

**CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meeting  
And Bureau meeting**

**Dates: 23 and 24 June 2020 (14:00 - 17:00 and 09:30 – 12:30)**

**Venue: virtual meeting (via ZOOM)**

**Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting Outcomes  
- With Bureau decisions**

**Agenda**

1. CFS47 Contingency Plan (with Bureau decision)
2. Potential roles for CFS in response to COVID-19 (with Bureau decision)
3. CFS negotiations in 2020 (with Bureau decision)
4. CFS workstream on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment – *Bureau only*
5. Any other business

**1. Potential roles for CFS in response to COVID-19 (with Bureau decision)**

CFS Chairperson, Mr Thanawat Tiensin, opened the meeting and recalled the discussions at the 2 and 5 June meetings of the CFS Bureau. Rafael Osorio (Spain) briefly presented an Options Paper that was prepared with inputs from an informal working group he led to discuss the matter.

Overall, the Options Paper was well received and considered very useful to stimulate discussions, with participants welcoming the roles for CFS that were described in the paper.

A specific proposal was made to have CFS address and possibly consider validating guidance from FAO and WHO on protocols for food safety in markets/food processing plants, as described by FAO's Chief Economist and WHO's representative to the Advisory Group. Others drew attention to COVID-19 and its impacts on the resilience of the fisheries sector, particularly for Small Islands Developing States, smallholders and women.

The World Bank representative welcomed CFS validating guidance on the topic and offered that the Bank could develop country-focused questionnaires and/or frameworks to identify specific issues and challenges relevant to the Committee's present and future work on the topic.

Several participants of the joint meeting recommended that the CFS take a holistic approach in response to COVID-19, with activities encompassing all three strategic objectives of CFS, that is, platform, policy convergence, and uptake. In this light, IFAD announced that it is developing a database tool for CFS stakeholders to foster greater awareness and uptake of CFS various policy convergence products.

Last, several participants highlighted the important resource represented by the HLPE with respect to any CFS response to COVID-19 and its impact on global FS&N.

**Bureau decision:**

CFS Bureau welcomed the work done to prepare the Option paper, and in particular welcomed the organization of a high-level, special event in October 2020 to discuss the impacts of COVID-19 on FS&N, and showcase CFS's unique "platform" role allowing its Members and participants to share experiences and lessons-learned in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CFS Bureau agreed on leveraging existing knowledge and analytical work on the topic, including that produced by the HLPE, and welcomed integration of text, as appropriate, on policy responses to

pandemics in CFS's thematic workstreams (i.e. MYPOW 2020-2023 workstreams) with the aim of strengthening food system resilience.

As for whether or not to define a new, dedicated policy convergence process specific to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bureau recognized that a discussion and decision, if necessary, would need to be made in the context of a CFS plenary debate on the "Rolling Section" of the CFS MYPOW, in order to fully consider the Committee's overall priorities, resources, and workload issues.

Some Bureau members argued that since the COVID-19 crisis is still unfolding, their preference would be for continued, careful observation of the situation along with having the HLPE update its "Interim Issue Paper" ahead of the October high-level, virtual meeting. In addition, a Bureau member warned that a new, dedicated workstream on COVID-19 could lead to excessive workload, thereby undermining the current MYPOW implementation and the quality of CFS's future products.

The Bureau further approved the organization of an open CFS "webinar" or similar virtual event to be held before October 12, for which an informal working group will meet to discuss and plan its timing, substantive focus, and format.

## 2. CFS47 Contingency Plan (with Bureau decision)

During the joint meeting, participants expressed support for the option outlined under scenario three (a CFS virtual meeting from 13 to 15 October, with CFS47 postponed until 8-12 February 2021 as proposed by FAO). A number of questions were raised regarding the number of side-events, the timing of main sessions, and the possibility of taking "decisions" during such meetings. The CFS Secretary provided the rationale for the number of side-events proposed and the timing of the main session (which takes into account time zones and de-confliction with the World Food Prize and FAO plans for World Food Week. The Secretariat informed participants that an email would be sent soon to the Bureau and Advisory Group to solicit ideas and proposals for speakers, format, and other details of an October special event (pending Bureau approval). The Secretary also responded to questions on the official status of the event, and whether such a session could be considered a "plenary" for the purposes of deciding specific matters. Several participants requested that the topics covered by any October special virtual meeting and CFS47 plenary not be duplicative.

### **Bureau decision:**

The CFS Bureau considered the discussion with its Advisory Group, agreed that scenario three provided the way forward under current circumstances, and instructed the Secretariat to begin planning the organization of a CFS special event to be held from 13 to 15 October, from which a "Chair's Summary" will be produced and reviewed by the CFS Bureau. The provisional modalities for the CFS events in October are contained in the draft timetable contained in the revised options paper prepared by the Secretariat. The CFS Bureau recommended that the special event be rich in substance, raise the profile of CFS, and give it high-level visibility. Once the Outcomes document is finalized, the CFS Secretariat will communicate this decision publicly and solicit in writing ideas and proposals from the Bureau and its Advisory Group on the format and speakers for this special event, from which it will plan the three-day event.

The CFS Bureau agreed to FAO's proposal to hold CFS47 plenary session from 8 to 12 February 2021, which will be confirmed at the upcoming FAO Council meeting.

## 3. CFS negotiations in 2020

The CFS Chair presented a revised proposal concerning negotiations for the two ongoing CFS policy convergence processes. A number of Advisory Group members supported the idea of a "phased

approach" by which negotiations would take place (ideally in person) as soon as feasible - bearing in mind the importance of finalizing these two processes in time for an extraordinary CFS47 plenary session in early February 2021. The general preference was that CFS does not remain "frozen" or "inactive" during this critical time, and should be in a position to contribute its important products well ahead of the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit.

Some doubts were expressed regarding the feasibility of, and specific modalities for, launching virtual negotiations starting the week of 20 July, with questions posed on specific modalities expected for either fully-virtual or "hybrid" options for such negotiations. A suggestion was made to use the week reserved for CFS negotiations in late July for "preparatory" meetings, in lieu of commencing formal negotiations, to address controversial issues (similar to informal virtual meetings held to discuss the Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches workstream).

Regarding modalities for any "hybrid" negotiations, the CSM requested that they be allowed to have more than one delegate attend any in-person negotiations. Likewise, in response to a question regarding participation by the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, the CFS Secretary clarified that it was envisioned that all Advisory Group members (permanent and ad hoc) would be included in the negotiations, which will be reflected in any updated documents.

Once a decision is taken by the CFS Bureau on commencing negotiations, pending operational conditions from the Rome-based Agency that would host any "hybrid" negotiation process, the CFS Secretariat was asked to provide additional information on the specific modalities of the negotiation process, as well as the "ground rules" by which the two workstream heads (e.g., OEWG Chair and Rapporteur) will conduct those negotiations under the overall authority of the CFS Chair.

Some Bureau members stressed the importance of having broad agreement on a date to start negotiations, to ensure inclusiveness of the process and broad political commitment to the process. The Rapporteur for the policy recommendations on Agro-ecological and other innovative approaches proposed, since a negotiating text will not be ready in all FAO languages until late July, that those negotiations be held after the high-level, virtual CFS event in mid-October and finalized by mid-December.

#### **Bureau decision:**

The CFS Bureau considered the main ideas from the discussion with its Advisory Group, acknowledged the general preference of Members to hold physical negotiations, but recognized the low probability that in-person meetings can be held in the near future in any of the three RBAs Headquarters, even with a restricted number of participants. Despite this, keeping in mind the space reserved for CFS in July on the RBA calendar, and the need to conclude two negotiation processes by mid-December, the CFS Bureau decided that formal negotiations could only commence during the week of 20-24 July if an agreed hybrid option was available. The Chair and Secretariat, however, could consider using that week to further debate in open working group meeting format the draft Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems for Nutrition (VGFSyN).

Seeking to keep its options open as much as possible while recognizing practical constraints, the CFS Bureau agreed that the CFS Chair and Secretariat should determine, in close consultation with senior management of the three RBAs and the workstream chairpersons, where negotiations will take place, with clarity provided on relevant procedures to maximize transparency and inclusiveness during the process. Noting a clear order of preference expressed by CFS Bureau members and Advisors, every effort will be made to hold "in-person" negotiations (i.e. Options A or B – in person or "hybrid" format), or if not possible, by fully virtual means as early as possible. The CFS Bureau requested the Secretariat, through the Chair, to keep it informed of its deliberations with the RBAs on available options, particularly for any "hybrid" arrangement.

On the Agroecological and other innovative approaches process, the CFS Bureau members accepted, in principle, the facilitator's proposal to hold the negotiations between mid-October and mid-December, pending discussions with the Rome agencies on available dates and options, including availability of interpretation and meeting services.

#### 4. CFS workstream on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment – *Bureau only*

The CFS Secretary provided an oral briefing in response to questions raised by the representative of the Russian Federation, and to the benefit of all CFS Bureau members. The CFS Secretary noted:

- The “scoping paper” on Gender was the result of a Letter of Agreement at the end of 2019 signed between FAO and CARE-USA;
- FAO will retain ownership rights on this Paper and will utilize it as it deems appropriate;
- The scoping paper will be made public when completed, including to the CFS membership;
- This paper is intended to provide an up-to-date, quantitative analysis of the most-recent available evidence related to gender and food security and nutrition;
- In the absence of an HLPE report for this workstream (which was a decision taken earlier by the CFS Bureau and Plenary), FAO wanted such a paper to supplement its own input to the workstream, which would supplement other open-sourced papers, studies, and products;
- The LOA was approved under FAO's standard procedures through the ES Department, upon the recommendation of FAO's Gender Focal Point, who – along with other RBA gender focal points, recognized CARE-USA as a credible, appropriate source for this service, and;
- The scoping paper would be completed later this year, and will be an open-source document for public use.

#### 5. Any other business

No other business was discussed.

## Annex 1: Attendance list Bureau and Advisory Group meeting

### CFS Bureau Members:

Mr Thanawat Tiensin (CFS Chair / Thailand); Ms Wajiha Qazizadah (Afghanistan); Mr Mario Arvelo, Ms Patricia Rodriguez, Ms Maria Laureano, Ms Liudmila Kuzmicheva (Dominican Republic); Ms Delphine Babin-Pellier, Mr Jean Guedon (France); Mr Bommakanti Rajender (India); Ms Agnes Rosari (Indonesia); Ms Traore Halimatou Kone (Mali); Mr Ilya Andreev (Russian Federation); Mr Sean Cox (United States).

### CFS Bureau Alternates:

Mr Nazareno Montani, Mr Guillermo Spika (Argentina); Ms Elsa Simoes (Cabo Verde); Mr Fernando Ceciliano (Costa Rica); Mr Mohammad Hossein Emadi (Iran); Mr Baye Mayoro Diop (Senegal); Mr Rafael Osorio (Spain); Mr Tim Kränzlein, Mr Christopher Dancilovic (Switzerland).

### Advisory Group:

Mr Máximo Torero, Mr Mark McGuire (FAO); Mr Shantanu Mathur, Ms Jordana Blankman, Mr Sundeep Vaid (IFAD); Ms Stephanie Hochstetter, Mr Jacopo Valentini (WFP); Mr Michael Fakhri (UN Special Rapporteur Right to Food); Ms Stineke Oenema (UNSCN); Mr Rodney Cooke, Mr James Garrett (CGIAR); Mr Fabrizio Moscatelli (Gates Foundation); Mr Martin Wolpold-Bosien, Ms Ramona Domicioiu, Ms Teresa Maisano, Ms Azra Sayeed, Ms Nettie Wiebe, Mr Luca Bianchi, Ms Musa F. Sowe, Mr Saul Vincente, Ms Nora McKeon, Mr Andre Luzzi (CSM); Mr Brian Baldwin, Ms Rosemary Navarrette (PSM); Mr Francesco Branca, Ms Marzella Wustefeld (WHO); Ms Astrid Jakobs de Padua (World Bank).

### Observers:

Mr Hans Hoogeveen (Netherlands); Mr Damien Kelly (EU delegation); Ms Silke Stralkamp (Germany); Ms Angeles Gomez (Mexico); Ms Federica Veschi, Ms Supajit Sriariyawat (Thailand); Ms Serena Pepino (FAO).

### CFS Secretariat:

Mr Chris Hegadorn (Secretary), Mr Evariste Nicoletis (HLPE Coordinator), Ms Françoise Trine, Ms Giorgia Paratore, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Mr Waiganjo Njoroge, Ms Sylvia Orebi, Ms Tatiana Moruz, Ms Maryam Rahmanian.

## Annex 2: Attendance list Bureau meeting

### CFS Bureau Members:

Mr Thanawat Tiensin (CFS Chair / Thailand); Ms Wajiha Qazizadah (Afghanistan); Mr Mario Arvelo, Ms Maria Laureano, Ms Liudmila Kuzmicheva (Dominican Republic); XXX (Equatorial Guinea); Ms Delphine Babin-Pellier, Mr Jean Guedon (France); Mr Rommakanti Rajender (India); Mr Caka Awal, Ms Agnes Rosari (Indonesia); Ms Traore Halimatou Kone (Mali); Mr Diye Mohamed Teyib (Mauritania); Mr Don Syme (New Zealand); Mr Ilya Andreev (Russian Federation); Mr Sean Cox, Mr Paul Welcher (United States).

### CFS Bureau Alternates:

Mr Guillermo Spika (Argentina); Ms Mi Nguyen (Canada); Ms Elsa Simoes (Cabo Verde); Mr Federico Zamora, Mr Fernando Ceciliano, Ms Amarili Villegas (Costa Rica); Mr Mohammad Hossein Emadi (Iran); Mr Baye Mayoro Diop (Senegal); Mr Rafael Osorio (Spain); Mr Christopher Dancilovic (Switzerland).

### Observers:

Ms Federica Veschi, Ms Supajit Sriariyawat (Thailand); Mr Damien Kelly (EU Delegation); Mr Hans Hoogeveen (Netherlands); Ms Silke Stalkamp (Germany); Mr Ramzy Steno (Egypt).

### CFS Secretariat:

Mr Chris Hegadorn (Secretary), Mr Evariste Nicoletis (HLPE Coordinator), Ms Françoise Trine, Ms Giorgia Paratore, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Mr Waiganjo Njoroge, Ms Sylvia Orebi, Ms Tatiana Moruz.