

Dear CFS Secretariat

Thank you for the preparation of the updated HLP2018 contribution and the opportunity to comment.

General comment. With the last changes the contribution is becoming very long, too long. Experience has shown that if we want the CFS contribution to have an impact on HLPF outputs, it should be short, focusing on the products of CFS and clearly aligned with the specific goals under review (6,7,11,12,15,17). What will be kept from this contribution that is really unique to CFS? For example under SDG15 “Integrated agriculture and forest management approach” since this is relevant not only for SDG15 or FSN but for the all Agenda 2030. In the current version relevant CFS products are diluted in the text and not very visible.

Specific comments

Key messages at the beginning

- We very much agree with highlighting the main conclusions of the SOFI2017 in Part (a) of the document. However, it deserves a short (4-5 lines) key message.
- The wording of the key messages should be the same as in Part (b). As the text reads now, it is confusing, if the key messages in the “summary page” are the same as in part (b). It will be also useful make reference to SDGs under review (For example Key message 2 with water and forests)
- Why is Key message 2 focusing only on climate change. As CFS we should put FSN at the center and highlight the linkage between sustainable management of natural resources and FSN

Part (a)

- Too long.
- The Part follows the SOFI, with the exception of the last paragraph, which seems oddly misplaced. It is not clear how the text goes from the drivers of conflict to the urgency to connect urban and rural communities.
- Also, the very last sentence of the part is the only one of the whole part with a recommendation. That gives the impression as if this would be the key to resolve the problems described before. Proposal: At least delete the last sentence, and limit the whole part to description and analysis of where we stand.

Part (b)

- Last sentence of the introduction is strange: “Guidance is needed from the HLPF to draw governments’ attention on...” HLPF is (mainly) governments. Better: HLPF should highlight the need for country level uptake...
- Better highlight the single recommendations with the goals under review (a graphic element showing the related SDG could help).
- Propose to delete the para on gender. Not because we think it’s not important, but because we should highlight it prominently when Goal 5 is under review.
- Consider the opportunity to keep the para on sustainable agriculture development – Could be address under forestry and the need for integrated agriculture and forest management
- Propose to clearly highlight and place the four key messages of the HLPE Report 11 on Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition in the text (key message 2 on forests).
 - Propose to delete the para on nutrition. Part (b) calls for concrete recommendations. We don’t have them yet, but we will have them for HLPF 2020, when SDG3 (Health) will be on the agenda again. We should not use space here to announce recommendations that will come only in the future.
 - Propose to merge “investing responsibly in agriculture and food systems” with “strengthen policies and investment targeting smallholders”
- As said before: we fully support the importance of addressing youth, but the paragraph as it is written now is not linked to the CFS. We don’t have a concrete CFS-recommendation on youth yet. Either a clear link can be made to set(s) of recommendations, or the paragraph should be deleted.

Annex 1

We suggest limiting Annex 1 to the CFS Reference documents relevant for the SDGs under review.

Kind regards

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Ambassador,
Permanent Representative