

## Policy Convergence Process on Agroecological and other Innovative Approaches for Sustainable Food Systems that ensure Food Security and Nutrition

### Concept note and proposed schedule for informal virtual discussions

**Challenge.** CFS stakeholders provided a range of often divergent feedback on the Zero Draft of the policy recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches. A summary of that feedback identified twelve issues that would benefit from further discussion among CFS stakeholders to facilitate additional needed convergence and to finalize Draft One for negotiations. In addition, the open meeting discussed the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic and impacts on global food security and nutrition, and its relevance to this workstream. the Rapporteur noted his intention, provided specific issues linked to this pandemic and policy responses are relevant to agroecological and other innovative approaches, and were based on existing available evidence, to incorporate such issues into the First Draft where appropriate.

**Response.** As announced during the Open Meeting on April 14, and confirmed during the Bureau meeting on April 17, the Rapporteur will hold a series of weekly virtual and informal group discussions to explore possibilities for promoting further convergence among stakeholders on the twelve issues cited above.

**Objective.** The objective of these informal discussions is to support the Rapporteur and Secretariat in developing a First Draft that will be further along in terms of convergence, thereby facilitating the negotiation process. The discussion groups will not be tasked with drafting specific text, but rather will discuss variant substantive positions and search for possible textual convergence.

**Participation.** Discussion groups will be held weekly (virtually, by Zoom) and will be open to all CFS stakeholders.

**Timeline.** The following table presents a tentative schedule. The topics of discussion were identified in the summary of feedback on the Zero Draft, “[Summary of Main Areas of Reflection](#)” which was shared with all CFS stakeholders prior to the open meeting of April 14.

	Tentative topic of discussion*	Date and time
1	Problem statement (situation analysis)	Thursday 7 May, 3-5pm

2	Identifying context-specific strategies for sustainable food system challenges (assessment, diagnosis and recommendations)	Thursday 21 May, 3-5pm
3	Agroecological and other innovative approaches (including digitalization)	Wednesday 27 May, 3-5pm
4	Right to Food; Stakeholders; Gender; Agency; Sustainable healthy diets	Thursday 4 June, 3-5pm
5	Markets; Incentives; Agrochemicals; COVID-19	Thursday 11 June, 3-5pm

\* The informal discussions aim to promote convergence on several controversial topics, therefore it is important to take a dynamic approach. Therefore the topic of each discussion session may be adjusted in the light of the outcomes of the previous discussion if necessary.

**Background note.** Prior to each of the discussion group meetings, the CFS Secretariat, under the guidance of the Rapporteur, will prepare a brief background note on the relevant issue to facilitate the discussions. These background notes will address the following points:

- a) Brief overview of HLPE report findings/recommendations;
- b) Summary of stakeholder feedback;
- c) Guiding questions for discussion and exploration of convergence.

**Facilitation.** The Rapporteur will facilitate the discussions with the support of a co-facilitator, selected from among permanent representatives. Each informal discussion will be guided by questions which will be shared in advance as part of the background documents (see above).

**Documentation.** Following each informal discussion, the CFS Secretariat will prepare a brief summary of the main points of view, which will be made available to all CFS stakeholders.