

CFS Bureau meeting
Date: 8 November 2018
King Faisal Room, FAO

Bureau Meeting Outcomes

Agenda

1. Appointment of the Advisory Group
2. Any other business

1. Appointment of the Advisory Group

The Chair introduced the item by providing a brief overview of the previous discussions and issues raised in the context of the Evaluation regarding the Advisory Group. Following a rich discussion on the various points raised, the Chair made a proposal for a possible way forward.

The proposal includes two suggestions that will require confirmation from FAO Legal before the Bureau can endorse them, namely:

- 1) to elevate and strengthen the status of the three RBAs (to ex-officio members) and consider them extra-quota (which would free up 3 AG seats), and
- 2) to create a *Farmers Organizations Cluster*, which would include entities that do not identify themselves as being part of CSM or PSM;

The following proposals by the CFS Chair were discussed at length:

- For FAO, IFAD and WFP to become ex-officio and extra-quota members of the AG, thus freeing 3 seats. The other three UN entities that have occupied Advisory Group seats (Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, UN Standing Committee on Nutrition -UNSCN-, World Health Organization -WHO-) will each keep a seat;
- Explore the creation of clusters, which are less demanding than mechanisms, under existing categories, in line with the Evaluation Implementation Report recommendation to AG members to strengthen their coordination roles (Annex H, Point 3a);
- In eventual addition to the RBAs (extra-quota) and UN seats, the following are proposed:
 - CSM would, in principle, retain 4 seats (even though the current limit of 14 AG seats creates confusion, because allocating four seats to a single stakeholder means that the actual number of effective seats for distribution among non-State stakeholders is actually 11);
 - PSM would retain one seat;
 - 1 new seat for Farmers Organizations Cluster, which would include entities that do not identify themselves as being part of CSM or PSM;

- 1 seat for Agricultural Research Cluster, which would include, but not be limited to CGIAR, GFAR and Bioversity;
 - 1 seat for International Financial Institutions (IFIs) Cluster, which would include, but not be limited to the World Bank and GAFSP;
 - 1 seat for Philanthropic Foundations Cluster, which would include, but not be limited to Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Rockefeller, Mars and Eleanor Crook Foundations.
- AG ad hoc members would continue to be appointed as appropriate as per para. 5, Rule IV of the CFS Rules of Procedure.
 - An informal Friends of the Chair group would be created, allowing stakeholders that are not within existing AG categories (e.g. scientific communities, action-oriented and faith-based organizations, universities and other academic entities, connectors and influencers, innovators, think tanks, press agencies and media outlets, international legal organizations, parliamentarians, social protection mechanisms, among others) to advise the Bureau through the Chair on a wide range of subjects, including for mobilizing human and financial resources, delivering political capital, advocacy, visibility, etc. in a transparent way (e.g. by posting all exchanges on CFS website) at no cost for CFS.

There was general agreement with needing additional time to consider the above proposals, not only to solicit FAO Legal office's feedback, but also to consult with capitals, other Member States, the three RBA focal points, and the organizations and institutions that would be encouraged to create the four new clusters (farmers organizations, agricultural research, IFIs, and philanthropic foundations. FAO Legal office will be requested to provide this feedback (ex-post update of 22 November: the consultative process with FAO Legal started right after the Bureau meeting and is in progress; results will be communicated to the Bureau as they come about).

In the meantime, the current AG will be extended until 23 November for the scheduled Bur/AG meeting. The Chair consulted the Bureau on views about inviting WFO as an ad-hoc for the 23 November meeting; no reservations were raised (ex-post update of 22 November: AG members have been informed of this decision through the invitation to the 23 November Bur/AG meeting).

Additional follow-up will be required regarding:

- How to create/promote the clusters? Who will take responsibility for them? How would they be operationalized and who would physically sit in AG meetings? Or, would they occupy rotating seats? How will funding be addressed?
- Develop draft guidance for potential candidates/organizations who are, or may be interested in, participating in the AG and for Bureau's consideration of these requests (in line with the Evaluation Implementation Report, para 26 and Annex H, Point 3.b).

2. Any other business

In response to Bureau members' enquiries regarding the latest iteration of the CFS calendar of meetings (circulated on 5 November), it was established that the observed congestion of the joint RBA calendar causes enormous difficulties for introducing changes to the CFS timetable. The Bureau also took note of the difficulties in reducing the number of CFS Bureau meetings, especially in light of the upcoming task of discussing the new MYPOW. After four hours of discussions, the Bureau decided to adjourn the meeting.

Annex 1: List of attendees of the Bureau Meeting

CFS Bureau Members:

Mr Mario Arvelo (CFS Chair / Dominican Republic); Ms Jiani Tian (China); Mr Luis Fernando Ceciliano, Ms Amarilli Villegas (Costa Rica); Mr Guillermo Rodolico (Argentina); Mr Gustaf Daud Sirait (Indonesia); Ms Valentina Savastano (Italy); Mr Don Syme (New Zealand); Mr Sid Ahmed Alamain (Sudan); Ms Liliane Ortega (Switzerland); Ms Sandrine Goffard, Ms Silvia Giovanazzi (USA).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Mr Felipe Carlos Antunes (Brazil); Mr Oliver Mellenthin, Ms Carolina Sainati (Germany) (Germany).

Observers:

Mr Damien Kelly (EU); Ms Patricia Rodríguez (Dominican Republic); Ms Gemma Cornuau (France).

CFS Secretariat:

Mr Mark McGuire (Secretary *a.i.*), Ms Françoise Trine, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Sylvia Orebi, Mr Gabriele Iallussi.