

Note from the OEWG-SDG Chair

Dear CFS Members and stakeholders,

I am happy to remind you of our upcoming meeting on **20 March** from 14:00-17:00 in the Red room (FAO HQ) to finalize the contribution that CFS has prepared to send to the 2018 High Level Political Forum review, held under the theme “Transformations towards sustainable and resilient societies”, and in which SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12 and 15 will be under focus, in addition to SDG17.

Last October, the Committee “*endorsed the document 2017/44/2 “CFS Contribution to the 2018 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development Global Review” as the basis for the contribution of CFS to the 2018 HLPF review*”, and noted that it should be “*updated with the outcomes of CFS 44 discussions*”. (Final report, paragraph 13 d)

The draft contribution which is shared with you now includes the above-mentioned updates, in track changes for ease of reference. These mainly include :

- ✓ an update on the current global food security and nutrition situation
- ✓ the insertion of a paragraph on sustainable forests for FSN following the endorsement of the recommendations in CFS 44
- ✓ modifications in the paragraph on biofuels and food security
- ✓ an update of the paragraph announcing upcoming work on nutrition and food systems in CFS

In addition to the updates above, the CFS Secretariat and TTT have suggested further minor changes, mostly to improve the quality and legibility of the contribution, as well as the quality and conciseness of key messages. The Committee decided to introduce its contributions with concise opening key messages in 2016, as a way to keep food security and nutrition issues high on the global agenda, while consultations and discussions on the ministerial outcome in New York discuss interlinkages between SDGs.

This draft contribution is shared with Members and stakeholders 3 weeks ahead of the meeting (instead of 2 weeks) for a specific reason. Given the narrow time-frame and the current high-workload with the implementation of the CFS evaluation response, it is highly desirable that we finalize the contribution by **the end of the OEWG meeting on 20 March**. To facilitate the discussion on a draft that has mostly already been endorsed by Plenary, I am therefore asking Members and stakeholders to consult as needed beforehand and to flag any major issue of concern **in the new text (in TC)** at the latest by 13 March COB, accompanied by suggestions for alternative text which could be proposed. In order to finalize the contribution by the end of the meeting, we will not be considering any major issues brought up during the meeting *which would not have been flagged beforehand*.

I hope that I can count on your collaboration to make our final meeting on this 2018 CFS contribution a smooth and successful one, and look forward to our discussions to ensure that, this year again, the contribution of CFS effectively supports HLPF global progress reviews and contributes to moving food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture forward within the 2030 Agenda.

Regards,
Willem Olthof, OEWG-SDG Chair