

CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meeting
Date: 28 and 31 January 2019
German Room, FAO

Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting Outcomes - With Bureau's Decisions

Agenda

1. CFS 46 Planning - Draft Provisional Agenda
2. Proposal for piloting a more efficient Side Events Request process for CFS 46
3. Sustainable Forestry and Food Security and Nutrition – Follow-up
4. Agroecological approaches and other innovations for sustainable agriculture and food systems – Follow-up
5. CFS Workstream updates
6. Any other business

The CFS Chair opened the meeting and informed that under Any Other Business (AOB) he would be giving an update on the CFS Chair's letter on the situation in Yemen. The CSM suggested, under AOB, to add (i) an update on the composition of the Advisory Group; and (ii) a proposal regarding follow up on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas which has been approved by the UN General Assembly.

1. CFS 46 Planning - Draft Provisional Agenda

The Chair introduced the item by pointing out that it had not yet been possible to determine the time allocated for World Food Day 2019 and, therefore, to produce a timetable. However, estimated time indications for each proposed item are included in the document. Also some agenda items are pending a Bureau decision.

It was suggested that the theme for the week should be the SDGs, as CFS 46 will be the first major global meeting following the SDG Summit in September. This proposal was welcomed, with suggestions made to refine it, as it is very broad. Suggestions included to focus on inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary partnerships that are delivering the SDGs (SDG17), or it could focus primarily on SDG 2.

It could also be an opportunity to link more with ECOSOC and UNDESA, which represents an opportunity to nurture linkages between CFS and UN processes both in New York and in Rome.

It was suggested to delete the last sentence concerning the agenda item on Food Systems and Nutrition, as Plenary will not be asked to provide inputs on the Zero draft Voluntary Guidelines. An additional sub-item should be foreseen for the ICN 2 Progress Reporting as established by CFS44 in 2016. This session should provide an opportunity for CFS stakeholders to showcase what they have done and provide a space to discuss progress in implementing policies and actions that are relevant to CFS work in nutrition. The inclusion of an Agenda item on rural women was welcomed, noting that the rural women should bring the perspective of the small-scale food producers and those most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition.

Some participants recalled the proposal to include a statement by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, which could be accommodated either in the SOFI or SDG session.

It was also proposed that the UN Decade on Family Farming should be included in the agenda to keep the momentum on this important theme.

Regarding posting delegate statements online, some expressed that having the list of speakers in the Final Report should be approached with caution, as it may not lead to the desired outcome. Others noted that links to other material such as presentations could also be included to make the outcomes of the Plenary session more interesting.

Bureau's decision:

The Chair and the Bureau noted that World Food Day (falling on Wednesday 16 October 2019 during CFS week) is an extremely important global event and the anniversary of FAO. However, in order for CFS to set its agenda for CFS 46, early clarification is needed on how much time should be allocated for its observance.

The Chair will send a message on behalf of the Bureau to FAO requesting clarity on the amount of time to be allocated to World Food Day noting that the draft Agenda of CFS 46 is already extremely full, and that four and a half days will be required for the Committee to complete its work. The Chair will also reach out to the Programme and Finance Committee Chairs and to the Independent Chair of Council noting that a balance is required in order to meet the needs of both World Food Day, FAO and CFS.

The Chair also made reference to WFD ceremonies in the past several years, the vast majority of which were kept to half a day.

The meeting recalled that having a more vibrant Plenary was one of the outcomes of the Evaluation. The proposal to use the SDGs as a theme for CFS was welcomed while it was felt that the subject was too broad. The Secretariat will consult with the SDG Technical Task Team for suggestions to refine the theme with a possible focus on SDG2, while keeping in mind the interconnectedness and interlinkages of all SDGs.

The Nutrition and Food systems session will focus on processes, providing an update on the preparation of the VG, and a sub item will be added to cover ICN2 Reporting as agreed at CFS 44.

It was agreed that the agenda item on rural women should bring the perspective of small-scale food producers and those most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition taking into account regional diversity. The Chair informed that preliminary conversations with IFAD indicate that they would once again help identify the rural woman and provide financial support for her participation in the Plenary.

A statement by the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food based on her more recent thematic reports should be included either under the SOFI or SDG item.

Recognition of the UN Decade on Family Farming should also be accommodated in the agenda.

It was agreed that delegate statements will be posted on line in the original languages used to deliver them, while links to other materials such as presentations could be added to the outcomes of Plenary to make it more interesting.

It was reiterated that everything forwarded to the Drafting Committee must first have been read out and agreed in Plenary. The Secretariat will flag important items that should be included in the Final Report for consideration by the Plenary.

The Bureau affirmed that the follow up to Agro-ecological approaches should not be rushed and, at CFS 46, the process will start. The item on Multi-stakeholder Partnerships will be kept as a placeholder in the draft provisional agenda of CFS 46 for now.

2. Proposal for piloting a more efficient Side Events Request process for CFS 46

The pilot proposal for introducing an expression of interest step into the Side Event Request process was generally welcomed. Suggestions were made to post all the expressions of interest on to a web page where everyone could see and identify opportunities for collaboration. It was felt that the maximum amount of transparency was needed in the Side Event process.

Bureau's decision:

Because of concerns about the timeframe for the proposed expression of interest stage being too short, the Bureau agreed that this initial phase could run concurrently with the request process (i.e. without a cutoff date).

The Chair noted the concerns by some Bureau Members regarding the role of the RBAs in the screening process of the side-events.

A page on the CFS website, which is accessible to everyone, will be populated with expressions of interest giving consideration to both transparency and privacy. This will allow those submitting requests to be put in touch with other Side Event organizers planning an event on a similar theme.

The Bureau recognized that, while several actors could submit event proposals on similar subjects, their vision, approach or expected outcomes could differ broadly.

The Bureau noted that, in light of the response to the Evaluation regarding the need to have more vibrant Plenaries and the currently limited crossover, better linkages are needed between the main Plenary session and the side events.

3. Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition – Follow-up

The Chair presented the rationale behind his proposal in the background document. The joint meeting was also reminded that no consensus was found at the November meeting.

It was requested that in addition to the Chair's proposal, the original option concerning a meeting in the context of CFS should be presented at the Bureau meeting on 31 January where a decision is expected to be taken.

Bureau's decision:

The Bureau agreed that a meeting to discuss the issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the policy convergence process, specifically the relation between commercial plantations and food security and nutrition, will take place in the context of CFS. The meeting will not imply the provision of interpretation (i.e. will be conducted in English only) or translation services or financial support to cover travel costs. No written outcomes will be produced at the end of the meeting. The HLPE report on Sustainable Forestry for FSN and the related CFS policy recommendations will be provided as background documents for the meeting.

It was agreed that the statements made during the meeting and/or submitted to the CFS Secretariat will be posted in the CFS working page.

It was agreed that half a day would be the appropriate length of the meeting while it was noted that September 2019 could represent a suitable month for convening it.

The COFO Secretary will be kept informed on the preparation of the meeting, and the statements will be forwarded to him.

4. Agro-ecological approaches and other innovations for sustainable agriculture and food systems – Follow-up

The Chair and the HLPE Coordinator informed participants of the launch of the report on Agro-ecological approaches and other innovations, to take place on 3 July 2019.

The joint meeting expressed general agreement for postponing the policy convergence process on agro-ecology to after CFS 46, so as not to rush the follow up process. It was also suggested that a placeholder be inserted in the MYPoW 2020-2023 for the follow up process on Agro-ecological approaches and other innovations for sustainable agriculture and food systems.

It was suggested to discuss at CFS46 the issues at stake identified by the HLPE Report and the added-value of CFS in addressing them.

Bureau's decision:

The Bureau agreed to postpone the policy convergence process to after CFS 46 to have sufficient time to fully discuss the conclusions and recommendations of the HLPE report, and to include a placeholder in the draft 2020-23 MYPoW. Some Bureau Members expressed preference for the process to be conducted in 2020. The timeframe will however have to be discussed and confirmed in the context of the MYPoW process, taking into account the workload over the 4 year period. Regarding the Plenary session, the Bureau agreed that it will provide an opportunity for CFS stakeholders to provide feedback on the content of the report and guidance for the policy convergence process.

5. CFS Workstream updates

At the joint meeting, the facilitator of the follow up process on Multistakeholder Partnerships for Food Security and Nutrition (MSPs) presented the results of his bilateral consultations. The main findings of these consultations are:

- Low awareness of the HLPE report on MSPs;
- MSPs are key mechanisms for CFS and CFS products to be better known and adopted at national and regional levels;
- Through the consultative process, some stakeholders expressed the preference for holding a classical negotiation process, based on the HLPE recommendations. However, the facilitator explained that this option will not be in the focus of the Options Paper since there was no consensus on having such a process;
- Most stakeholders suggested organizing an event during Plenary or an intersessional workshop, with the latter expected to lead to more meaningful results;
- The outcomes of such event could be either a Chair's summary, without any need for inputs into MYPoW 2020-23; or a light policy convergence process, leading to some policy recommendations. In this case, the focus could be on recommendations 3 and 4 of the HLPE report. Other stakeholders suggested that the focus could be on recommendation 1.
- Another suggestion was to apply the findings of the HLPE report to a CFS workstream, especially the one on food systems and nutrition. In this case, the objective could be to define the type of partnerships needed to implement the future voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition.

In the joint meeting, participants' suggestions and comments included:

- The possibility to apply the findings on MSPs to other workstreams (e.g. agro-ecology, as well as food systems and nutrition);
- The need to consider resources and workload when discussing MSPs follow-up;
- The suggestion to conduct a lighter process, which would be based on a collection of successful examples of MSPs;
- The suggestion to continue the workstream beyond 2020 and keep the original focus on financing food security and nutrition, as attracting more resources for FSN remains a priority;
- The encouragement to provide financial contributions to the process of MSPs follow-up.

Next steps include:

- An Options Paper to be presented to the Bureau between March and May 2019 for decision;
- and

- A placeholder to be included in the 2020-2023 MYPoW in case the option(s) agreed by the Bureau are implemented after CFS 46.

6. AOB

The joint meeting encouraged the Chair's Yemen letter to be shared more widely. Other ideas include sharing it with the UN Secretary General, the Special Envoy for Yemen, the President of the General Assembly, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Security Council.

Regarding the renewal of the Advisory Group, the Chair informed (a) that the Bureau, in the last meeting on this topic, agreed to seek legal advice from the Legal Counsel of FAO, (b) that the requested advice has been received, and (c) that the Bureau would be duly updated with a view to making a decision in due course.

Bureau meeting:

The Chair shared with the Bureau the legal advice received by the Legal Counsel of FAO and proposed to follow a no-objection procedure for extending the mandate of the Advisory Group until 4 March 2019.

The Chair informed the Bureau that the composition of the Advisory Group will be discussed at the next Bureau meeting, acknowledging that a final decision will require further consultations and debate.

The Chair updated the Bureau on the selection process of the CFS Secretary and informed that a candidate has been identified, the hiring process is about to be finalized and the CFS Secretary is expected to join the CFS Secretariat around mid-March.

The Chair acknowledged that the request from Bureau Members to examine the composition and role of advisory TTTs should be discussed in a future Bureau meeting.

The Chair also updated the Bureau on the process for renewing the HLPE Steering Committee, including (a) his request for members to receive similar sets of information on candidates as were shared in previous processes, and (b) his executive action, following consultations with the CFS and the HLPE Secretariats, extending the deadline for receiving candidatures to 15 February. On this point, the Chair made a plea for having better gender balance in future HLPE Steering Committees, calling for all submissions to include at least one female scientist for every male scientist put forward.

Annex 1: List of attendees of the joint Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting

CFS Bureau Members:

Mr Mario Arvelo (CFS Chair / Dominican Republic); Mr Nazareno Montani (Argentina); Ms Amarilli Villegas, Mr Luis Fernando Ceciliano (Costa Rica); Mr Haitham Abdelhady (Egypt); Mr Mitiku Tesso Jebessa (Ethiopia); Ms Ida Ayu Ratih (Indonesia); Ms Valentina Savastano (Italy); Mr Don Syme (New Zealand); Ms Liliane Ortega (Switzerland); Ms Emily Katkar, Ms Silvia Giovanazzi, Mr Andie Moore (USA).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Mr Felipe Carlos Antunes (Brazil); Mr Oliver Mellenthin (Germany); Ms Martine Garcia-Mascarenhas (Monaco).

Advisory Group:

Mr Máximo Torero, Mr Panagiotis Karfakis (FAO); Mr Shantanu Mathur, Ms Ruth Fianu (IFAD); Ms Stephanie Hochstetter, Mr Jacopo Valentini (WFP); Ms Stineke Oenema (UNSCN); Ms Marzella Wüstefeld (WHO); Mr Martin Wolpold-Bosien, Ms Azra Sayeed, Ms Mariam Aljaajaa, Ms Ramona Dumicioiu, Ms Nora McKeon, Ms Delphine Oriega, Ms Teresa Maisano, Mr Luca Bianchi, Ms Lisa Sallberger (CSM); Mr Brian Baldwin (PSM); Mr Fabrizio Moscatelli (BMGF); Ms Luisa Volpe, Ms Giulia de Castro (WFO).

Observers:

Ms Julia Vicioso (Dominican Republic); Ms Gemma Cornuau (France); Ms Novella Maugeri (UK).

CFS Secretariat:

Mr Mark McGuire (Secretary a.i.), Ms Françoise Trine, Ms Cordelia Salter, Ms Aya Shneerson, Ms Giorgia Paratore, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Mr Nathanaël Pingault (HLPE Coordinator).

Annex 2: List of attendees of the Bureau Meeting

CFS Bureau Members:

Mr Mario Arvelo (CFS Chair / Dominican Republic); Mr Nazareno Montani (Argentina); Ms Tian Jiani (China); Mr Luis Fernando Ceciliano, Ms Amarilli Villegas (Costa Rica); Mr Mitiku Tesso Jebessa (Ethiopia); Ms Ida Ayu Ratih (Indonesia); Ms Valentina Savastano (Italy); Mr Don Syme (New Zealand); Mrs Anna-Marie Moulton (South Africa); Mr Sid Ahmed Alamain (Sudan); Ms Liliane Ortega (Switzerland); Ms Emily Katkar, Ms Silvia Giovanazzi (USA).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Mr Felipe Carlos Antunes (Brazil); Ms Mi Nguyen (Canada); Mr Oliver Mellenthin (Germany); Ms Martine Garcia-Mascarenhas (Monaco); Ms Diana Calderón (Peru).

Observers:

Ms Delphine Babin-Pellier (France); Ms Novella Maugeri (UK); Mr Damien Kelly (EU Delegation); Ms María Laureano (Dominican Republic); Mr Evariste Nicoletis (HLPE Coordinator to be).

CFS Secretariat:

Mr Mark McGuire (Secretary a.i.), Ms Françoise Trine, Ms Cordelia Salter, Ms Aya Shneerson, Ms Giorgia Paratore, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Mr Nathanaël Pingault (HLPE Coordinator).