

CFS ADVISORY GROUP APPOINTMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

The CFS Bureau will be requested, at its meeting of 28 October 2019, to decide the composition of its Advisory Group. This document provides background information to facilitate the Bureau's decision: (i) recalling the roles and functions of the Advisory Group as defined in the CFS Rules of Procedure; and, (ii) providing information concerning the membership of the Advisory Group, including its most recent composition.

According to Paragraph 1, Rule IV (Advisory Group) of the CFS Rules of Procedure, *"the members of the Advisory Group shall be appointed for a term of two years"*.

II. ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE CFS ADVISORY GROUP

According to the CFS Reform Document, the *"function of the CFS Advisory Group is to provide inputs to the Bureau regarding the range of tasks which the CFS Plenary has instructed it to perform. Decision-making will be in the hands of the members States. It is expected that members of the Advisory Group should be able to contribute substantive work and provide advice to the CFS Bureau¹"*.

Paragraphs 3 and 4, Rule IV (Advisory Group) of the CFS Rules of Procedure, set the roles to be performed by the CFS Advisory Group:

3. *"Each member of the Advisory Group should be responsible for the establishment, maintenance and strengthening of regular linkages with organizations and entities within the category it represents with a view to:*

a) Promote the engagement of interested organizations and entities that are represented in each of the five categories of the Advisory Group in order to ensure a two way exchange of information during CFS inter-sessional periods;

b) Facilitate the participation and provision of inputs, comments and proposals regarding ongoing CFS activities from those entities represented in each category that could provide relevant contributions to CFS discussions;

¹ CFS Reform Document, paragraph 32. CFS 2009/rev.2

c) Assist the Bureau in the identification of important developments in the area of food security and nutrition at global, regional and national levels and raise awareness towards the ongoing activities carried out by the different entities represented in each category;

d) Contribute to the dissemination of CFS outcomes and deliberations.

4. At the end of each inter-sessional period, each member of the Advisory Group should prepare a report to inform the Bureau about the work carried out during the year to fulfil their roles. Particular attention should be devoted to the achievements obtained in involving their constituencies and facilitating a two way exchange of information and inputs among their stakeholders and the Committee.”

III. COMPOSITION OF THE CFS ADVISORY GROUP

In accordance with paragraph 32 of the CFS Reform Document and Rule IV, paragraph 1, of the CFS Rules of Procedure, the composition of the Advisory Group reflects the following five constituencies of CFS Participants:

a) UN agencies and bodies with a specific mandate in the field of food security and nutrition such as FAO, IFAD, WFP;

b) Civil society and non-governmental organizations particularly organizations representing smallholder family farmers, fisherfolks, herders, landless, urban poor, agricultural and food workers, women, youth, consumers and indigenous people;

c) International agricultural research institutions;

d) International and regional financial institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, regional development banks and the World Trade Organization;

e) Private sector associations and philanthropic foundations.

The Committee, during its 46th Session, endorsed a proposed amendment concerning the composition of the Advisory Group. CFS RoP, Rule IV, para 1:

“The Bureau shall establish an Advisory Group from among representatives of 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 Committee²".

The Committee had earlier endorsed, at its 42nd session, proposed amendments concerning the possibility to appoint *ad-hoc* Participants to contribute to the work of the Advisory Group. CFS RoP, Rule IV, para 5:

"The CFS Chair, after consulting the Bureau, may decide to appoint ad hoc Participants whose mandate would be limited to a particular topic, a specific activity and a limited period of time. The ad hoc Participants' expertise and background should add value to the deliberations and contribute to the work of the Advisory Group. The appointed ad hoc Participant could participate, with the right to intervene in discussions on the subject matters for which he/she was appointed, in the Joint Bureau and Advisory Group meetings."

² The number of Advisory Group members is currently 14, which exceeds the number of Bureau members including the Chair as a result of the decision taken at CFS 36 in 2010 to include the United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN) in the Advisory Group.

In the most recent past, the Advisory Group was made of:

UN Agencies/Bodies	CSOs/NGOs	International Agricultural Research Institutions	International Financial and Trade Institutions	Private Sector/Philanthropic Foundations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO • IFAD • WFP • WHO • UNSCN • UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSM • CSM • CSM • CSM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CGIAR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Bank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSM • The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (acting on its own, and others, account)

IV. DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY THE BUREAU ON 28 OCTOBER 2019

At its meeting of 28 October 2019, the Bureau is expected to appoint an Advisory Group, with FAO, IFAD and WFP serving as ex-officio members of the Advisory Group, per the decision cited above. The Bureau, therefore, has the opportunity to appoint up to 14 members to its Advisory Group, including three new members, at its choosing. Expressions of interest have already been received from the World Farmers' Organization, the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the United Nations Environment Program, the Parliamentary Front against Hunger, and the Central American Integration System.

The Bureau may wish to, through a process led by the Chairperson, decide to develop criteria for the selection and participation of new members to fill the three new seats available as a result of the CFS 46 rules change decision.