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Food and
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para la
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FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

Thirty-first Session

Rome, 14 – 18 May 2012

**Committee on World Food Security: CFS in the 2012 FAO Regional
Conferences - Guidelines**

This document contains the following guidelines:

- Guidance Note for CFS at the 2012 FAO Regional Conferences
- Guidance Note for the review of the First Draft of the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition at the 2012 FAO Regional Conferences
- Guidance note to facilitate GSF discussions
- Session Guidelines for Mapping Food and Nutrition Actions at Country Level - The Way Forward

These guidelines were prepared for all the 2012 FAO Regional Conferences. Actual details of CFS sessions at each Regional Conference may vary.

Guidance Note for CFS at the 2012 FAO Regional Conferences

The purpose of this note is to outline the key elements of CFS engagement with the FAO Regional Conferences (RCs) in 2012, which will support the process of improving two-way interaction between CFS and the regions.

1. Objectives

The main objectives of CFS engagement with FAO RCs this year are to:

- Accelerate efforts towards strengthening national and regional platforms to promote the governance of food security and nutrition. Such platforms should be based on the principles of inclusiveness, country ownership and flexibility in implementation and be appropriate for regions and countries;
- Provide an update on progress in the implementation of the CFS reform and share the results of the 36th and 37th CFS Plenary Sessions;
- Foster multi-stakeholder discussions regarding two key CFS processes: the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition and Mapping Food Security and Nutrition Actions at Country Level.

2. Activities

CFS engagement will consist of three principal activities¹:

1. **Multi-stakeholder session on the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF).**
The purpose of this session is to engage a wide range of regional stakeholders in consultation on the First Draft of the GSF to ensure that it includes appropriate regional perspectives. Comments made during the consultation will be taken into account in the preparation of a First Version of the GSF which will be presented to the CFS Plenary in October 2012. Participants invited to discuss the First Draft of the GSF will include member countries, international organizations, grassroots and civil society organizations and private-sector representatives, all of whom are encouraged to hold preparatory discussions in advance of the RC. The session will feature brief presentations on the GSF by the Secretariat and constituency representatives and an open floor discussion to which non-governmental participants are encouraged to contribute. This will not be a decision-making session but the comments will inform the drafting of the GSF and a summary of the discussions will be integrated into the CFS Chair's intervention during the Ministerial Meeting (see below).
2. **Mapping Food Security and Nutrition Actions at Country Level**
The aim of this multi-stakeholder session is to share experiences and views on existing systems and practices related to mapping food security and nutrition actions, with a view to improving their effectiveness at country level. In view of time constraints, the session is expected to take the form of a side event. It will feature a brief presentation by the CFS Secretariat on the key developments and deliberations on Mapping Food Security and Nutrition Actions at Country Level, including a demonstration of FAO tools for Mapping Actions for Food Security and Nutrition (MAFSAN). This will be followed by an open floor discussion to encourage exchange of experiences, best practices and lessons learned. A summary of the discussions will be integrated into the CFS Chair's intervention during the Ministerial Meeting and the outcomes of the session will be presented at the October 2012 session of the CFS Plenary.

¹ The timing of each event and its location on the agenda will be specific to each Regional Conference.

3. Statement of the CFS Chair to the Ministerial Meeting

The CFS Chair will address the Ministerial session and provide an overview of the main outcomes of the 36th and 37th Plenary Sessions, reporting on activities undertaken in 2010-2011. He will emphasise the need to strengthen linkages between CFS and the regions, and report on the multi-stakeholder sessions held earlier in the week on the GSF and Mapping Food Security and Nutrition Actions at Country Level.

3. Documents

The following CFS documents will be made available to Regional Conference participants:

1. *CFS in the 2012 FAO Regional Conferences - Guidelines*
 - *Guidance Note for CFS at the 2012 FAO Regional Conferences*
 - *Guidance Note for the review of the First Draft of the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition at the 2012 FAO Regional Conferences*
 - *Guidance note to facilitate GSF discussions*
 - *Session Guidelines for Mapping Food and Nutrition Actions at Country Level - The Way Forward*
2. *Update/Highlights of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) – including reports of the 36th and 37th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) — XXRC/12/XX*
3. *The Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition, First Draft — XXRC/12/XX*
4. *Mapping Food Security and Nutrition Actions at Country Level (CFS:2011/7)*

COMMITTEE on WORLD FOOD SECURITY 2012 Regional Conferences

Guidance Note for the review of the First Draft of the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition at the 2012 FAO Regional Conferences

1. Nature and purpose of the Global Strategic Framework

The Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF) will be a single, dynamic document to be submitted to the Plenary of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). The First Version of the GSF will be updated by the CFS Plenary as a result of regular CFS processes and policy debate.

The purpose of the GSF is to provide a dynamic instrument to improve coordination and guide synchronized action by a wide range of stakeholders in support of global, regional and country-led actions to prevent future food crises, eliminate hunger and ensure food security and nutrition for all human beings. This First Draft has been prepared by the CFS Secretariat and a Task Team made up of CFS Advisory Group members following a global online consultation on an annotated outline in 2011. Inputs were also provided by an Open-Ended Working Group established by the CFS Bureau.

The principal users of the GSF are expected to be decision-makers and policymakers in countries responsible for the development and implementation of policies and programmes for delivering food security and nutrition and the progressive realization of the right of adequate food. The GSF is also intended to be an important tool for policymakers and decision-makers in donor countries and development agencies responsible for development cooperation programmes. The GSF offers guidelines and recommendations for coherent action at the global, regional and country levels by the full range of stakeholders, while emphasizing the central role of country ownership of programmes to combat food insecurity and malnutrition.

Neither approval nor endorsement of the GSF by countries and other stakeholders will be legally binding; they will rather constitute an acknowledgement that the document provides a sound framework to improve convergence and synchronized action in food security and nutrition governance and a commitment to adopt its principles, options and policy base as suited to their needs.

The First Version of the GSF, to be considered by the Plenary Session of CFS in October 2012, is intended to:

- consolidate previous, already agreed decisions and recommendations of CFS
- reflect common denominators in some areas not yet contemplated within CFS by drawing on existing frameworks, such as the World Food Summit Declaration, the United Nations Updated Comprehensive Framework for Action (UCFA), and the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, among others
- highlight, for further development, areas and gaps in policy convergence which may be addressed in future versions of the GSF.

2. Outcomes of the GSF session

The expected outcomes of the multi-stakeholder GSF sessions at the Regional Conferences are to raise the awareness of regional and national stakeholders on the GSF, and to ensure incorporation of regional perspectives.

In order to secure broad-based feedback that fully reflects the multi-dimensional and multi-sectoral nature of issues related to food security and nutrition, and to support effective ownership of the GSF process, participants are encouraged, either in advance of or following the Regional Conference, to conduct consultations on the GSF with a broad range of stakeholders and interested parties within their respective

countries, including soliciting views and contributions from a wide range of concerned Ministries and institutions, as well as civil society, including small-scale food producers, and private-sector organizations.

While the Regional Conferences themselves will have limited time for discussion of the GSF, an online open consultation process will be established from March to May to receive regional and country inputs, either before or after each Regional Conference. Information on how to participate in this process will be provided at the Conferences.

3. Expected feedback from participants

When providing comments on the GSF at regional conferences, participants are urged to bear in mind the following broad guidelines adhered to when preparing the First Draft:

- The GSF is intended to be a dynamic document that will be updated at regular intervals to reflect regular CFS processes, policy debates and changing priorities. The First Version of the GSF should therefore focus on the most important agreed decisions and frameworks
- The preparation of the First Version of the GSF should avoid including any material that would require an exhaustive negotiation of text
- The main focus of the First Version of the GSF is to present issues on which there is a broad existing consensus, taking into account CFS's own decisions and recommendations and directly relevant policy and other frameworks
- The First Version of the GSF should limit itself to highlighting other issues of importance where there is no consensus and where further work is required to achieve convergence.

Participants at the regional conferences are invited to review the First Draft of the GSF, focusing on the following points:

- To consider whether the First Draft presents key issues of food security and nutrition on which there is broad regional and international consensus
- To consider whether the areas highlighted in the First Draft for further development, and gaps in policy convergence that may be addressed in future versions of the GSF, need to be further amended
- To consider whether the document has sufficient practical regional and country-level relevance, suggesting improvements as required.

To consider how the GSF could be related to regional and national food security and nutrition frameworks and strategies, including mechanisms for accountability and monitoring of agreed recommendations and practices, suggesting ways to promote two-way coordination and convergence.

4. Timetable for the preparation of the Global Strategic Framework

The 36th Plenary Session of CFS agreed to launch an inclusive consultative process led by the CFS Bureau, with the involvement of all stakeholders, to develop a First Version of the GSF by October 2012. The following key milestones are established for the preparation of the First Version:

- Discussion of Draft One of the GSF at FAO Regional Conferences (March – May 2012)
- Open online consultation on Draft One of the GSF (March – May 2012)
- Preparation of a Draft Two of the GSF by the CFS Secretariat based on received inputs (May 2012)
- CFS Intergovernmental Open-Ended Working Group in Rome to review Draft Two of the GSF (27-29 June 2012)
- Submission of First Version of the GSF to the CFS Plenary (October 2012)

COMMITTEE on WORLD FOOD SECURITY 2012 Regional Conferences

Guidance note to facilitate GSF discussions

1. Overview

This consultation follows a previous one on the GSF Annotated Outline held from 26th July to 31st October 2011 which contributed to the preparation of a GSF First Draft by a CFS Task Team. FAO Regional Conferences will be used to solicit comments from a wide range of stakeholders on the First Draft. Inputs collected will be taken into account when preparing the First Version of the GSF to be presented to the CFS Plenary in October.

An online open consultation will be held from March to May 2012, in parallel to the Regional Conferences to receive regional and country inputs to the First Draft.

Specifically, the online consultation will help to raise awareness of the GSF among regional and national stakeholders who will not participate in the Regional Conferences. Contributions to the consultation from such stakeholders, particularly those who may benefit from multi sectoral reviews of the GSF First Draft, are encouraged. The online consultation can be also used by stakeholders participating in the Regional Conferences to further comment or to reinforce inputs given during the RCs. This will help to capture a richer set of perspectives on the GSF First Draft.

2. Description

The Consultation will be hosted by the Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN Forum: <http://km.fao.org/fsn/>), on a dedicated CFS consultation webpage in the 6 UN languages (direct link to the CFS webpage: <http://km.fao.org/fsn/CFS>²), similar to the one used for the previous consultation on the GSF Annotated Outline.

The FSN Forum team will use the mailing list set up for the previous CFS consultation, updating and adapting it according to inputs received from the CFS Secretariat. Periodic outlooks with updates and news on the consultation will be sent out to this list.

The 3,700 FSN Forum members will be also informed and invited to take part and to circulate the information amongst their networks.

The consultation will be launched with an introductory text, briefly outlining the context and explaining the modality of participation and submission of contributions (in particular to avoid people sending comments in track changes mode) as well as the type of feedback sought. The introductory text will be made available in 6 languages.

During the consultation, news on the Regional Consultations and debates taking place as well as the summaries of the discussions will be posted to keep participants and interested people up to date with the GSF process.

The CFS Bureau, the Advisory Group and other stakeholders will promote the consultation by identifying discussion participants and encouraging them to take part in the discussion.

The FSN Forum team will liaise closely with the CFS Secretariat throughout the consultation and will monitor all contributions while keeping the updated proceedings accessible to anyone interested on the CFS consultation webpage.

² Currently under construction

3. Instructions for participating in the consultation

The CFS consultation webpage will contain all relevant information and updates on the Regional Conferences.

Participants can send their contributions via email (FSN-moderator@fao.org) or post on the web based forum.

Contributions are welcome in all UN languages and will be translated into English; they can be collective or individual as described below:

1. **Collective contributions**

Contributions prepared and submitted collectively by a network, an institution, an organisation or a community will feed into the main debate hosted by the FSN Forum.

Collective contributions to the consultation will be valued and weighted in accordance to the size, composition, relevance and representativeness of the author / network / community.

2. **Contributions sent by individual participants in their personal or professional capacity**

These contributions are submitted directly by individual participants.

Participants can take part in collective efforts and send their personal contribution as well.

4. Outputs of the consultation

Periodic consultation outlooks

These will contain information and relevant news about the consultation and the Regional Conferences and will be translated into 6 languages.

Proceedings document

A document showing inputs received during the consultation will be prepared.

COMMITTEE on WORLD FOOD SECURITY 2012 Regional Conferences

Session Guidelines for Mapping Food and Nutrition Actions at Country Level - The Way Forward

1. Background

The report to the 36th Session of the Committee on World Food Security called *Mapping Food Security Actions at Country Level (CFS:2010/3)*, explained why tools to map food security and nutrition actions are needed and what is meant by mapping food security actions. At the 37th CFS Plenary Session on *Mapping Food Security and Nutrition Actions at Country Level – The Way Forward*, the Committee considered the progress made since the 36th Session. This was further supported by five case studies reporting on experiences with, and lessons learned from, mapping food security and nutrition actions.

As part of the efforts of CFS to support food security and nutrition governance at regional level, the Committee also recommended that the process to map food security and nutrition actions be considered during the FAO Regional Conferences to be held in 2012, and outcomes of the discussion be presented during the October 2012 Session of CFS.

2. Objective

The purpose of this item is to share experiences and views on existing systems and practices related to mapping food security and nutrition actions with a view to improving their effectiveness at country level. We expect this session to have the following outcomes:

- Improved collective understanding of what is involved in mapping actions for food security and nutrition at country level and what is required to make this happen
- Have an overview of different experiences and initiatives related to food security and nutrition action mapping in the region, and globally, and discuss eventual implications for countries in the region
- Identify needs for technical support for the development and implementation of food security and nutrition action mapping systems in the region

3. Presentation and Discussion Points

A brief presentation by the Secretariat, based on specific experiences and challenges on mapping food security and nutrition actions, including the MAFSAN initiative³, will introduce the following discussion points:

- Share the key issues identified by previous CFS sessions that need to be addressed in developing and implementing food security and nutrition actions mapping, including partnerships and harmonization of methods
- Highlight specific experiences, best practices and lessons learned with respect to these key issues that could help with setting up food security and nutrition action mapping elsewhere.

Following the presentation, the floor will be given to participants to ask questions and share their views, in the form of an open discussion. Interventions from the floor should be brief, to the point and focus on contributing to recommendations based on knowledge, best practices and lessons learnt.

³ The Mapping Actions for Food Security and Nutrition (MAFSAN) web platform has been developed by FAO in partnership with other agencies and within the context of its support to country and regional level action on food and nutrition insecurity. The platform was presented with other initiatives to the 36th and 37th Sessions of CFS. It was the only one focusing on food security and nutrition which means it could be a potential “integrator” of different systems and approaches.