Selection and Prioritization of CFS Activities for the Biennium 2016-2017

Discussion No. 101 from 22 April to 13 May 2014

CFS has started a process of selection and prioritization of activities for the biennium 2016-2017. Though this online discussion, the CFS Secretariat would like to invite all those interested to provide inputs to this process.

Background

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is the foremost, inclusive platform for food security and nutrition issues. Given the importance of its role there is wide range of potential activities that CFS could undertake. At its 40th Plenary Session in October 2013, the Committee put in place a structured and inclusive two-year process to decide on its upcoming program of work and to select and prioritize future activities.

The prioritization process of CFS activities is based on the following five criteria:

1. The consideration of the mandate of CFS and what the added value of the work item is;
2. The contribution of the activities to the overall objective of CFS (see annex 1);
3. There should be no duplication of past activities or current ones being carried out by other actors with comparable mandates;
4. The resources available should be taken into account;
5. There should be consensus among CFS stakeholders.

The process should result in the following outputs regarding CFS activities for the biennium 2016-2017:

a) Major workstreams that are characterized by a broad-based and relatively long consultation and negotiation process on strategic topics recognized of major importance for food security and nutrition and lead to the finalization and endorsement of CFS key products;

b) Other potential workstreams to be carried out by CFS, other than those that are already in place;

c) Themes for future HLPE reports.

This process aims to help the Plenary in October 2015 take an informed decision on which issues to address and by which kind of activity.
For ease of reference, an extract from the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work and Priorities (MYPoW) that was endorsed at CFS 40 in October 2014 and which includes the main activities to be carried out by the Committee in the biennium 2014-2015, can be found in Annex 2.

The Overall Process of Prioritization

After the multi-stakeholder dialogue in Bucharest on 31 March 2014 for the European region and given the impossibility to hold similar dialogues back to back with the other FAO Regional Conferences, the process will continue with an online consultation which will allow all CFS stakeholders to provide inputs to the process of selection of CFS activities for the biennium 2016-2017.

Following this online consultation, an Open-Ended Working Group meeting will be held on 30 June 2014 in Rome to discuss the outcomes, analyze the different activities proposed, merge and condense when possible and collect further inputs with a view to inform CFS 41.

After CFS 41 in October 2014, the focus will move to the analysis of the proposals that were received and to their prioritization.

Internal consultative processes within the different CFS constituencies will take place to discuss and express preferences among the activities that have been proposed.

Two Open-Ended Working Group meetings will take place in the first half of 2015 with a view to finding consensus on the list of activities; the first to analyze and streamline the proposals put forward by CFS Constituencies and the second to present and discuss a prioritized list. This list will be presented to CFS 42 in 2015 when the final decision on the proposed activities for 2016-2017 will be taken.

The Online Consultation

We would like to invite you to respond to the following questions:

1. What issues should be addressed by the Committee in the biennium 2016-2017?
2. Explain the issue and describe why you are proposing it;
3. What kind of activity do you propose to address this issue? Which kind of CFS workstream should be put in place to address it?
   a) A major workstream
   b) Another type of workstream
   c) An HLPE report

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