

CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meeting on 14 May 2019 – Item on Sustainable Forestry

Written inputs provided by UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

As requested, please find written comments on today's Item 1.

a. Building on previous comments made by other colleagues, the UNSR welcomes and would encourage a debate centered on how to protect, respect and fulfil the right to food in the context of sustainable forestry for FSN - which is in line with the policy recommendations of the HLPE report. This could mean that the specific meeting could address how to:

-- protect whilst empowering vulnerable communities dependent on forest products for their FSN, especially indigenous peoples and groups and their traditional knowledge, as well as women and small-holders living off forestry.

-- look at concrete examples of improved accountability (which represents also a comparative advantage for CFS as a monitoring platform) of sustainable forestry management through areas of focus promoting better power balances, increased dialogue and participation by all relevant stakeholders in decision-making and policy-debates, claim mechanisms set in place for redress and to claim human rights violations.

-- guarantee policy coherence and adherence to the content of FAO and CFS Guidelines and Principles (RTFG, VGGTs, RAI, etc.) which tackle forestry as a specific issue, and offer a harmonized framework to such CFS discussion.

b. The UNSR welcomes in particular the comment from Indonesia who made specific reference to the mission of the UNSR to his country and how Forestry, the Right to Food and FSN are closely linked issues there. This is indeed the perfect example illustrating how the right to food can be impacted from different sectors and technical angles.

c. As stated in a previous AG&B meeting at the end of last year, the UNSR welcomes increased collaboration from a logistical but also very much technical perspective of the CFS with the COFO, which during its annual meeting deliberated on the necessity to link up to CFS more closely in order to ensure breaking silos and increased synergies between the work carried out by the two Committees.