



COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

Thirty-sixth Session

Rome, 11-14 and 16 October 2010

PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION CIVIL SOCIETY MECHANISM FOR RELATIONS WITH CFS (COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY) – STATUS REPORT

1. The reformed CFS invited Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to “autonomously establish a global mechanism for food security and nutrition which will function as a facilitating body for CSOs / NGOs (Non Governmental Organizations) consultation and participation in the CFS” (CFS2009/2Rev.2, para 16). This document is a status report on the proposal for a Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) for relations with CFS. The draft proposal will be finalised by mid-September and will be available in time for the 36th session of CFS in October 2010.
2. The civil society forum that was held parallel to the World Food Summit in November 2009 (People's Food Sovereignty Forum) gave the CSO participants in the CFS Contact Group the mandate to continue civil society interface with the CFS Bureau until the CSM is operational. This mandate included the preparation of a proposal for an autonomous CSM. Three of the CSO members of the Contact Group, IPC (the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty including Via Campesina), Oxfam and Action Aid International, took the initiative to establish a drafting committee to facilitate development of the CSM.
3. The drafting committee prepared a “Zero Draft” of the CSM and in March 2010 distributed it widely by email and websites in English, French and Spanish. In addition, it was discussed at a number of meetings such as the IFAD Farmers' Forum (February 2010); the annual IPC meeting as well as an open meeting for interested organizations directly after the IPC meeting (March 2010); a consultation to update the CFA of the HLTF (May 2010); and civil society consultations held parallel to FAO Regional Conferences.
4. A number of comments were received by email, as well as inputs from the meetings mentioned above. These reactions were discussed by the drafting committee and incorporated into

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“Draft 1” of the CSM when there was a consensus among the drafting committee members. A table recording all the suggestions received was prepared and was diffused broadly in early August along with Draft 1 (in English, French and Spanish). The deadline for receiving comments on Draft 1 is 31 August 2010. The drafting committee will prepare Draft 2 using inputs from this second round of comments. It will stipulate that the CSM will be evaluated and revised after one year.

5. Draft 2, the final document, will be ready by mid-September and will be translated into the FAO official languages and made available to delegates at the 36th Session of the CFS. The final CSM document will be distributed widely from mid-September with a request for endorsement by CSOs. It will also be presented for endorsement by the CSOs who are present at the CSO Forum preceding the 36th Session.

6. The Coordination Committee of the CSM will be established at the CSO Forum. Given the broad range of stakeholders involved and the innovative nature of this endeavour, the CSM will clearly require time and experimentation to work through a range of issues. Nevertheless, it is essential to have the CSM functioning during the annual meeting of the CFS in October 2010 in order to ensure that civil society participates effectively in decision-making at the October plenary session and in the heavy and significant workload that the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group will be tackling from mid October onwards. During the “experimental” period of the first year participants will come to understand better the functioning of the CSM and, following an evaluation after one year, there will be the possibility of revising the CSM and selecting a new Coordination Committee (for a 2 year period in line with the procedures of CFS itself). Nevertheless, during the first year every effort will be made to ensure that processes to select members of the Coordination Committee, members of the CFS Advisory Group, participants in the CFS Plenary Sessions and to generally facilitate the participation of the broadest range of civil society actors in the work of CFS, are as inclusive and as transparent as possible.

7. The Draft 1 proposal of the CSM addresses the following issues:

- Role and functions
- Organising principles
- Participants in CFS processes
- Governance and structures
- Allocating civil society seats in CFS Plenary Sessions
- Communication
- Resource requirements
- Accountability and Evaluation.

Action Aid

The International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC)

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