Joint proposal by Iceland and Egypt

Recommendation 4

Rationale:

According to the CFS Reform Document: “The function of the Advisory Group is to provide input to the Bureau regarding the range of tasks which the CFS Plenary has instructed it to perform. Decision making will be in the hands of the member States. It is expected that members of the Advisory Group should be able to contribute substantive work and provide advice to the CFS Bureau.”

The AG has not been able to effectively perform this function because of many constraints. The AG became a platform where stakeholders exchange views on practicalities instead of providing the needed substantial technical advice on Food Security and Nutrition matters.

Objective:

The AG should be a central place where relevant stakeholders share information, seek collaboration, identify problems in the real world and strategize about how the Committee can be helpful in problem-solving. The AG role is to assist the Bureau by sharing with it the expertise and knowledge of the broad range of organizations it represents and its outreach to constituencies.

The Proposal:

1. Establish an extended AG that meets for three regular sessions per year with Agenda set by the bureau with substantive questions on food Security and nutrition matters. The AG could meet additionally if requested by the bureau, and may suggest to add relevant items to its own Agenda meetings.
2. The Bureau will decide on the composition of the AG, taking into account, need for input and show of interest from different constituencies of CFS Participants and other relevant stakeholders and shall ensure the representation of the five categories of constituencies.
3. The Bureau will admit two observers with the right to speak (PSM and CSM because of their representation nature). The Bureau could also decide on additional ad hoc observers depending on the topics on the Agenda.

Implications:
This will clearly need for a plenary decision.