



25 February 2021 – 14:00 – 17:00

Virtual Open Meeting

Rapporteur's Summary

Item 1 - Negotiation process and working modalities

Rapporteur, H.E. Yaya Adisa Olaitan Olaniran (Nigeria) welcomed participants and recalled the objective of the open meeting, which was to set the stage for the upcoming negotiation of the draft Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and other Innovative Approaches (29-31 March, 4-7 and 10 May 2021).

Drawing on lessons learned from recent virtual negotiation processes, the Rapporteur:

- Suggested holding negotiation sessions during official working hours and avoiding evening/night sessions;
- Invited CFS stakeholders to share constructive and precise comments and avoid repeating known positions, to conserve limited time and to prevent multiple rounds of interventions on the same issue;
- Proposed that “Friends of the Rapporteur” meetings be convened in April to work on specific, unresolved paragraphs;
- Encouraged each “Friends of the Rapporteur” group to identify its own Chair who will report on the outcomes of the informal meetings at the start of the second round of negotiations;
- Suggested to start negotiations on the five policy recommendations first (paragraph by paragraph), then proceed with aligning and streamlining the preamble once the policy recommendations have been fully debated;
- Recommended using Draft One as the sole background document for negotiations.

General agreement was expressed with the Rapporteur's proposals. Additional points emerging from the open floor discussion included:

- The importance of not duplicating discussions already held in other governing bodies;
- The need to focus on Draft One, which is the result of several rounds of consultations, rather than adding new concepts and/or text;
- The need to ensure an inclusive process by considering the different time zones in the scheduling of meetings, providing interpretation of all official meetings and timely translation in all of FAO's official languages;
- The important role of the Technical Focal Points (TFPs) from FAO, IFAD, WFP and CGIAR providing technical advice during the process;
- The need to assign adequate time to discuss the preamble, possibly before the five sections of recommendations, in order to frame the overall negotiation process.

Agenda Item 2 & 3- additional comments on Draft One (Preamble and Policy Recommendations)

Main points emerging from the open floor discussion include:

- Support for inclusion of, and reference to, the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on food systems in the preamble;
- Support for the use of the HLPE report as the primary reference document, even if other relevant reports have emerged since its publication;
- Need to align text to reflect negotiations of the VGFSyN, to avoid lengthy debates over issues that were addressed in that process, e.g. 'planetary health';
- Suggestion to align para 4 of the preamble with VGFSyN;
- Suggestion to reformulate recommendations 2&3 (particularly 2a, 2f and 3w);
- Suggestion to delete the Annex of definitions;
- Suggestion to draw from the report "*Approaches to Sustainable Agriculture– exploring the pathways towards the future of farming*" (IUCN) which was published after the HLPE Report and provides a more exhaustive list of sustainable agriculture approaches than the one included in paragraph 10 of Draft One;
- Recognition of the complexity of defining agroecology, as highlighted by the HLPE report;
- Suggestion to amend the title of the recommendations to "agroecological and other **sustainable**, innovative approaches" in recognition of the critical importance of sustainability in this area;
- Suggestion to refer to the evidence SOFI 2020 in order to assess advantages and disadvantages of various food systems, and the cost of associated externalities linked to various systems and the costs/benefits of different approaches toward their transformation.

Agenda Item 4 – Wrap-up and Closing remarks

In thanking all stakeholders for their inputs, the Rapporteur noted that an overview of negotiation modalities and procedures, including on formation of "Friends of the Rapporteur" groups, will be shared with the OEWG ahead of the negotiations.

The Secretariat confirmed that negotiation sessions will be interpreted in all FAO official languages. A Secretariat's "clustering matrix" - containing the written comments received from CFS stakeholders on Draft One - will be available on the CFS website's "Working Space" on 5 March.