

CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meeting
Date: 23 November 2018
Oval Room, IFAD

Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting Outcomes - With Bureau's Decisions

Agenda

1. Feedback on CFS 45
2. CFS Draft Workplans
 - a. Food Systems and Nutrition
 - b. MYPoW
 - c. SDGs
 - d. Promoting accountability and sharing best practices
 - e. Urbanization and Rural Transformation
3. Sustainable Forestry and Food Security and Nutrition – Follow-up
4. Multi-stakeholder Partnerships for FSN – Follow-up
5. CFS Advisory Group Reporting Exercise – 2018
6. CFS Calendar and Bureau and Advisory Group meetings content plan
7. Any other business

Mr Ashwani Muthoo, Director of the Global Engagement and Multilateral Relations Division of IFAD, welcomed the CFS members and participants and delivered remarks on behalf of IFAD's President. In his message, he noted the importance for CFS to meet at IFAD to sensitize the organization about the important work of the Committee and he informed of the intention to engage regularly with the Executive Board of IFAD on CFS matters. Finally he noted the importance for CFS to support the implementation of the Action Plan of the UN Decade of Family Farming and promote south-south and triangular cooperation for fostering the implementation of CFS policy guidelines.

The CFS Chair informed that under AOB, he would give an update on the ongoing discussions on the appointment of the Advisory Group, following the Bureau meeting of 8 November. In this respect, he also suggested an extension of the Advisory Group until 28 January 2019.

The CFS Chair also noted that the number of Bur/AG meetings has gone up due to increasing responsibilities of Bur/AG in the context of MYPoW preparation.

CSM made a proposal, under AOB, to discuss a possible call for action by the Committee to address the food insecurity crisis affecting Yemen.

1. Feedback on CFS 45

Overall feedback on CFS 45 was positive and participants of the meeting expressed their congratulations for the session's organization. Some of the comments raised by one or more of the participants highlighted or suggested:

Plenary

- World Food Day should be celebrated in the morning only (half day) and celebrations should better link with the CFS agenda for that session;

- the need to develop an agenda for Plenary that is feasible and that allows sufficient time for delegates' statements/interventions;
- the noteworthy keynote by the rural woman from Gujarat in the opening session and supported the idea of inviting a rural woman every time that the Rural Women's Day falls within CFS week;
- the Global Thematic Event on Right to Food was found vibrant and rich in content, with excellent keynote speakers;
- that the Final Report should better capture the substance of Plenary's discussions and specifically regretted that the discussion held in the context of the Global Thematic Event was not reflected in the Final Report;
- the lengthiness of the two panel discussions on SOFI and SOFA, which should not be repetitive of the launches, and that a SOFA panel should not be held during future CFS sessions;
- that the two lessons' sharing events on nutrition and sustainable development, held on Friday morning, which were found to be among the most interactive sessions, should be given more political weight;

Side events

- that the side-events worked out well and once again attracted many participants;
- that criteria for side-event be made even more explicit to applicants and selection decisions be made more transparent according to these criteria;
- that further information on side-events' attendance be shared;
- consider keeping an evening session free from side-events to allow for an evening session if need be;
- that all side-events be webcast to allow for remote participation.

Other

- issues regarding the timely registration of delegates, especially for securing the issuance of visas for participants and observers;
- that, while an improvement, the use of the traffic light system was not fully successful for keeping speakers within their allotted time slots.

2. CFS Draft Workplans

The Draft workplans were discussed and it was noted that they should be finalized by the end of July to allow sufficient time for Plenary's preparation and the translation of all documents.

a) Food Systems and Nutrition

A space should be allocated at CFS 46 to discuss this matter and update the Plenary, considering the workstream's relevance and the wider audience at Plenary. It was also suggested that the Bureau and Advisory Group should be updated on the preparation of the regional consultations and their modalities. Finally, it was requested to extend the duration of the e-consultation.

b) MYPoW 2020-2023

It was requested to postpone the deadline for the submission of the preliminary proposals, bearing in mind that enough time should be ensured for the Secretariat to collect all the proposals and prepare the background documentation for the first open meeting scheduled on 25 January 2019.

It was highlighted that it is key that the preliminary proposals present clear indications on the objectives and expected outcomes of the proposed thematic workstreams.

c) SDGs

It was suggested to expand the scope of the workstream to look beyond not only preparing the CFS contribution to the HLPF but also to focus on ways to meaningfully link SDGs/Agenda 2030 with other CFS workstreams. To this end, it was suggested to use the outcomes of the CFS Evaluation, as well as document **“CFS Engagement in Advancing the 2030 Agenda”** (CFS 2016/43/6), as a background for a stocktaking exercise on CFS contributions to advance the 2030 Agenda.

Suggestions were also made for CFS to strive for a stronger engagement in New York and other UN headquarters to ensure that its annual contribution and key messages are promoted in the context of the HLPF. The active involvement of the Chair, Member States and the wide CFS membership was encouraged. The Chair reiterated his commitment with the President of ECOSOC to revive the group of Friends of Food Security in New York.

The Bureau was reminded of the need to identify a facilitator for this workstream.

d) Promoting accountability and sharing best practices

Participants of the joint meeting were informed that a consultation was about to be launched for the preparation of the Action Plan for the UN Decade of Family farming. The importance of the 2019 event for monitoring the implementation and the potential of the use of other CFS policy recommendations to contribute to this Action Plan was stressed. It was also asked to extend the deadline for stakeholders’ submissions for both 2019 and 2020 events.

e) Urbanization and Rural Transformation

It was highlighted that the workplan for Urbanization and Rural Transformation only foresees the organization of two intersessional events. The first event was held on 19 November and the second event will be held on 29 January 2019.

3. Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition – Follow-up

Bureau and Advisory Group members were reminded of previous decisions and invited to discuss the feasibility and the nature of a possible meeting to address issues that were not sufficiently discussed during the CFS policy convergence process on sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition. General support was expressed on the possibility to organize such an event without additional costs (i.e.; translation and interpretation). However, no specific indications were provided on the nature and scope of the event while there were divergent opinions on its expected outcomes.

The CFS Chair reminded the participants that additional human and at least some financial resources will have to be provided in case it is decided to hold this event.

The possibility to reach out to other potentially interested bodies and organizations (such as COFO and UNSCN) to get their support for the organization of the event was mentioned.

The feasibility to organize additional intersessional events which are not foreseen in the current CFS MYPoW was questioned.

The option of dedicating a space for this event at CFS 46 met with doubts because of the already very busy agenda and the cost implications.

Bureau's decision:

There was general preference on the possibility to organize a meeting, which does not foresee the use of additional resources or require follow-up. While many Bureau Members suggested that a written outcome will be produced, no consensus was reached.

The CFS Chair will request Bureau and Advisory Group members to send their inputs on the scope and expected outcomes of the event and will also reach out to other potential partners that could contribute or take a co-lead in the organization of the event.

Thereafter, the CFS Chair will prepare a proposal concerning the nature, scope, objectives and expected outcomes of the event, including details on the preparatory process, for discussion at the next Bureau and Advisory Group meeting.

4. Multistakeholder Partnerships for FSN – Follow-up

Participants of the joint meeting were informed that resources for the translation of the HLPE report on MSP have been secured and translation in the six languages will be ready by mid-January. Germany announced its availability for facilitating the follow-up process. Mr Oliver Mellenthin (Germany) presented a proposed process, underlining that it was designed to minimize the workload and that it would not result in policy recommendations. Instead, bilateral conversations will lead to the identification of suitable options (options paper) for MSP follow up. These options would then be discussed in a one-off open meeting and an event to be held during the intersessional period or within the next plenary. The facilitation would have to be handed over by mid-June, if not completed, as Mr Mellenthin expects to leave Rome around then. Mr Mellenthin invited written comments on his proposal by the end of week. The proposal was generally welcomed.

Bureau's decision:

Bureau agreed to nominate Mr Oliver Mellenthin (Germany) as facilitator of the process and endorsed the process in principle, being aware that it could be adjusted/refined based on the comments received. The Bureau and Advisory Group will be kept updated on the progress of the follow up process in future joint meetings.

5. CFS Advisory Group Reporting Exercise – 2018

The document with the questions for the Advisory Group reporting exercise was well-received. A number of additional questions were suggested for consideration by the Bureau. The majority of participants did not see the need for an additional open meeting for Advisory Group members to present their activities in support of the work of CFS and the dissemination of its policy outcomes.

Bureau's decision:

The Bureau decided to include two additional questions concerning how CFS instruments have influenced the policies and policy dialogues of Advisory Group members and the structural problems that they face in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

A revised version of the template will be circulated among CFS Bureau and Advisory Group members who will have two weeks to suggest additional questions. The deadline for the submission of the reports will also be postponed.

The Bureau decided that there will not be a dedicated open meeting to the presentation of the reports which will continue to be discussed during a Bureau and Advisory Group meeting.

6. CFS Calendar and Bureau and Advisory Group meetings content plan

The CFS Secretariat took note of the requests made to change some of the dates of meetings. Participants were reminded that, given the extremely heavy workload found in the RBA calendars, there is not much flexibility for changing any dates. Participants were reassured that the Secretariat will again explore all possibilities and try to accommodate these requests.

7. Any other business

CSM expressed concern for the worrisome food insecurity situation in Yemen and made a call for action by CFS. Participants discussed the possibility of writing a letter of appeal to all stakeholders, in consultation with the RBAs and bearing in mind the mandate of the Committee. The Chair pointed out that the Framework for Action in Protracted Crises provides a way forward for such an appeal.

The Chair gave an update on the ongoing discussions on the appointment of the Advisory Group, which require careful legal review, and suggested an extension of the Advisory Group until 28 January 2019.

Bureau's decision:

Bureau agreed to consider a letter drafted by the Chair, in collaboration with the CFS Secretariat, to call attention to relevant CFS products that could be helpful to the food insecurity situation in Yemen. A draft letter will be prepared and circulated for comments.

Bureau agreed to extend the Advisory Group until 28 January 2019.

Annex 1: List of attendees of the joint Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting

CFS Bureau Members:

Mr Mario Arvelo (CFS Chair / Dominican Republic); Mr Luis Fernando Ceciliano (Costa Rica); Mr Mitiku Tesso Jebessa (Ethiopia); Ms Valentina Savastano (Italy); Ms Liliane Ortega (Switzerland); Ms Sandrine Goffard, Ms Silvia Giovanazzi (USA). Ms Anna-Marie Moulton (South Africa) presented her excuses.

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Mr Felipe Carlos Antunes (Brazil); Mr Oliver Mellenthin (Germany).

Advisory Group:

Mr Panagiotis Karfakis (FAO); Mr Torben Nilsson, Mr Ashwani Muthoo (IFAD); Mr Neal Pronesti (WFP); Ms Serena Pepino (Special Rapporteur Right to Food); Ms Stineke Oenema (UNSCN); Ms Marzella Wüstefed (WHO); Mr Martin Wolpold-Bosien, Ms Azra Sayeed, Ms Mariam Aljaajaa, Ms Teresa Maisano, Mr Luca Bianchi, Mr Saul Vicente Vazquez, Ms Cecilia Magarotto (CSM); Mr Brian Baldwin (PSM); Mr Fabrizio Moscatelli (BMGF); Ms Luisa Volpe, Ms Giulia de Castro (WFO).

Observers:

Mr Paul Besana, Ms María Cristina Laureano (Dominican Republic); Ms Gemma Cornuau (France).

CFS Secretariat:

Mr Mark McGuire (Secretary a.i.), Ms Françoise Trine, Ms Aya Shneerson, Ms Cherin Hoon, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Chiara Cirulli.

Annex 2: List of attendees of Bureau Meeting

CFS Bureau Members:

Mr Mario Arvelo (CFS Chair / Dominican Republic); Mr Luis Fernando Ceciliano (Costa Rica); Mr Mitiku Tesso Jebessa (Ethiopia); Mr Gustat Daud Sirait (Indonesia); Ms Valentina Savastano (Italy); Ms Liliane Ortega (Switzerland); Ms Sandrine Goffard, Ms Silvia Giovanazzi (USA). Ms Anna-Marie Moulton (South Africa) presented her excuses.

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Mr Felipe Carlos Antunes (Brazil); Mr Oliver Mellenthin (Germany).

Observers:

Ms Julia Vicioso, Mr Paul Besana (Dominican Republic); Ms Gemma Cornuau (France).

CFS Secretariat:

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