



COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

Forty-second Session

"Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition"

Rome, Italy, 12-15 October 2015

UPDATE CONCERNING THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN CFS PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS

1. At its 41st Session in October 2014, the Committee considered the question of the participation of Civil Society (CSOs), Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Private Sector associations in CFS proceedings¹, a matter which was subject to previous reviews by the Bureau, upon mandate of the 40th Session of the Committee. The outcomes of this review process were considered by the 41st Session of the Committee, which “mandated the Bureau to further review the matter with a view to ensure an effective involvement of CSOs/NGOs and the private sector representatives in CFS proceedings and work”².
2. Following discussion with the Advisory Group, given that no consensus was reached at its meeting on 28 November 2014, the Bureau decided to postpone the discussion of the matter concerning CFS Participants and Observers until further notice.
3. The reasons behind the decision to further postpone this decision relate to the need to acquire additional information in order to take an informed decision on the criteria to be set to distinguish those organizations that are entitled to participate as Participants from those eligible only as Observers.
4. In addition, it was noted that the discussion on CFS Participants and Observers should be part of a broader reflection concerning participation in CFS proceedings. This could include how the current rules and practices ensure the effective involvement of the wide range of interested stakeholders in the field of food security and nutrition that could substantially contribute to the work of the Committee.

¹ CFS 41 FINAL REPORT, paragraph 47; and document CFS 2014/41/12.

² CFS 41 FINAL REPORT, paragraph 47(b).

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5. There may be scope to consider such a broader reflection in the coming biennium, building on findings emerging from the CFS Effectiveness Survey and the CFS evaluation requested in the 2014-15 MYPOW, which is expected to be undertaken in 2016.