

**CFS Bureau meeting**  
**Date: 08 November 2018**  
**King Faisal Room, FAO, 14.00-17.00**

## **CFS ADVISORY GROUP RENEWAL**

### **INFORMATION NOTE**

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

The CFS Bureau is requested to appoint the CFS Advisory Group<sup>1</sup>. According to the CFS Rules of Procedure, *“the members of the Advisory Group shall be appointed for a term of two years<sup>2</sup>”*. However, in line with the decision taken by the Committee at its 44<sup>th</sup> Session, the Bureau in October 2017 decided exceptionally to appoint the Advisory Group until March 2018. The appointment was extended three times and the last one was until CFS 45 in October 2018.

This document provides background information to facilitate the Bureau’s decision-making process. It presents extracts from the CFS Rules of Procedure and the CFS Reform Document establishing the roles and functions of the Advisory Group; information concerning the different categories of CFS Participants that constitute the Advisory Group; and an overview of the 2016-2017 and 2018 Advisory Group. Finally, the document explains the selection procedures for each category of the Advisory Group.

#### **II. ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE CFS ADVISORY GROUP**

According to the CFS Reform Document, the *“function of the CFS Advisory Group is to provide inputs to the Bureau regarding the range of tasks which the CFS Plenary has instructed it to perform. Decision making will be in the hands of the members States. It is expected that members of the Advisory Group should be able to contribute substantive work and provide advice to the CFS Bureau<sup>3</sup>”*.

At its 41<sup>st</sup> session, the Committee endorsed the proposed amendments to paragraphs 3 and 4, Rule IV, of the CFS Rules of Procedure, concerning the roles to be performed by the CFS Advisory Group.

CFS RoP, Rule IV; para 3: *Each member of the Advisory Group should be responsible for the establishment, maintenance and strengthening of regular linkages with organizations and entities within the category it represents with a view to:*

- a) *Promote the engagement of interested organizations and entities that are represented in each of the five categories of the Advisory Group in order to ensure a two way exchange of information during CFS inter-sessional periods;*
- b) *Facilitate the participation and provision of inputs, comments and proposals regarding*

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<sup>1</sup> This decision is in line with the CFS Reform Document which, in paragraph 32, states that *“the Bureau, immediately following its election, will establish an Advisory Group”*.

<sup>2</sup> CFS Rules of Procedure, Rule IV (Advisory Group), paragraph 1

<sup>3</sup> CFS Reform Document, paragraph 32. CFS 2009/rev.2

*ongoing CFS activities from those entities represented in each category that could provide relevant contributions to CFS discussions;*

- c) Assist the Bureau in the identification of important developments in the area of food security and nutrition at global, regional and national levels and raise awareness towards the ongoing activities carried out by the different entities represented in each category;*
- d) Contribute to the dissemination of CFS outcomes and deliberations.*

At CFS 42, the Committee endorsed the proposed amendments concerning the possibility to appoint ad-hoc Participants to contribute to the work of the Advisory Group.

CFS RoP, Rule IV, para 5: *The CFS Chair, after consulting the Bureau, may decide to appoint ad hoc Participants whose mandate would be limited to a particular topic, a specific activity and a limited period of time. The ad hoc Participants' expertise and background should add value to the deliberations and contribute to the work of the Advisory Group. The appointed ad hoc Participant could participate, with the right to intervene in discussions on the subject matters for which he/she was appointed, in the Joint Bureau and Advisory Group meetings.*

### **III. COMPOSITION OF THE CFS ADVISORY GROUP**

In accordance with paragraph 32 of the CFS Reform Document and Rule IV, paragraph 1, of the CFS Rules of Procedure, the composition of the Advisory Group reflects the following five constituencies of CFS Participants as listed in paragraph 11 of the Reform Document:

- a) UN agencies and bodies with a specific mandate in the field of food security and nutrition such as FAO, IFAD, WFP;
- b) Civil society and non-governmental organizations particularly organizations representing smallholder family farmers, fisherfolks, herders, landless, urban poor, agricultural and food workers, women, youth, consumers and indigenous people;
- c) International agricultural research institutions;
- d) International and regional financial institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, regional development banks and the World Trade Organization;
- e) Private sector associations and philanthropic foundations.

*“The number of members of the Advisory Group shall not exceed that of the members of the Bureau including the Chairperson, unless otherwise decided by the Committee<sup>4</sup>”*. The number of Advisory Group members is currently 14, which exceeds the number of Bureau members including the Chair, as a result of the decision taken at CFS 36 in 2010 to include the United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN) in the Advisory Group<sup>5</sup>.

The Advisory Group members for 2016-2018 are shown in the tables below.

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<sup>4</sup> CFS Rules of Procedure, Rule IV (Advisory Group), paragraph 1

<sup>5</sup> CFS 2010/Final Report, paragraph 12.

<b>CFS ADVISORY GROUP 2016-2017</b>				
<b>UN BODIES</b>	<b>CSOs/NGOs</b>	<b>International Agric. Research Institutions.</b>	<b>International Financial and Trade Institutions</b>	<b>Private Sector/ Philanthropic Foundations</b>
Food and Agricultural Organization - FAO	Civil Society Mechanism - CSM	Bioversity International	The World Bank Group	Private Sector Mechanism - PSM
World Food Programme - WFP	Civil Society Mechanism - CSM			The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation - BMGF
International Fund for Agricultural Development - IFAD	Civil Society Mechanism - CSM			
Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food - Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	Civil Society Mechanism - CSM			
UN High Level Task Force on Global Food and Nutrition Security - HLTF				
UN Standing Committee on Nutrition - SCN				

In October 2017, the World Health Organization (WHO) replaced the UN High Level Task Force on Global Food and Nutrition Security - HLTF in the Advisory Group, after serving as an ad-hoc Member of the Advisory Group for the biennium 2016-2017.

<b>CFS ADVISORY GROUP 2018</b>				
<b>UN BODIES</b>	<b>CSOs/NGOs</b>	<b>International Agric. Research Institutions.</b>	<b>International Financial and Trade Institutions</b>	<b>Private Sector/ Philanthropic Foundations</b>
Food and Agricultural Organization - FAO	Civil Society Mechanism - CSM	Bioversity International in representation of the CGIAR Network	The World Bank Group	Private Sector Mechanism - PSM
World Food Programme - WFP	Civil Society Mechanism - CSM			The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation - BMGF
International Fund for Agricultural Development - IFAD	Civil Society Mechanism - CSM			

Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food - Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	Civil Society Mechanism - CSM			
World Health Organization - WHO				
UN Standing Committee on Nutrition - SCN				

#### ***IV. SELECTION PROCEDURES***

Under the current practice, the selection procedures of the members of the Advisory Group are the following:

Category 1 (UN Agencies and Bodies): the Bureau invites FAO, IFAD and WFP to appoint their representatives. All other UN agencies and bodies are selected by the Bureau and are invited to designate their respective representatives;

Category 2 (CSOs/NGOs): it designates its own representatives through the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) in accordance with paragraphs 16, 17 and 32 of the CFS Reform Document;.

Categories 3 (International Agricultural Research Institutions) and 4 (International Financial and Trade Institutions): the Bureau selects the institutions which are then invited to designate their respective representatives;

Category 5 (Private Sector/ Philanthropic Foundations): the Private Sector designates its representative through the Private Sector Mechanism (PSM). The Bureau selects the representative of Philanthropic Foundations.

#### ***V. DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY THE BUREAU***

The Bureau at its meeting on 08 November 2018 is expected to appoint its Advisory Group until CFS 46 in October 2019.

The decision will concern (i) the number of seats assigned to each category; and (ii) the selection of those members, according to the abovementioned selection procedures.