

CFS Bureau meeting

Date: 26 and 29 November 2019

Venue: Lebanon Room, FAO

Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting Outcomes - With Bureau Decisions

Agenda

1. Feedback on CFS 46
2. CFS Work plan for 2019 - 2020
3. CFS Budget update and Resource Mobilization Strategy (RMS)
4. Update from the Chair of the Informal Bureau Working Group on Advisory Group Composition (Bureau only)
5. Any Other Business (AOB)

The CFS Chairperson opened the 26 November B&AG meeting and explained that participation in the meeting by the most recent members of the Advisory Group was on ‘ad hoc’ basis, until a new Advisory Group is formally appointed for the biennium 2020-2021. Before adopting the provisional agenda, the CFS Chair proposed allowing Alternate members speaking roles, and proposed including the following two item under AOB:

- a) Secretariat update on the participation of CFS in FAO’s 2020 Regional Conferences;
- b) Update on the discussions on the composition of the Advisory Group.

The CSM also requested an update on preparations for a UN Food Systems Summit and involvement of the CFS in this process.

1. Feedback on CFS 46

CFS Secretary provided highlights of the CFS 46 Plenary Session, sharing statistics on its (record) attendance, side events, and new elements introduced at this session, including surveys and communication tools. CFS Secretary also shared the results of a SurveyMonkey survey sent to CFS 46 attendees, that rated efficiency and organization, and provided feedback and suggestions for CFS 47 planning.

Advisory Group members provided additional feedback, with some having conducted additional surveys among their constituencies. Items raised by the Advisory Group members included: 1) maintaining a “theme” for CFS plenary sessions, to give focus to agenda items and bind together content in plenary and side events; 2) ensuring national statements are afforded proper time and importance, as well as time for floor interaction and engagement during panel sessions; 3) Highlighting the selection criteria for side events; 4) maintaining geographical and gender-balance on panels, and 5) using the FAO Atrium for a “marketplace” linked to CFS work and member interests.

The CFS Secretary noted that World Food Day will be on a Friday in 2020, which allows an opportunity to modify the format for CFS 47 taking into account survey feedback, written inputs, and feedback from Bureau and Advisory Group discussions.

Bureau and Advisory Group members were encouraged to send any written feedback on CFS 46 for posting on the CFS website.

Bureau meeting (this item was for discussion only)

Taking on board feedback from Advisory Group members at the joint meeting, survey results, and the background paper (BurAG/2019/11/26/01), the Bureau expressed appreciation for the efforts made to deliver an impactful plenary session that met the needs and expectations of its stakeholders. In particular, the Bureau highlighted their interest in:

- Having a clear process for CFS 47 to deliver a more substantive final report that reflects and summarises the content of the discussions in plenary, accompanied in some manner with other documentation such as a verbatim record.
- Having more clarity about which agenda items in plenary are for information, discussion, and/or decision, expected outcomes for each agenda item, and framing of debates using background documents.
- Ensuring a rational balance between vibrant panel discussions and formal interventions of stakeholders, which can then be used to reflect and summarise the content of the discussions in the final report.
- Limiting the number of agenda items for CFS 47, and reducing the number of panel members, to allow for more dialogue and interaction with/from delegates.
- Trying to link side events more closely to plenary agenda items.
- Assuring adequate time for national statements, while maintaining time allocations used at CFS 46.
- Continuing allowing the possibility of, on a voluntary basis, recording video-statements and/or sending written statements for posting on the website in lieu of plenary statements.
- Accepting full ownership and responsibility, together with the Chair and Secretariat, for CFS 47 plenary session planning and implementation.
- Seeing additional focus on regional issues, concerns, and analysis.
- Continued examination of impact of decisions taken at CFS and the uptake and utilization of CFS policy products.

The Bureau noted that it was premature to determine how CFS might potentially play a role in any UN Food Systems Summit as the UN Secretary General has not yet formally announced it; nevertheless, the Bureau recognized that CFS products, past and present, are very relevant to such a Summit and the issue should be further debated.

The CFS Secretary confirmed that side events are never scheduled at the same time as plenary sessions, and that FAO's SOFA report launch was organized by the host agency, and was intended for journalists and other guests.

The CFS Chair closed the discussion by re-emphasizing the critical importance of plenary planning being a shared process between the Bureau and Secretariat, to include a clear process to agree in advance to produce a substantive final report.

Follow up actions

- The CFS Secretariat will take these inputs into account in planning for CFS 47, and will present various scheduling options at the next Bureau meeting;
- Bureau and Advisory Group will agree to a clear process to ensure a more meaningful final plenary session report – one that more faithfully reflects and summarises the full content of discussion and debate in plenary.

2. CFS Work plan for 2019 – 2020 (for Bureau’s decision)

CFS workstream on Food Systems and Nutrition

With regard to the work plan for 2019-2020, participants requested that draft documents be translated into all six official UN languages at least one month prior to text negotiations. Members requested that the OEWG meeting scheduled for 29 January be extended to an all-day session to allow enough time for CFS stakeholders to provide feedback on Draft One. The Secretariat was requested to organize an additional OEWG meeting in April to share initial views on the first draft prepared for negotiation, after its release in March.

CFS workstream on Agroecological and other innovative approaches

The process Rapporteur commented on the complexity of the topic and requested “flexibility” from members during the process to ensure more meaningful results. Participants of the meeting requested that the open meeting scheduled for 27 January 2020 be a full day meeting and, if possible, interpreted in all UN languages, dependent upon the availability of resources. In that regard, France announced its intention to contribute 50,000 EURO to the CFS Secretariat for this workstream, including for linguistic services.

CFS Global Thematic Event (GTE) on the CFS Framework For Action (FFA).

In order to highlight the importance of all members to prepare for the GTE, the Secretariat was requested to share the timeline of the monitoring process.

CFS Bureau and Advisory Group content plan

Some participants in the joint meeting requested that joint Bureau and Advisory Group meetings be afforded a full day, vice half day, to allow for inclusive and comprehensive discussions. Members welcomed inclusion in future joint meeting agendas of substantive topics for debate, such as participation of youth in CFS, CFS’s possible role in the preparation of a UN Food Systems Summit, and/or urbanization and rural transformation issues.

The CFS Secretariat took on board a request to explore with the HLPE coordination unit whether two reports could be prepared simultaneously in 2022 by the Panel, one on Data collection and analysis tools, and the other on Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition. The Secretary responded that the MYPOW and its annual “rolling section” review process was the appropriate process for any such schedule revisions. The Secretariat was requested to share a staff list with members that includes staff names, contact information, and respective portfolios.

The CFS Secretariat noted that a few items had yet to be added to the notional workplan: i) the launch of the HLPE “Synthesis Report” likely in June/July 2020; ii) a potential monitoring event on the use of CFS policy recommendations on Water for food security and nutrition, and Food security and climate change (linked to SOFA report theme for 2020); and iii) other outreach/implementation activities which CFS Secretariat might be requested to support by the RBAs.

Bureau meeting decisions:

The Bureau agreed with the notional 2019-2020 workplan, as presented in the joint Bureau and Advisory Group meeting, with minor amendments presented thereafter at the Bureau meeting. The Bureau recognized that the document was a “living document” for which minor adjustments would likely be made throughout the year and communicated to members.

CFS workstream on Food Systems and Nutrition

The Bureau agreed with the following amendments to the workplan:

- a) The OEWG meeting on 29 January will be a full-day meeting.
- b) The language versions of the Final Draft of the Voluntary Guidelines for negotiation will be made available by mid-April, at least one month ahead of the negotiations.
- c) An additional OEWG meeting will take place in April to share initial views on the final version of the Voluntary Guidelines for future negotiation.
- d) Dates of the negotiation session for July were added (22-24 July).

The agreed workplan is available as Annex 1.

CFS Bureau and Advisory Group content plan

The Bureau agreed that some joint meetings of Bureau and Advisory Group could be scheduled for a full day, depending on its provisional agenda and room availability. The Bureau took note that, as in past years, one or more of these meetings may be hosted by WFP or IFAD.

Follow up actions

- The CFS Secretariat will share with the Bureau a list of CFS Secretariat staff members with respective portfolio of responsibilities and their contact details.
- CFS Secretariat will revise the content plan of CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meetings and plan them accordingly.

3. CFS Budget update and Resource Mobilization Strategy (RMS) (for Bureau's decision)

During the joint meeting, the CFS Secretary shared an update on the budget as of 31 October 2019 and pledged to share a final report on the 2019 budget during the 1st quarter of 2020. The CFS Secretary highlighted substantive savings in the execution of the CFS 46 plenary session, and informed of activities the CFS Secretariat is exploring to utilize the remaining balance.

The CFS Secretary made a presentation on the Resource Mobilization Strategy, stressing the ongoing efforts by the Chair and Secretariat to connect their respective communications and outreach efforts with opportunities for travel and bilateral meetings, including with the private sector, foundations, and other potential partners. The Secretary requested Bureau members to play a direct role by serving as "champions" for specific thematic workstreams, and by helping the Chair and Secretariat to identify opportunities for advocacy and resource mobilization with their capitals and in their regions to support the CFS 2020-23 MYPoW.

Bureau meeting decisions:

Bureau asked for some clarifications on the budget presentation, which were addressed by the CFS Secretary. The 2019 contribution level from IFAD was explained by the IFAD representative, who expressed the intention that the respective budget shares among the three RBAs would be more equal in the future.

With regard to the Resource Mobilisation Strategy, the Bureau requested the CFS Secretariat to revise the Resource Mobilization Strategy document to include the private sector as a potential source of funding (with appropriate safeguard measures). Furthermore, the Secretariat was requested to focus attention on diversifying the CFS donor base. A decision on endorsement of the Resource Mobilisation Strategy was postponed to the next Bureau meeting.

Follow up actions

- CFS Secretary to provide a 2019 budget update in the first quarter of 2020, taking into consideration observations made by Bureau members.

- CFS Secretariat to revise the Resource Mobilisation Strategy to include the comments on the role of the private sector, noting linkages with communications and outreach efforts.

4. Update from the Chair of the Informal Bureau Working Group on the Advisory Group (Bureau only)

CFS Vice-Chair, and Chair of the Informal Bureau Working Group, provided an update on the status of the discussions on the renewal of the Advisory Group. He informed that the Informal Bureau Working Group met in early November, following which the CFS Secretariat circulated: i) letters of expression of interest received from parties interested in joining the Advisory Group; ii) advice from the FAO Legal Counsel; iii) and, a draft questionnaire to prospective applicants to inform decision-making on the selection of the next CFS Advisory Group. The Informal Bureau Working Group, the group was told, is expected to meet next on 16 January 2020.

Follow up actions

- CFS Secretariat to circulate the questionnaire to prospective members of the Advisory Group;
- Informal Bureau Working Group to meet on 16 January 2020.
- Invitations to the January meetings of Bureau will be sent to the same group that attended the 26 November meeting.

5. Any Other Business

CFS Chair noted that he would participate in all five formal FAO Regional Conferences in 2020, and that CFS Secretariat would organize side events at each to increase CFS visibility and awareness at regional and national levels. CFS Chair noted other bilateral meetings with CFS members and stakeholders since his election.

Regarding a Food Systems Summit in 2021, CFS Chair informed that the UN Secretary General has not yet formally announced the Summit, however he thinks the forthcoming CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition would be an important input to such a summit, as well as to the Nutrition for Growth Summit in Japan scheduled for December 2020. In both events, he added, active involvement by CFS would showcase the unique and valuable multi-stakeholder approach that characterizes the CFS. The HLPE's Synthesis Report is another important contribution from CFS at those events.

Annex 1: Workplan of CFS workstream on Food Systems and Nutrition
(November 2019 – October 2020) – updated 29 November 2019

PHASE 3 – PREPARATION AND DISCUSSION OF DRAFT ONE: NOVEMBER 2019-FEBRUARY 2020	
Food Systems and Nutrition OEWG meeting to discuss the outcomes of the regional consultations and the E-consultation	29 November 2019
Sharing of Draft One, incorporating the inputs of the May 2019 OEWG meeting, the E-Consultation and the outcomes of the regional consultations	December 2019 (language versions will be available by January 2020)
Food Systems and Nutrition OEWG meeting to discuss Draft One of the Voluntary Guidelines	29 January 2020 (full day)
Written comments, inputs and suggestions from OEWG members to feed preparation of the final version of the Voluntary Guidelines	From December to 5 February 2020
PHASE 4 - PREPARATION AND NEGOTIATION OF THE FINAL VERSION: MARCH 2020-MAY 2020	
The Final Version of the Voluntary Guidelines is circulated for the negotiation	March 2020 (language versions will be made available by mid-April)
Food Systems and Nutrition OEWG meeting to share initial views on the final version of the Voluntary Guidelines circulated for future negotiation	14 April 2020
Negotiation of Final Version of the Voluntary Guidelines	11-15 May 2020
Negotiation of Final Version of the Voluntary Guidelines	22-24 July 2020
PHASE 5 – ENDORSEMENT OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES: OCTOBER 2020	
The CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition are endorsed by the Plenary	October 2020

Annex 2: List of attendees of the Bureau and Advisory Group meeting

CFS Bureau members:

Mr Thanawat Tiensin (CFS Chair / Thailand); Mr Felipe Carlos Antunes (Brazil); Ms Julia Vicioso, Ms Patricia Rodríguez, Ms Liudmila Kuzmicheva (Dominican Republic); Ms Delphine Babin-Pelliard, Ms Gemma Cornau (France); Ms Traore Halimatou Kone (Mali); Mr Abdelaziz Tomi (Mauritania); Mr Don Syme (New Zealand); Mr Ilya Andreev (Russian Federation); Ms Kelli A. Ketover (USA).

CFS Bureau alternates:

Mr Luis Fernando Ceciliano (Costa Rica); Mr Mohammad Hossein Emadi (Iran); Ms Ajamal Fadia (Oman); Mr Rafael Osorio (Spain); Mr Tim Kranzlein (Switzerland); Ms Mi Nguyen (Canada).

Advisory Group:

Mr Máximo Torero, Mr Mark McGuire (FAO); Ms Jordana Blankman, Mr Shantanu Mathur (IFAD); Ms Stephanie Hochstetter, Mr Neal Pronesti (WFP); Ms Francesca Distefano (UN Special Rapporteur Right-to-Food); Ms Marzella Wüstefeld (WHO); Ms Stineke Oenema (UNSCN); Mr James Garrett (CGIAR); Mr Fabrizio Moscatelli (Gates Foundation); Mr Martin Wolpold-Bosien, Ms Ruth Gaha Morris, Ms Christiana Louwa, Mr André Luzzi, Mr Khalid Khawaldeh (CSM); Mr Brian Baldwin, Ms Robynne Anderson (PSM).

Observers:

Ms Silke Stallkamp (Germany); Mr Damien Kelly, Ms Isabel Paliotta (EU Delegation); Mr Luca Bianchi, Ms Nora McKeon (CSM); Ms Cristina Brovia (LVC); Ms Supajit Sriariyawat, Ms Federica Veschi (Thailand).

CFS Secretariat:

Mr Chris Hegadorn (Secretary), Ms Françoise Trine, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Ms Sarah Longford, Mr Seunghyeon Seo.

Annex 3: List of attendees of the Bureau meeting

CFS Bureau members:

Mr Thanawat Tiensin (CFS Chair / Thailand); Mr Felipe Carlos Antunes (Brazil); Mr Mario Arvelo, Ms Diana Infante, Ms Liudmila Kuzmicheva (Dominican Republic); Ms Delphine Babin-Pellier, Ms Gemma Cornau (France); Mr Gustaf Daud Sirait (Indonesia); Mr Boomakanti Rajender (India); Mr Don Syme (New Zealand); Mr Ilya Andreev (Russia); Ms Kelli Ketover, Ms Silvia Giovanazzi (USA).

CFS Bureau alternates:

Mr Nazareno Montani (Argentina); Mr Manash Mitra (Bangladesh); Ms Mi Nguyen (Canada); Mr Luis Fernando Ceciliano (Costa Rica); Mr Mohammad Hossein Emadi (Iran); Ms Ajamal Fadia (Oman); Mr Baye Mayoro Diop (Senegal); Mr Rafael Osorio (Spain); Mr Tim Kranzlein (Switzerland).

Observers:

Mr Damien Kelly, Ms Isabel Paliotta (EU Delegation); Ms Silke Stallkamp (Germany); Ms Supajit Sriariyawat, Ms Federica Veschi (Thailand).

CFS Secretariat:

Mr Chris Hegadorn (Secretary), Ms Françoise Trine, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Ms Sarah Longford, Mr Seunghyeon Seo.