

Comments on the Zero draft of MYPOW 2020-2023

Chair,

- We would like to thank CFS Secretariat for preparation of Zero draft.
- We already received the instructions from the Capital on this document. I'm pleased to share with you some elements of these instructions.
- We appreciate the current size of the document, although there is always room for improvement. We propose to make it more technical and focused. So, some descriptive parts could be at least a little bit shortened.
- We recognized that CFS Secretariat tried to shorten the list of topics initially proposed by stakeholders. However, the Zero draft still contains 6 major workstreams (Agroecology, Nutrition, Gender, Conflicts, Youth and Inequalities), plus - a number of supportive activities. We still consider that it is too much for CFS for 4 year time period.
- My delegation would like to refer once again to some previous CFS decisions on this matter - we need "a feasible and realistic new MYPoW", it should "be prepared, taking into account resources and workload", and "the workstreams will be limited to enhance the quality and inclusiveness of the process" (document CFS 2018/45/3 adopted by CFS-45).
- So, we propose to focus on 1 or 2 workstreams for the next MYPOW.
- At the same time we fully support the initiative to include "Youth" workstream (item 2.1.4) as one of the major areas of work for the next 4 years.
- We also agree with the importance to organize in future the Forum or Dialogue on the implementation of CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (item 3.2.1). We consider it would be an useful uptake exercise after the adoption of the Guidelines.

Chair,

- I would like to refer to the last CFS Plenary, when we discussed the new MYPOW, my delegation expressed serious concerns on two proposed topics, namely "Conflict and Migration" and "Gender equality".
- However, both of these themes are appeared in the Zero draft.
- In our understanding the incorporation of topic "armed conflicts and forced migration" in MYPOW will definitely lead to politicizing of CFS activities and its products.

- We are not ready to discuss here in CFS the root causes of rising hunger in Syria and Yemen, for instants, or the food security in Iraq or Libya and what led these countries to the current situation. Are we capable, as CFS, to develop the recommendations that can be implemented in practice?
- We are confident that RBA and CFS do not have mandate and necessary expert potential to elaborate such issues as armed conflicts even in interaction with food security. We call upon not to invade competence of other UN bodies and foras.
- Moreover, we would like to remind that the part of this topic, which falls within the Committee's prevue, was already tackled by the Committee in 2014/2015 during the preparation of the "Framework for action on food security and nutrition in protracted crises".
- Thus, we oppose the inclusion of this topic in MYPOW.

Chair, let me continue with the "Gender equality".

- There are no doubts on the importance of women's empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition. "Gender" is a cross-cutting theme in FAO. We also endorsed a number of recommendations on the need to mainstream gender issues in CFS work. It is true.
- At the same time we have some doubts that "gender equality" should be tackled as stand-alone topic.
- The "Gender equality" topic was dealt by the CFS-37, which produced concrete recommendations. Between CFS-43 and CFS-44 we also held a special Forum on gender equality which produced its conclusions. Thus, we have a reasonable question: should we go on working on the same topic over and over again or should we consider other topics?
- Last time, when we discussed the same issue, my delegation mentioned already that UN-Women had recently elaborated the document "Challenges and Opportunities in Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Rural Women and Girl".
- It was agreed by consensus. It set out steps necessary to overcome persistent inequalities, discrimination and barriers faced by women and girls living in rural areas.
- UN-Women is a central UN body dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. What is the added value of CFS recommendations in this regard?
- So, we prefer to see other themes in the CFS MYPOW.