



## IPC Comments on Draft Proposal for CFS Reform CFS : 2009/2

### Introduction

The IPC (International Civil Society Network for Food Sovereignty) has participated actively in the process of CFS reform since the first meeting of the Contact Group. We would like to express our appreciation for the inclusive approach that has been adopted and for the skillful leadership of the Bureau and its President.

Some proposals that we have put forward have been taken into account in draft four of the proposal, which will go to the coming session of the CFS for debate and decision. However, several of the essential preconditions for an authoritative and effective CFS are still open for discussion or risk being revisited during the coming session. The purpose of this note is to highlight those points which are deemed essential by the members of the IPC, composed dominantly of regional and global networks representing millions of small-scale food producers in the South (see list of focal points world-wide at the end of this document).

We first briefly **reiterate the key principles** we have defended from the outset of the discussions and then present **alternative text** on specific sections and paras of the draft 4 proposal.

### Key principles

1. Any reference to the **Global Partnership** in the text is out of place and **not acceptable for the IPC**. The CFS cannot be subsumed in a "Global Partnership" whose contours are undefined and whose inspiration and governance are far less inclusive and democratic than those of the CFS. The GP, if it sees the light of day, should receive guidance from the CFS and could be represented in the CFS.
2. The document should state clearly the need to respect **autonomous participatory policy space at national and regional levels** and should foresee ways of establishing dynamic links between these policy spaces and the global level, following a logic of **subsidiarity**.
3. Although the option of postponing implementation of some functions of the new CFS to a **phase 2** could be considered, it is **not acceptable** that these functions be **left open** to future consideration. In particular, adopting a **Global Strategic Framework** for food security and promoting **accountability** are **fundamental engagements** by Governments expressing a clear and strong determination to fight hunger and avoid repeating the mistakes of the past.
4. The timing of the various steps in implementing the new CFS should be clearly defined and should **not be open to revision** in function of the results of external meetings like the G20 or the WTO ministerial.
5. Given the **special role of small food producers and poor urban consumers** - recognized by all – their voices must not be **annulled and drowned out** by a long list of participants admitted to the CFS on equal

footing. Otherwise there would be no meaningful opening up to people's organizations and **they will not be interested in participating and contributing.**

6. The establishment of an **Advisory Committee is not an optional.** It is absolutely necessary to create an **effective inter-sessional mechanism** of dialogue and negotiation between civil society actors and the Bureau.

## **Proposed new text**

### **I. CONTEXT**

#### **Para. 2:**

**-Delete "vital" and retain "as the cornerstone" in first sentence**

Rationale: The renewed CFS should be not just one of many or several forums but the very basis for global coordination.

**-Delete mention of G8 and G20 in the last sentence**

Rationale: It is not appropriate to cite only the G8 and G20 and not other relevant non-UN forums.

#### **Box**

**- Delete "private sector" in last line under "Reform Process"**

Rational: The private sector has been conspicuous for its absence from the reform process, although private sector associations were invited to participate. In any event, we object strenuously to the suggestion that the private sector can be associated with NGOs/CSOs.

### **II. VISION AND ROLE**

#### **Para 4:**

**-Delete the text in brackets in the first sentence that reduces the CFS to "an element of the Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security".**

Rationale: An initiative taken by a few countries cannot be more relevant and legitimate than the revitalization process developed in the context of a broad multilateral body in which all FAO/UN members are represented and in which all states have equal voting rights. In its new format the CFS will incorporate other relevant stakeholders as participants, such as civil society, social movements and other UN agencies, increasing its legitimacy and inclusiveness. The Global Partnership is an initiative of a small set of countries with specific interests which do not necessarily represent those of the global community.

**-Delete "platform" and prefer "body" in the first sentence.**

Rationale: The CFS should be recognized as an intergovernmental **body** with the clear mandate to strive for the eradication of hunger and ensuring **food and nutritional security** for all human beings, within the Right to food based approach. The term "platform " is not appropriate to this mandate..

**-Add the following text at the end of the para.:**

***In a logic of subsidiarity, the CFS will enable more focused and coordinated international policy-making and the definition of collective goals. It will take the necessary global decisions to facilitate national***

***implementation of the guidelines and will give strategic guidance not only to individual states but also to other multilateral institutions engaged in processes relevant to food security.***

Rationale: It is appropriate to include reference to the CFS' collective goal and to the principle of subsidiarity in the paragraph describing the vision of the CFS.

**Para 5:**

**-Add the following text to para. 5, iii:**

***The renewed CFS will not replace democratic and participative processes at local, national and regional levels where priority setting for food security strategies should emerge.***

Rationale: This sentence will reinforce the CFS's recognition of the principle of subsidiarity and the prime importance of autonomous national and regional policy space.

**Para 6:**

**-Substitute "progressively" for "gradually" and "will" for "would/could" in the chapeau sentence.**

Rationale: There should be no doubt that the CFS will take on these additional roles even if their implementation needs to be better defined.

**IV. COMPOSITION, MODALITIES OF PARTICIPATION AND CONSULTATION/COORDINATION MECHANISMS**

**Para 10:**

**-Change last phrase to read "including adopting [rather than "drafting"] the final report of CFS Plenary sessions."**

Rationale: While it is clear that Members only will adopt the final report of CFS Plenary sessions, there is no reason why other participants should not take part in drafting the report, which is not in itself a decision taking action.

**Para 11:**

**-Delete sub-paras. iv and v and move them to para. 13**

Rationale: Effective food security policies cannot be formulated and implemented without the full and convinced participation of the majority of the food producers – who are essentially smallholder family farmers - and of the most affected sectors of the population: rural people and poor urban consumers. Organisations representing these constituencies need to have a clear and differentiated status in the composition of the CFS. They cannot be confused with other actors and obliged to "compete" for the right to speak with others that formally have been accorded the same status, particular the private sector and IFIs.

**Para 13:**

**-Integrate sub-paras iv and v from para. 11 (see above) and add another indent for "representatives of the Global Partnership on Agriculture and Food Security"**

**III. MECHANISMS AND PROCEDURES**

**Para 23:**

**-Add, at the end of the para., the following phrase:**

***The Bureau, with the support of the Advisory Group, will define the possible linkages more clearly and present a proposal to the 2010 session of CFS.***

Rationale: It is clear that more work needs to be done on this important aspect of the CFS and a methodology and time table for doing so should be indicated.

**Para. 25:**

**-Add the following sentence at the end of the paragraph:**

***The principles of the autonomy and self-organization of civil society organizations recognized at the global level (para. 16 above) will apply to the regional and national levels.***

Rationale: These principles are preconditions for effective participation by civil society actors at all levels.

**Para. 32:**

**-Delete the first sentence and replace with the following text:**

***The Bureau, immediately following its election, will establish an Advisory Group composed of representatives of the non-Member Participants listed in para. 11 i-ii-iii.***

Rationale: The IFIs, WTO and private sector (para. 11 iv and v) should not participate in the Advisory Group since it is not appropriate for entities whose missions and objectives do not coincide with those of the CFS to work alongside of the Bureau in intersessional tasks.

**-Add, after sentence 3, the following text:**

***Representation of different categories of Participants in the Advisory Group will respect the same proportions as those determined for the Plenary sessions.***

Rationale: It is essential for CSOs/NGOs to have the same visible and effective participation in the Advisory Group as in the Plenary (para. 15)

## **V. EXPERT INPUT TOWARDS REVITALIZED CFS**

**Para 36:**

**-In next-to-last sentence, add “and its Advisory Group” after the Bureau”.**

Rationale: Recognize the Advisory Group as an important and inherent organ of the CFS which has a useful role to play in this context.

**Para 37:**

**-Reword the chapeau as follows: “As directed by the CFS Plenary and the Bureau, with the support of its Advisory Group, the HLPE will:**

Rationale: The input of the Advisory Group, in particular the representatives of social actors affected by food insecurity, will be essential for framing research and identifying emerging issues.

**Para 43, i:**

**-Reword the first sentence of the sub-para. as follows:**

***“The members of the Steering Committee should reflect a wide range of backgrounds, affiliations, focuses, and expertise in a variety of fields related to food security, nutrition and the right to food, maintaining a balance among different regions, constituencies and types of experience”.***

Rationale:

The HLPE's work has to be based on contributions arising from a combination of both scientific and collective experiences, thus providing new scientific and/or knowledge-based analyses. Its composition has to be balanced in terms of representation of constituencies (both formal research and social actors, covering a wide range of disciplines) and regions. Social constituencies are information and analysis holders and their expertise is crucial in gathering field evidences and offering complementary research capacity to that deriving from a formal research environment.

**Para 44:**

**-Add “suggested by the CSO/NGO coordinating mechanism” following “a CSO/NGO repr”.**

Rationale: This will respect the principles of autonomy and self-organization stated in para. 15.

## **VI. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS**

**Para. 50:**

**-Add at the end of the last sentence “and should be estimated in the preliminary budget and modalities of funding with the assistance of the CSO/NGO coordination mechanism”**

Rationale: Participation by CSO/NGO representatives, particularly those from the South, is fundamental to the working of the new CFS. If the costs of this participation are not included in the financial strategy of the CFS this participation will be reduced to empty rhetoric.

**Para. 51:**

**-Task 7: Change deadline for establishment of Advisory Group to November 2009.**

Rationale: This deadline is feasible since the different categories of Participants will nominate their own representatives. It is important that the Advisory Group support the work of the Bureau from the beginning.

**-Task 12: Delete “some parts of”.**

Rationale: The objective should be to cover the entire work programme of Phase II.

**IPC FOCAL POINTS:**

**Regional Focal Points:**

Sub-Saharan Africa:

KENFAP (Kenya Federation of Agricultural Producers, East Africa) / EAFF

PROPAC (Plateforme Sous-Régionale des Organisations Paysannes d’Afrique Centrale)

ROPFA (Réseau des organisations paysannes et de producteurs agricoles de l’Afrique de l’Ouest, West Africa - francophone)

USMEFAN (Union of Small & Medium scale Farmers of Nigeria, West Africa - anglophone)

East Asia / South East Asia / Pacific:

ANGOC (Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Philippines)

CACPK (Citizens’ Alliance for Consumer Protection of Korea)

Cordillera Peoples’ Alliance (Philippines)

FSF (Federation of Southern Fisherfolk, Thailand)

KMP (Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas)

Tenaganita Sdn. (Malaysia)

PAN-Asia (Pesticide Action Network, Malaysia)

South Asia

IMSE (Institute for Motivating Self Employment, India)

ANPA (All Nepal Peasants Association)

BAFLF (Bangladesh Agriculture Farm Labour Federation)

NAFSO (National Federation of Fishworkers, Sri Lanka)

West and Central Asia and North Africa (WESCAN):

ADD (Association pour le Développement Durable, Tunisia)

APN (Al-Arabyyah for the Protection of Nature, Jordan)

CENESTA (Centre for Sustainable Development and Environment, Iran)

Green Line (Lebanon)

KSBA (Kyrgyz Sheep Breeder’s Association, Kyrgyz Republic)

Latin America / Caribbean:

ANAMURI (Asociación Nacional de Mujeres Rurales e Indígenas, Chile)

CONTAG (Confederação Nacional dos Trabalhadores na Agricultura, Brasil)

FENAPESCA (Federación Nacional de Organizaciones de Pescadores Artesanales, Panamá)

MAELA (Movimiento Agroecológico de América Latina y Caribe, México)

MIJARC (Movimiento Internacional de la Juventud Agrícola y Rural, Brasil)  
MJK (Movimiento de la Juventud Kuna, Panamá)  
MNCI (Movimiento Nacional Campesino e Indígena, Argentina)

Europe (EU and East and Central European Countries):

CSA, (Collectif Stratégies Alimentaires, Belgique)  
European Coordination of the national platforms for Food Sovereignty

North America:

Conseil canadien de pêcheurs professionnels (Canada)  
Toronto Food Policy Council (Canada)

**Constituencies Focal Points:**

Farmers:

IFAP (International Federation of Agricultural Producers)  
Via Campesina

Fisherfolk:

WFF (World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers)  
WFFP (World Forum of Fisher Peoples)  
ICSF (International Collective in Support of Fish Workers)

Indigenous Peoples:

IITC (International Indian Treaty Council)

Youth Organizations:

MIJARC (International Movement of Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth)

**Thematic Focal Points:**

Right to Food :

FIAN International (FoodFirst Information and Action Network)

Access to/ management of Genetic Resources:

ETC Group (Erosion, Technology and Concentration Group)  
GRAIN (Genetic Resources Action International)  
Practical Action

Trade and Food sovereignty:

IATP (USA)

**International Focal Point:**

Centro Internazionale Crocevia (Italy)