



CHAIR'S SUMMARY 41st PLENARY SESSION OF CFS 13-18 OCTOBER 2014

INTRODUCTION

This 41st Plenary session of CFS marked five years after its reform, and was an extremely rich session, crowning a particularly intense inter-sessional year. CFS 41st achieved major steps forward, including the adoption of the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI), but also the formulation of policy recommendations on two major issues: Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems, and Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition. It hosted instructive and constructive debates, and inspiring interventions for CFS to consider in the future.

The purpose of this Chair's Summary is to complement the outcomes of the 41st Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) through elaborating on some elements of discussion that are not captured in the Final Report of the Committee, which contains its decisions and recommendations. The Chair's Summary is not a decision tool and is issued under the Chair's responsibility.

OPENING

In the opening ceremony, the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's message to CFS stressed the strategic role and added value of CFS in realizing a world without hunger, and urged CFS constituencies to stay engaged in the on-going deliberations on the post 2015 development agenda, reaffirming the important role that CFS has to play in these discussions.

POLICY CONVERGENCE

Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems

After an intense, two-year process involving extensive consultations and negotiations, the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI) were endorsed. This was one of the key outcomes of CFS 41. Strong statements were issued in support of the Principles and the inclusive process through which they were developed, as well as the opportunities they represent for future investment.

Civil Society Organizations expressed their commitment to the CFS and to working together with other stakeholders to ensure that the Principles are implemented in a way that achieves the objective set out – to promote responsible investment in agriculture and food systems, which contributes to food security and nutrition. In this context, they expressed their disappointment that the Principles fell short of clear commitments on some of their priority issues. They emphasised the importance of monitoring what is done in the name of the Principles.

Agenda for Action for addressing food insecurity in protracted crises

In the Chair's opening remarks, it was acknowledged that an increasingly pressing issue is that of food insecurity and malnutrition for people living in situations of protracted crisis. While the Committee agreed a roadmap to enable the Agenda for Action for addressing food insecurity in protracted crises to be endorsed at CFS 42, the Chair noted the substantial increase in crises where food insecurity is widespread and called on participants to give absolute priority to this workstream.

COORDINATION AND LINKAGES WITH CFS

In the Global Segment dedicated to Food Security and Nutrition in the Post 2015 framework, the unprecedented multi-stakeholder participation, leading to the design of the post 2015 goals and targets was emphasised. Taking into account that no accountability mechanism is yet designed to accompany the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), CFS was encouraged to share its experience. The post 2015 development agenda to be endorsed by all countries next year, will depend on the buy-in from all parts of society, and require action from a full range of stakeholders including CFS. CFS was called to contribute to the identification of important targets and indicators for goal 2 and related topics, and give inputs on the monitoring of these goals (for instance, sharing data or ensuring thematic reviews). A parallel was drawn between the Post-2015 framework and the ICN2 process on nutrition, and CFS was encouraged to contribute through its multi-stakeholder model to the ICN2 process and express its views, as it gathers all the relevant actors suffering from malnutrition and hunger through its multi stakeholder model.

WORLD FOOD DAY-CFS SPECIAL EVENT

CFS was able to host a special event in partnership with the World Food Day organization team and the Steering Committee of the International Year of Family Farming on *Innovation in Family Farming: Towards Ensuring Food Security and Nutrition*, with amongst others, the participation of HRH Máxima, Queen of the Netherlands and UN Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development. A common theme emerging in the discussion was the importance of innovation and technology to build resilience for family farmers.

Queen Máxima underlined the importance of financial services to enhancing agricultural productivity, and focused on the important role of insurance services and technology to foster resilience and mitigate risks. The use of mobile phones to address financial inclusion in rural areas has been an important innovation. Dacian Cioloș, EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, emphasized that innovation is fundamental for family farmers, whatever their type and size, in order to build resilience and increase production, and spoke of the role of public policy in creating a stable enabling environment. Mr Serrano, Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, Research & Development and Regulations of the government of the Philippines, underlined the impact of climate change on family farming and the need for increased innovation and technology to enhance the coping mechanisms of farmers, and highlighted the importance of investing in technology as well as in access to land and resources. Mr Ibrahima Coulibaly, Family Farmer in Mali and Vice-President of the Network of Farmers' and Agricultural Producers' Organisations of West Africa (ROPPA), said scarcity of resources is one of the main challenges faced by family farmers. He emphasized the need to respect traditional knowledge in providing training to farmers. Mr Solar Dorrego, member of the Asociación Argentina de Consorcios Regionales de Experimentación Agrícola (AACREA) and family farm entrepreneur, outlined the challenges of innovation in a changing environment, and emphasized the need to share best practices and disseminate knowledge among farmers. Special attention was given to the importance of scaling up and working in cooperatives and of the role of public and private financing in fostering new technology and innovation.

WORKSTREAM UPDATES

During the update on the CFS communication strategy the Committee urged the Rome-based Agencies to actively disseminate information about CFS products and their uses throughout their organizations.

As the monitoring workstream kicks off, all constituencies were reminded that CFS deeply relies on them and their active outreach to their own networks, to assess its effectiveness in the best possible manner. The CFS Chair as well as the Bureau and the Secretariat look forward to a large participation of the CFS stakeholders in the upcoming survey on CFS effectiveness.