



CFS MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK SECOND OPEN MEETING

17 April 2019 - 9.30-12.30 and 14.00-16.00 – Green Room, FAO

OUTCOMES

The meeting was opened by the CFS Chair Mr Mario Arvelo who introduced the new CFS Secretary, Mr Chris Hegadorn.

The agenda of the meeting was presented along with an overview of the 'Zero Draft' of the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW), 2020-2023.

CFS stakeholders were reminded that, as per Annex B of the CFS Evaluation Implementation Report, the process of finalizing the CFS MYPoW is the responsibility of the CFS Bureau with advice/input provided by the CFS Advisory Group.

The MYPoW 2020-2023 'Zero Draft' was well-received, generally, and elicited a number of comments from a well-attended cross-section of Member States and other stake-holders. Among the key points made by participants:

1. The importance of a "feasible" MYPoW that takes into account available staff and financial resources, workload on Committee Members, and the relevance of its products and processes to mobilize additional resources and greater uptake was reiterated. It was underscored that the ideal MYPoW should seek to strike a balance between resources, workload, and ambition, while maintaining an eye toward CFS's relative comparative advantage.
2. Ideally, in examining future possible CFS workstreams, it was proposed that CFS first identify the highest priorities, where its inputs and policy convergence processes can have the most significant impacts at country level on food security and nutrition, while avoiding duplication of work done elsewhere.
3. Synergies and communication between the HLPE and CFS should be strengthened, ensuring that HLPE activities are fully relevant to the work of CFS and contribute to the core objectives of the Committee.
4. Flexibility is important to the successful administration of the CFS, to allow for the possibility of selecting new topics to address by both the HLPE and the Committee during the course of the next four-year MYPoW.
5. Two thematic workstreams, in particular, received considerable support from across the Committee membership as top priorities for the coming MYPoW: (i) gender equality and women's empowerment; and (ii) youth.
6. Regarding the topic of gender equality and women's empowerment, several participants recommended using as reference the General recommendation No. 34 (2016) of CEDAW.

7. Regarding the notional workstream on youth, participants suggested preparing an HLPE report in 2021, with resulting policy guidance presented for consideration and endorsement by the CFS Plenary in 2022.
8. Numerous comments, suggestions, and inputs were provided by participants on the various proposals contained in the 'Zero Draft,' which will be considered for incorporation in the 'First Draft' of the MYPoW document. Consistent with comments made during the first open meeting, participants requested the proposals be as concise and focused as possible, to assist the Plenary and the HLPE (as appropriate) to decide on future work-streams and the Terms of Reference relevant to any policy convergence process. Requests were made by some to revisit specific edits made by the Secretariat to the 'Zero Draft' document, with the intention of not losing content and context intended by the proposal drafters.
9. While recognizing that the most recent SOFI report identified conflicts and migration among the main drivers of food insecurity, lack of broad-based support for a proposal on conflicts and migration due to the underlying political complexities involved, which are outside the mandate of CFS, prompted its removal from the proposed MYPoW 2020-2023. Reflecting interest in the topic by some delegations, the CFS Chair proposed that the topic be incorporated within a planned 2020 "Global Thematic Event" focused on the CFS's "Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises," including a strong focus on the further "prevention" of future conflicts that are presently impacting so heavily and negatively on global food and nutrition security.
10. A similar lack of broad support for including the issue of "inequality" in the MYPoW 2020-2023, in this case due to the extraordinary broadness of the concept, prompted a similar proposal by the Chair to remove it from the notional calendar, to give future Plenary sessions the flexibility to revisit the topic, or to consider other topics that stake-holders wish to focus upon.
11. In consideration of the request for flexibility, it was suggested to postpone a decision on specific topics for the HLPE reports to be produced in 2022 and 2023. In this regard, it was highlighted that the annual updates of the MYPoW will be used to define these additional topics. The next version of the HLPE's Note on Critical and Emerging Issues will be included within this MYPoW and will help inform decisions on future CFS workstreams within the MYPoW. The Chair welcomed the suggestion that a "place-holding" exercise could take place before a Bureau decision, and noted that a future Plenary (i.e. CFS 47 in 2020) could decide to revisit the 2020-2023 MYPoW to fill any outstanding elements.
12. Many delegates highlighted the importance of ensuring robust uptake by governments and others of CFS policy guidelines and recommendations, which should also inform decision-making on the MYPoW and future policy convergence processes.
13. General support was offered to the notion of further exploring a CFS work-stream dedicated to food security-relevant data collection and analysis tools, given the fundamental importance of data to effective policy-making. Additional ideas are to be discussed on the best manner in which to incorporate this concept into the MYPoW 2020-2023, including the possibility of a stand-alone thematic event.

A revised version of the timeline reflecting changes proposed during the meeting is available in Annex A.

In closing the meeting, the CFS Chair solicited all CFS stakeholders to provide written inputs on the 'Zero Draft' with a deadline of Monday 29 April 2019.

He also provided an overview of the next steps of the process of MYPoW preparation:

- An update on the MYPoW preparation will be provided by the CFS Secretariat for information at the joint Bureau and Advisory Group meeting on 14 May.
- A 'First Draft' of the CFS MYPoW for 2020-2023 will be prepared, taking into account comments and inputs received, and presented for discussion at the joint Bureau and Advisory Group meeting of 3 June.
- At its meeting of 7 June, the Bureau is expected to finalize the document that will be presented for consideration and endorsement by the CFS 46 Plenary in October 2019.

ANNEX A – REVISED PROPOSED TIMELINE

	2020	2021	2022	2023
	CFS 47	CFS 48	CFS 49	CFS 50
HLPE Reports	Global narrative towards 2030	Youth employment in food systems	TBD	TBD
Policy guidance	Agro-ecology and other innovations		Youth employment in food systems	
	VG on Food systems and nutrition			
	VG on Gender equality and women's empowerment for FSN			
Inclusive discussions	Global narrative towards 2030	Data collection and analysis tool		
Uptake/ outreach¹	GTE CFS-FFA		GTE CFS-RAI	
		Forum on VG food systems and nutrition		Forum on VG Gender equality and women's empowerment
Supporting activities	SDG Global Thematic Reviews and HLPF contributions			
	Intersessional activities			
			HLPE note on Critical and emerging issues for FSN	MYPoW 2024-2027
	Communication/Outreach; Resource Mobilization			
	Plenary and Bureau and Advisory Group meeting planning and organization			

¹ The decision to monitor other CFS policy recommendations through ad hoc events in 2020-23 will be taken by the Bureau, after consultation with the Advisory Group.