

CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meeting

Date: 31 January 2018

German Room, FAO, 9:30 – 12:30 and 14:00 -15.30

Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting Outcomes

Agenda

1. CFS 45 Provisional Agenda and Timetable
2. CFS 45 Side Events Criteria and Guidance
3. CFS Evaluation – Response to the remaining recommendations
4. Concept note/Draft Agenda 1st event on Urbanization and Rural Transformation
5. Meeting on issues not addressed during the policy discussions on sustainable forestry
6. a. CFS Advisory Group reporting exercise – January-December 2017
b. Discussion on implementing response to CFS evaluation recommendation 4
7. Workstreams update and Budget update
8. Any other business

The CFS Chair, Mr Mario Arvelo, welcomed the participants to the joint meeting and invited the Advisory Group not to express political positions but to provide useful advice to the Bureau Members, in accordance to the CFS Rules. The Chair informed that CSM and UNSCN would like to make some announcements under AOB. The Agenda was approved without changes.

1. CFS 45 Provisional Agenda and Timetable

In his introduction, the Chair underlined that the provisional agenda and timetable are atypical because of the FAO Council's decision to hold a high level event in connection with World Food Day.

The Chair informed the meeting that he is in close contact with the office of the Director General in order to find synergies and opportunities with the high level event. Plans are still preliminary and there is no confirmation of the exact timing or the agenda of this high level event. In the meantime, the Secretariat has developed a draft agenda and timetable that include all the items that have to be on the agenda.

Participants expressed their desire that CFS be given the highest possible visibility during the high level event as this would also be in line with the recommendation from the Evaluation that CFS Plenary should be more vibrant. Also, it was suggested that the UN Secretary General should be invited to participate in CFS 45. It was noted that Monday 15th October is Rural Women's Day, which is very relevant for CFS. If possible having a session on the Saturday should be avoided. A short CFS week was seen as sending "a wrong signal" in the context of the CFS evaluation.

Participants suggested that in the agenda there should be sufficient time for political statements by delegations and that the item on the HLPE Report on Multi-stakeholder Partnerships should be for discussion and decision, although the nature of the decision will not be clear until later in the year when the report is launched.

It was suggested that CFS should maximize the opportunities to use HLPE reports for policy convergence. Several participants suggested that a session should be included, time permitting, on critical and emerging issues.

In general it was felt preferable to keep the two lesson sharing events – one on Nutrition and one on the SDGs - in Plenary and not in parallel, although a suggestion was made that they could also be merged if necessary WHO noted that the nutrition lesson sharing event could also be used for soliciting smart commitments for the Decade of Action on Nutrition.

2. CFS 45 Side Events Criteria and Guidance

The Chair introduced the Guidance and Criteria for CFS 45 Side Events, which have been used in previous years and have been successful.

It was noted that Side Events are an important component of CFS, allowing space for innovation, new partners and for going deeper into topics.

It was suggested that care should be taken so that Side Events do not distract from the CFS Plenary.

The suggestion was made to include guidance that there should be gender parity in panels and also youth should be included where appropriate.

3. CFS Evaluation – Response to the remaining recommendations

The Bureau and Advisory Group congratulated the co-facilitators Tian Jiani (China) and Oliver Mellenthin (Germany) for completing the response to evaluation recommendations 7, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14. FAO suggested amending paragraph 6 of the document to reflect that CFS monitoring activities should include lessons learnt and not duplicate existing UN monitoring mechanisms, acknowledging on-going reporting for Agenda 2030 and ICN2.

The following suggestions were provided on the process to implement the response to all evaluation recommendations:

- Group of friends of the co-facilitators who would formulate proposals for discussion at open evaluation meetings;
- The need to have a holistic approach to implement the response to evaluation recommendations, for example clustering the responses where useful, linking them to the response of recommendations 1 and 2 because of their crucial strategic value for CFS.

The importance of monitoring the use and application of CFS voluntary guidelines and how to strengthen the monitoring function was raised. It was noted that CFS still lacks a uniform understanding of the monitoring function in the context of CFS, its application modalities/mechanisms, and its potential scope. Suggestions included having a sound system for tracking the use and application of CFS outputs which might not have to be done by CFS per se but by partner agencies and the need to have feedback on impact of the CFS products. The system should provide insights on reasons for guidelines or set of recommendations not being applied (e.g. lack of capacity or political commitment) in order to address these reasons.

4. Concept note/Draft Agenda 1st event on Urbanization and Rural Transformation

A draft concept note, prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Technical Task Team, with the guiding elements for the preparation of the first intersessional event on the impacts of urbanization and rural transformation on food security and nutrition of lower income groups was presented.

Overall, the document was well received. Comments were made on the need to define the objectives of the two events so they would be coherent with each other and the work done to date and to identify the value-added of CFS on this matter. In this regard, it was requested to consider how this workstream could feed into other CFS ongoing discussions, such as the one on nutrition and food systems. It was also suggested to better highlight the central role of food systems. The importance of the World Urban Forum and the Guiding Principles for Urban-Rural Linkages being developed by UN-Habitat was raised, noting the opportunities provided by the 2 events to reflect on how CFS can influence existing processes, providing a FSN perspective, and the need for further studies on food security and nutrition in urban contexts. Suggestions were made concerning case studies that could be considered during the intersessional events, such as the Action Network led by Chile on healthy food environments (the Healthy Environment Network for the Americas) and the Milan Food Pact. The importance of framing the work within the agreements reached at Plenary and in the MYPoW was reiterated.

Comments were made on the need for the TTT to have more time to prepare in future, ensuring coherence between the two events.

5. Meeting on issues not addressed during the policy discussions on sustainable forestry

Following the discussions held at the last Bureau and Advisory Group meeting held in November, the Chair suggested 3 April in the morning as a possible date for the meeting to discuss the issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the forestry policy convergence process.

It was recalled that, in line with the Plenary decision and the subsequent Bureau guidance in 2017, the organization of the event should not have an impact on the budget and workload of the Committee. This implies no additional background material prepared by the Secretariat, no interpretation and no summary/records of the meeting. The objective would be simply to provide an open space to discuss issues some stakeholders felt received insufficient attention during the process. The Bureau, following consultation with the Advisory Group, should define the format of the event and decide who will moderate it.

A request was made on the possibility to mandate a technical task team to prepare this event and to postpone it to spring 2019. This would allow reflecting on how this event could contribute to the global debate around plantations by creating an inclusive debate that brings out agreements and contradictions between all the different actors. Moreover, the outcomes of such an event could feed into the CFS contributions to the HLPF processes in 2019, as forestry is particularly relevant to SDGs 8 and 13.

6. a. CFS Advisory Group reporting exercise – January-December 2017

The Chair drew attention to the reports of the Advisory Group members, including those serving in an ad-hoc capacity, and highlighted that these reports show the commitments and efforts spent by each member in support of the work of the Committee. Participants welcomed the reports and stressed their value.

In response to questions made by the Bureau, some Advisory Group members mentioned that the composition of the group should be as inclusive as possible, within the limits envisaged in the CFS Reform Document and considering the agenda for the AG, and that flexibility is also guaranteed by the possibility to appoint ad-hoc participants for certain periods and concerning a particular topic. It was also highlighted that a key aspect is represented by the type of advice that is requested from the Advisory Group, noting the importance of involving it in substantive discussions.

Extraordinary efforts should be made to facilitate the remote participation of AG members not present in Rome.

b. Discussion on implementing response to CFS evaluation recommendation 4

In anticipation of the evaluation meeting of 5 February, the co-facilitators asked for guidance and feedback on how to structure the discussion to best serve the Bureau, while bearing in mind that the evaluation meeting will deal with the long term implementation of recommendation 4.

Participants valued the joint meetings as space for discussion between Bureau Members and other stakeholders. A suggestion was made to establish new mechanisms for the other categories of participants.

Bureau Members noted that there is a need to call for an additional Bureau meeting by the end of March/early April to appoint the Advisory Group for the remainder of the biennium (i.e. until CFS 46 in October 2019), as per Plenary decision.

The co-facilitators asked for additional inputs for the Monday meeting to be sent by the end of the week.

7. Workstreams update and Budget update

The Secretary drew attention to the FAO/WHO regional nutrition symposia which are the main element of the workstreams update and updated on the preparation of the Global Thematic Event on the Right to Food.

Regarding the budget, the Chair thanked Members and participants who provided the resources for the translation of the HLPE Nutrition report, which is now fully funded. In particular, he commended the Nutrition OEWG Chair, Mr Khaled El-Taweel, for succeeding in securing additional resources. Participants expressed concern for the important funding gap in the three components of the CFS budget, in particular for HLPE and CSM.

The HLPE Coordinator thanked the EU, France and Switzerland for their continuous support, as well as all the HLPE resource partners, in particular the countries that contributed in 2017 to the translation of the Forestry and Nutrition reports. He also welcomed the contribution of Monaco and the in-kind contribution of China for the current biennium, encouraging new partners to join. He also informed that the current level of funding would allow the functioning of the HLPE until May 2018, covering the finalization of the Multistakeholder Partnership report in English only, and the next Steering Committee meeting in May 2018.

CSM informed participants that currently approved funding could ensure their functioning only until end of April this year. A suggestion was made to include in the budget the costs of the active participation of the Advisory Group.

8. AOB

UNSCN coordinator informed of the appointment of the Vice-President of IFAD, Ms Cornelia Richter, as new Chair of UNSCN.

CSM distributed copies of the 2017 annual report of their activities.

Annex 1: List of attendees

CFS Bureau Members:

Mr Mario Arvelo (CFS Chair / Dominican Republic); Ms Fernanda Mansur Tansini (Brazil); Mr Xie Jianmin, Ms Jiani Tian, Mr Xu Yubo, Mr Huang Fei (China); Mr Luis Fernando Ceciliano (Costa Rica); Mr Khaled El-Taweel (Egypt); Mr Mitiku Tesso Jebessa (Ethiopia); Ms Esti Andayani, Mr Gustaf Daud Sirait (Indonesia); Ms Valentina Savastano (Italy); Mr Matthew Hooper (New Zealand); Ms Anna-Marie Moulton (South Africa); Mr Sid Ahmed Alamain (Sudan); Ms Liliane Ortega (Switzerland); Ms Emily Katkar, Ms Silvia Giovanazzi (USA).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Mr Nazareno Montani (Argentina); Ms Mi Nguyen (Canada); Mr Oliver Mellenthin (Germany); Ms Martine Garcia-Mascarenhas (Monaco).

Advisory Group:

Ms Marcela Villarreal, Mr Mark McGuire (FAO); Ms Stephanie Hochstetter, Mr Jacopo Valentini (WFP); Mr Torben Nilsson (IFAD); Mr Francesco Branca, Ms Marzella Wustefed (WHO); Ms Stineke Oenema (UNSCN); Ms Mariam Aljaajaa, Mr Nathanael Buka Mupungu, Ms Nettie Wiebe, Mr Saul Vicente Vasquez (CSM); Mr Brian Baldwin (PSM).

Observers:

Ms Julia Vicioso, Ms Liudmila Kuzmicheva, Mr Paul Besana (Dominican Republic); Ms Alexandra Taralunga, Ms Martina Lecce (EU Delegation); Ms Delphine Babin-Pelliard (France); Ms Viktoria Schuster (Hungary); Ms Angeles Gomez (Mexico); Ms Anne Verschoor (Netherlands); Mr Ilya Andreev (Russia); Ms Chiara Zannoni (San Marino); Mr Martin Wolpold-Bosien, Ms Nora Mckeen, Ms Teresa Maisano, Ms Valentina de Gregorio (CSM); Mr Willi Kampmann, Ms Maria Giulia De Castro, Mr Maximilian Dieter (WFO); Mr Josh Bren-Wilson (Coventry University).

CFS Secretariat:

Ms Deborah Fulton (Secretary), Mr Nathanael Pingault, Ms Cordelia Salter, Ms Françoise Trine, Mr Giammichele Di Maio, Ms Cherin Hoon, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Ophélie Hémonin, Ms Alessandra Gherardelli.