

CFS Bureau meeting

Dates: 20 September 2019

German Room, FAO

Bureau Meeting Outcomes - With Bureau Decisions

Agenda

1. Updates on preparations for CFS 46; CFS 46 Side Events; Drafting Committee Chair and composition
2. CFS policy convergence process on agro-ecological and other innovative approaches – Nomination of Rapporteur
3. CFS Advisory Group composition
4. Any other business

CFS Chair welcomed the CFS Bureau to the last meeting of the biennium and acknowledged the presence of new Bureau representative, Ms Silke Stallkamp of Germany, and newly-arrived CFS Secretariat member, Ms Sarah Longford.

CFS Chair noted that he and the CFS Secretary would share some updates with the Bureau under AOB. CFS Chair explained the reasons for not convening a joint Bureau and Advisory Group meeting in September, underlining that Advisory Group members had been invited by the Secretariat to provide any supplemental written comments to be shared via the CFS website.

1. Updates on preparations for CFS 46; CFS 46 Side Events; Drafting Committee Chair and composition

World Food Day scheduling

The Chair told Bureau members that he was recently informed by FAO's Office of the Director General that FAO's World Food Day celebrations will finish after lunch and that CFS will be able to reconvene in plenary hall by 16.00 at the latest in order to convene a full, three-hour session on "Agroecological and other innovative approaches" as envisioned by the Bureau. Any additional updates on the specific timing and preparations for that CFS session will be communicated to members by the Secretariat.

CFS Chair referred to the document 'CFS_Bur_2019_09_20_01_Update_on_CFS46' which lists the names of panelists and keynote speakers, noting that a CSM panelist, Ms Patti Rundall, policy director of International Baby Food Action Network – had been added, and that names of all panelists will be posted soon on the CFS 46 Session web page.

Bureau members were reminded of a strict three-minute time limit for delegation statements (five minutes for ministers or equivalent, and heads of constituencies). In light of these strict time limits, delegates will have the opportunity to post interventions online and, should they make a specific request to the Secretariat, can record a longer video statement.

Registration

CFS Secretary confirmed that, so far, there are 861 registered delegates, including 8 Ministers, two Vice-Ministers, and a State Secretary. CFS Bureau members were asked to inform their regional group

members that they should let the CFS Secretariat know as soon as possible about high-level participation in order to inform FAO Protocol. CFS Bureau members were informed that registration is extended until 9 October 2019.

Regarding the Friday morning Special Event on youth, CFS Bureau members were encouraged to include youth in their delegations wherever possible, and to provide the CFS Secretariat with their names and contact information.

There will be 54 side events and two launch events during CFS 46 plenary week. On Monday evening, there will be a sustainable aquaculture and healthy diets cocktail co-hosted by the Mission of Peru, the SDG2 Advocacy Hub, and the CFS Chair for which invitations to Permanent Representatives and Heads of Delegation will be sent shortly.

CFS 46 Session

The Bureau welcomed the strategic approach to Plenary planning taken by the Secretariat, acknowledging the overall balance in terms of the composition of sessions and other events. Bureau members especially commended the Secretariat's approach to side event planning, acknowledging the smooth way that a record number of applications had been sorted into a manageable number.

Further on the side events, the Chair commended the Secretariat for applying updated strategic criteria so that (as was done for CFS 45) the Chair could sign off on a list of side events equal to the number of available time slots, without resorting to using discretionary authority.

The Bureau also underlined specifically that the composition of panels was the responsibility of the Secretariat, and that no constituency should expect to be automatically included in each and every session, given the financial implications, and the need to embrace various constituent views.

Responding to questions on the rollout of agenda item V. (i.e., 'Urbanization and Rural Transformation') the Secretary explained that the 30-minute session would provide an update on two intersessional events convened during the last biennium, led by Ambassador Hans Hoogeveen (Netherlands) who led the Committee's work in this area.

Regarding the rollout for the item on the Decade of Family Farming, the Secretary explained that the 40-minute session would feature an introduction by FAO Partnerships Division Director followed by a keynote address by a senior Costa Rican official (the name of which will be shared by the Costa Ricans shortly). FAO and IFAD have opted to provide the keynote speaker with any technical inputs, as appropriate, while Indonesia offered to include as a speaker the head of its food security agency to offer their views on family farming.

Regarding the plenary session item on Food Systems and Nutrition, CFS Bureau members queried on the status of speakers, emphasizing their strong interest in having a retail sector perspective included among the panelists. The CFS Secretary informed the meeting that a non-PSM retail sector speaker was still being identified, and that the World Bank had confirmed its participation but had not yet provided the name of its panelist.

On the participation of a rural woman from Mali, that had been identified by IFAD as the keynote speaker for the item on the International Day of Rural Women, the CFS Chair explained the background of said item going back to CFS 45, the selection by IFAD of the speaker in question on a rotational basis among regions (whose participation-related expenses will again be covered by IFAD), and asked the Secretariat, in preparing subsequent plenaries, to inform the Rome-based delegations of future guests.

With reference to the Drafting Committee for CFS46, the CFS Chair informed that the Secretariat had yet to receive nominations from Asia and Africa. Finland offered to serve as chair of the Drafting Committee, and Bureau members recalled that the rules limit the Drafting Committee to tackling “technical changes” only and not to reopen what was agreed in plenary. The Chair and the Secretariat recalled that there is no rule on the number of countries that can participate in the Drafting Committee from any particular regional group, meaning that the concept of balance among regions is a political (i.e. not a legal) question to be addressed exclusively by the member States.

2. CFS policy convergence process on agro-ecological and other innovative approaches – Nomination of Rapporteur

The Bureau nominated H.E. Mohammad Hossein Emadi, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to FAO, and Chair of COAG, as the Rapporteur of the policy convergence process on “Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches.” This process will commence at CFS 46 and is expected to result in a set of negotiated policy recommendations to be presented for endorsement at CFS 47 in October 2020. A document outlining a timeline for this policy convergence process was shared, reviewed, and approved by Bureau members (Annex 2).

3. CFS Advisory Group composition

Concluding a rich debate that spanned the whole biennium, and after discussing background document CFS/Bur/2019/20/09/03, the Bureau approved Option 1, which reads “The CFS Bureau agrees with presenting to CFS 46 a draft decision to amend the membership of the CFS Advisory Group by elevating the status of the RBAs to ‘ex-officio’ and ‘extra-quota’ members of the CFS Advisory Group”, deciding to present to CFS46 a draft decision to amend the CFS Rules of Procedure related to the membership of the CFS Advisory Group, to adjusting the status of the three Rome-Based Agencies.

The text of the draft decision reads:

The Committee decides to amend paragraphs 1, Rule IV, of the CFS Rules of Procedure (RoP), as follows:

*The Bureau shall establish an Advisory Group from among representatives of ~~the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and other~~ organizations allowed to participate in the proceedings of the Committee under paragraph 11 of the CFS Reform Document and paragraph 3 of Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. **Representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development take part in the Advisory Group ex-officio.** The members of the Advisory group shall be appointed for a term of two years. 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.*

4. Any other business

CFS Chair informed the Bureau of a joint meeting of the Governing bodies of the RBAs held on 13 September 2019 at WFP headquarters and a meeting between the CFS Chair and Secretary with the UN Deputy Secretary General, Ms Amina Mohamed. To the CFS Chair’s proposal that the CFS Chair be invited to represent the Committee at any future joint meetings of the RBA Governing bodies, the

Bureau chose to revisit the proposal at a later date, following further discussion on the implications and modalities of such a request.

CFS Chair informed the Bureau of a letter sent to the Chair by the Secretary of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) requesting an audience with the CFS Bureau. The Chair explained that the request was more appropriate for the agenda of a future Bureau and Advisory Group meeting, but that the IPPC Secretary had been invited to attend CFS46. On a similar invitation to address the Bureau made by the chairperson of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Ms Anne Nuorgam, the Chair explained that he would meet her the same day and would similarly propose her to join a future Advisory Group meeting and attend CFS 46 to become better acquainted with participants and proceedings.

CFS Secretary informed the Bureau that delegates to the COP14 of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification held in New Delhi had passed an historic resolution on land tenure, specifically citing the VGGTs of CFS, and calling for additional technical support for implementation. This decision highlights the value and the relevance of CFS policy products and the Secretariat will be posting this important news on social media. The text of the decision is provided in Annex 3.

Annex 1: List of attendees of the Bureau Meeting

CFS Bureau Members:

Mr Mario Arvelo (CFS Chair / Dominican Republic); Mr Nazareno Montani (Argentina); Mr Li Jun (China); Mr Luis Fernando Ceciliano (Costa Rica); Mr Addisu Melkamu (Ethiopia); Mr Gustaf Daud Sirait (Indonesia); Ms Valentina Savastano (Italy); Mr Don Syme (New Zealand); Mr Sid Ahmed Alamain (Sudan); Ms Liliane Ortega, Mr Jacopo Schürch (Switzerland); Ms Emily Katkar, Ms Silvia Giovanazzi, Ms Kelli Ketover, Ms Alina Tashjian (USA).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Mr Felipe Carlos Antunes (Brazil); Ms Mi Nguyen (Canada); Ms Silke Stallkamp (Germany); Ms Traore Halimatou Kone (Mali); Mr Robert Fillon (Monaco).

Observers:

Ms Diana Infante, Ms Liudmila Kuzmicheva, Ms Patricia Rodríguez, Ms Maria Cristina Laureano (Dominican Republic); Mr Damien Kelly (EU Delegation); Ms Delphine Babin-Pelliard, Ms Gemma Cornau (France); Mr Zoltán Kálmán (Hungary); Ms Anne Mares (Iran); Mr José Luis Delgado, Ms María de los Ángeles Gómez Aguilar (Mexico).

CFS Secretariat:

Mr Chris Hegadorn (Secretary), Ms Françoise Trine, Ms Cordelia Salter, Ms Giorgia Paratore, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Mr Evariste Nicoletis, Ms Sarah Longford.

Annex 2: Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition - Proposal for a CFS Policy Convergence Process

The Executive Summary of the HLPE Report “*Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition*” was publicly launched on 3 July 2019. A placeholder for a policy convergence process has been included in the draft 2020-2023 MYPoW. The process will start at CFS 46; negotiated policy recommendations are expected to be presented for endorsement at CFS 47 in October 2020.

This document provides an overview of the main activities proposed for the expected policy convergence process, and a notional schedule for the 2019-20 intersessional period.

Activity	Timeframe	Comments
The Executive Summary of the HLPE report #14 on agro-ecological and other innovative approaches is launched	3 July 2019	
The Bureau decides who serves as process Rapporteur	20 September 2019	
CFS 46 Plenary session is held to highlight priority policy issues, considering the findings and recommendations of the HLPE Report#14	16 October 2019	
Notional Path Forward		
Stakeholders are invited after CFS 46 to provide structured inputs to feed an initial zero draft of a CFS policy convergence process, taking into account the main findings and recommendations of the HLPE Report and plenary discussion	Inputs to be provided by 29 November 2019	- All inputs are posted online - Inputs are consolidated by issues and shared in advance of an open meeting
Open meeting to discuss consolidated inputs	Second half of January 2020	Chaired by Rapporteur
A CFS Secretariat zero draft of policy recommendations is circulated	Mid-February 2020	All comments are posted online
Stakeholders are invited to provide comments in writing	Mid-March 2020	
The zero draft is revised by the CFS Secretariat using comments received, and circulated in all languages	Late April 2020	Version one of the proposal is circulated at least 1 month in advance of negotiations
Negotiation session is held to develop a final draft	26-27 May 2020	
Final draft is sent for translation	By end of July 2020	
CFS 47 Plenary endorses agreed results	October 2020	

Annex 3: Decision number 17 of the COP14 of UNCCD (ICCD/COP(14)/L.17)

United Nations

ICCD/COP(14)/L.17

Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.: Limited

12 September 2019

Original: English

Conference of the Parties

Fourteenth session

New Delhi, India, 2–13 September 2019

Agenda item 3 (c) (iii)

Effective implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional level

Follow up on policy frameworks and thematic issues

New and emerging issues: land tenure

Land Tenure

Draft decision submitted by the Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 5/COP.13, 7/COP.13, 27/COP.13 and 30/COP.13,

Noting the importance of land tenure within the framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Also noting the relevance of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to the implementation of the Convention,

Recognizing that tenure rights should take into account the rights of others and matters of public interest that promote general welfare, according to national legislation,

Also recognizing that responsible land governance is a fundamental component of sustainable land management and is important to addressing desertification/land degradation and drought,

Welcoming the work of the Science-Policy Interface on this issue, particularly the technical report on “Creating an Enabling Environment for Land Degradation Neutrality and its potential contribution to enhancing well-being, livelihoods and the environment”,

Also welcoming the initiative taken by civil society organizations to promote the discussion of land tenure in the context of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Taking note of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators that are relevant to tenure rights to land,

1. Encourages the Parties to follow the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security principles, taking into account the principles of implementation, in the implementation of activities to combat desertification/land degradation and drought and achieve land degradation neutrality;
2. Invites Parties to review and, where appropriate, adopt national land governance legislation and procedures in order to support sustainable land use and land restoration;
3. Encourages Parties to recognize legitimate tenure rights, including customary rights, consistent with the national legal framework;

4. Invites Parties to legally recognize equal use and ownership rights of land for women and the enhancement of women's equal access to land and land tenure security as well as the promotion of gender-sensitive measures to combat desertification/land degradation and drought and achieve land degradation neutrality, taking into account the national context;
5. Encourages the Parties to provide effective, timely and affordable access to justice and transparent dispute resolution mechanisms;
6. Also encourages the Parties to recognize and promote fair and inclusive community-based conflict resolution mechanisms;
7. Invites the Parties to ensure that measures to combat desertification/land degradation and drought are carried out in a non-discriminatory and participatory way so that they promote equal tenure rights and access to land for all, in particular vulnerable and marginal groups, within the national context;
8. Encourages Parties to promote responsible and sustainable private and public investments in combating desertification/land degradation and drought, including restoration programmes that adhere to environmental and social safeguards in line with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, and national legislation;
9. Requests the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, to explore options for the integration of existing globally agreed Sustainable Development Goal indicators relevant to land governance into the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification reporting process, with a view to avoiding duplication of reporting efforts and ensuring the widest reach among different national contexts;
10. Also requests the secretariat and invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant partners to collaborate to produce a technical guide on how to integrate the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security into the implementation of the Convention and land degradation neutrality, taking into account national contexts for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session;
11. Further requests the secretariat to explore options to be presented at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties on how, within its scope and mandate, to promote awareness-raising on responsible land governance for combating desertification/land degradation and drought among all stakeholders, particularly among vulnerable populations, including indigenous peoples and local communities;
12. Requests the secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at future sessions on the implementation of the present decision.