restricted to those who have been identified in advance as having a recognized contribution to make. This would avoid the risk of non-related statements. Funding may be required to support Ministerial or high level participation.

2 Interactive Critical and Emerging Issues

In 2017 at CFS 44 the HLPE presented their Critical and Emerging Issues note to Plenary for the first time. For years when there is no new HLPE note this session could be expanded to represent the CFS multi-stakeholder model with representatives from countries and the CFS constituencies participating in the discussion. Time permitting, delegates could also be given space to talk about the critical and emerging issues in their country or region. Funding may be required to support participation.

3 “TED style” talks

TED talks are usually in the form of short, powerful talks (18 minutes or less) by thought leaders and innovators. According to the topics on the agenda, thought leaders on those topics could be invited to address the Committee. Funding may be required to support participation.

4 Side Event “Elevator Pitches”

Space could be allocated in the timetable for the organizers of Side Events to pitch the outcomes of their Side Events to Plenary. This could be scheduled on the last day of the session when the Side Events have been completed with each Side Event being allocated a maximum five minute slot. No extra funding would be required.

5 Parallel discussions on the same theme

A method used by some multistakeholder partnerships is to organize smaller parallel sessions on the same theme. The various constituencies are divided across the sessions which helps to give space for more interactive and focused discussions in smaller groups, resulting in less positioning and more convergence. No extra funding would be required.