

CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meeting

And Bureau meeting

Dates: 29 July (14:00 – 17:00) and 30 July 2021 (9:00 - 13:00)

Venue: virtual meetings (via ZOOM)

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

Agenda

1. CFS 49 Draft Decisions and Conclusions (with Bureau decision)
 - a) SOFI 2021
 - b) VGs on Food Systems and Nutrition
 - c) UNFSS and Implications for CFS
 - d) MYPoW Rolling Section
 - e) VGs on Gender Equality
 - f) Youth Engagement/Employment
 - g) Monitoring, Climate/Water
2. CFS Workstreams Updates
3. CFS and UNFSS
4. Appointment of the Chair of the CFS OEWG on GEWE (Bureau only)
5. Any Other Business

CFS Chairperson, Mr Thanawat Tiensin, opened the meeting and welcomed members, participants and invited guests, including Patty Fong from the Global Alliance for the Future of Food; Sara Farley of the Rockefeller Foundation; and Fabrice DeClerck and Olav Kjørven of EAT.

The CFS Chairperson presented the agenda, and proposed to start the meeting with a discussion on the just concluded UNFSS pre-Summit. With this change, the Provisional Agenda was approved.

Before starting the meeting, the CFS Chairperson informed participants that the meeting would be recorded for internal use by the CFS Secretariat.

1. CFS and UNFSS

Responding to the Chair's request for feedback, participants expressed mixed feedback on the UN Food Systems Pre-Summit just concluded. For some, the three-day Pre-Summit was successful and quite comprehensive concerning issues discussed and solutions proposed; for others, the Pre-Summit failed its stated objectives, was neither inclusive nor transparent, and did not sufficiently engage Member State views.

Overall, it was underlined that the most important reference to the CFS was made by the UN Deputy Secretary General in her closing remarks, where she stated that no new structures would be established after the Summit, and referred to CFS as an "essential platform" that needed to be "more responsive."

For some Members, the UNFSS “Action Coalitions” need to be driven by Member States, who should also have the possibility to contribute to the UN Secretary General’s Statement of Action. CGIAR pointed to a lack of any scientific discussion during the pre-Summit, although recognized that the UNFSS “Science Days” were held only a few days before the Pre-Summit. PSM expressed disappointment at the absence of an Action Coalition on healthy soils, but welcomed the focus on measurement and metrics, for which there is a clear link with CFS’ workstream on data collection and analysis tools.

FAO stated its support for the Action Coalitions, and to a question from the CFS Chair about how to improve the CFS in response to the Summit, FAO Chief Economist answered that CFS has its own mandate and constitution, that there is a call for a stronger CFS as an outcome of the Summit, and that CFS can take advantage of this demand, but it is up to CFS to decide, focussing on its comparative advantages, and complementing the work of others.

In a strongly worded statement, the Dominican Republic requested to provide clear explanations and details in regards to CSM’s letter dated the 19th July addressed to Dr. Kalibata, Special Envoy of the UNFSS. Quoting a French philosopher, “Those who are absent are always wrong”, the DR delegate informed that many Delegates with whom they have spoken to during these Pre-Summit days think that in addition to being a boycott of the process, this letter seems to constitute a sabotage of the process, especially during these uncertain times, and informed that they would request the Bureau to address, in a future meeting, the CSM’s letter to the UNFSS Special Envoy dated 19 July 2021. The DR representative also recalled that the Legal Office informed the Bureau that CSM “does not have a monopoly to represent civil society in CFS.” The Dominican Republic speaking with some constituencies received the feedback that many civil society entities do not feel represented by CSM, and their letter of 19 July does not represent a majority view of civil society organizations.

CSM voiced its concerns about the governance of the UNFSS, including their view that there is a lack of transparency and accountability of the process and its outcomes, which prompted their decision not to participate. Instead, CSM organized its own autonomous “counter-event” during the Pre-Summit week. They recalled a video conference with the UN Deputy SG, arranged by the CFS Chair, in which the DSG acknowledged their right to protest while inviting them to voice their complaints during the pre-Summit. Their representative encouraged CFS to focus only on its MYPoW and its two ongoing policy workstreams - Gender and Youth.

The BMGF representative was pleased that new groups and voices had been included in the pre-Summit, including those from the global south, and offered its support to make CFS ‘more responsive.’

Following this introduction, the CFS Chairperson invited guests from the Rockefeller and EAT Foundations to present their ‘Game-Changers Lab’ initiative along with their background paper floating the notion of collaborative engagement with the CFS. The initiative has identified 24 thematic solution clusters on how to improve food systems (making reference to various CFS products). The presenters queried whether CFS could help socialize the initiative among its members and participants consistent with CFS’ mandate and workplan. Questions were raised about the initiative, including how it would be connected to Summit “coalitions,” and how its managers would avoid cost-intensive ‘top-down’ prescriptive solutions, while others insisted that CFS prioritize implementation of its MYPoW and ignore such requests from potential partners for collaboration.

Bureau discussion:

Dominican Republic re-stated its views on the CSM and their refusal to engage with the UNFSS, and expressed strong interest in the Game-Changers Lab initiative presented at the Bureau and AG meeting.

Brazil informed that countries of the Americas, under the framework of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, had agreed to a 16-point message on the UN Food Systems Summit, and requested their message be shared with the CFS Bureau.

2. CFS Workstreams Updates

CFS Chair updated the Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group members on his participation in several outreach events during July to raise the visibility of CFS, and awareness on its policy guidance, including at the HLPF, the UNFSS pre-Summit and several affiliated events.

Switzerland requested that both the next round of workstream updates and the CFS 49 session on the MYPoW Rolling section include information on what activities will be undertaken to promote uptake of the recently approved policy recommendations on agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition. The CFS Secretariat informed that a meeting has already been called with the technical focal points of FAO to discuss promoting awareness, use, and implementation of the recommendations. He added that work is ongoing with members of UN Nutrition and others to promote awareness, use and implementation of the VGFSN, including a new digital information platform unveiled on 26 July 2021 and available on the CFS public website.

Brazil asked that the session document on the MYPoW Rolling section prepared for CFS 49 be revised to more clearly identify any changes to the original MYPOW including what has been accomplished so far.

3. Appointment of the Chair of the CFS OEWG on GEWE (Bureau only)

The CFS Chair recalled that Ms Satu Lassila had concluded her mandate as Chair of the GEWE OEWG, and that the Secretariat had sent a request for nominations for a new OEWG Chair, with a deadline of 15 July.

The CFS Chair informed that the Secretariat had received a single nomination within the deadline from the Government of Finland for Ms Tanja Grén, new Permanent Representative of Finland to the RBAs.

The CFS Bureau welcomed the nomination and unanimously confirmed the selection of Ms Tanja Grén as new GEWE OEWG Chair.

4. CFS 49 Draft Decisions and Conclusions (with Bureau decision)

CFS Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group members reviewed and commented on draft decisions and conclusions prepared for CFS 49.

Bureau decision

All Draft Decisions and Conclusions, as agreed by the Bureau, are attached as an annex (see annex 3) to this document.

France proposed an Open-Ended Working Group be formed in early September to discuss potential implications of the Summit and its follow-up on CFS consistent with its mandate and existing mechanisms. The issue was too important, they argued, for the Members not to give serious consideration to how the Summit might impact CFS, its HLPE, and its future Program of Work. Following a discussion over whether an OEWG or a Group of Friends of the Chair was the more appropriate approach, the Bureau agreed that it would hold an extraordinary meeting immediately after the Summit in late September to discuss the issue in advance of the CFS 49 session (The CFS Secretariat has identified 29 September (AM) on the RBA calendar for this Bureau meeting).

5. AOB

CFS Chair welcomed Felipe Dizon as the new representative of the World Bank Group in the CFS (ad hoc) Advisory Group, thanked Astrid Jacobs for her work, and wished her success in her future endeavours.

France asked whether the CFS Bureau meeting of 8 September will be held in person in FAO. CFS Secretariat will be consulting with FAO on this request.

CFS Secretariat shared a note from FAO Legal Counsel on the selection process for the CFS Chairperson, informed that only one candidate had publicly announced their candidacy to that moment, and that should any more than one formal nomination be received before the 10 September deadline the CFS Secretariat would prepare the mechanisms for a contested election process, if necessary. Responding to a question on regional nominations for members of the next CFS Bureau and Alternates, the Secretary confirmed that such nominations could be received up to the start of the 49th session, but were welcome much sooner, if possible. Nominations were also being sought for members of the Drafting Committee and for its Chairperson.

CFS Secretary informed that the Guide to CFS 49 will come out in the next few weeks, which will include details on each session of the Agenda. He asked that the Secretariat be informed if any Ministers would like to take part in any of the CFS 49 sessions as a panellist for planning purposes.

Last, he invited all members to have a look at the revamped CFS public website, which includes a brand new digital platform and video on the CFS VGFSN, and links to speaker remarks from the CFS-led parallel event organized as part of the pre-Summit. These remarks include a video-taped statement by the President of Sri Lanka, a statement by the Minister of Agriculture of Cameroon, and statements from the CFS Chair, the Chair of UN Nutrition, the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, the Chair of the CFS HLPE Steering Committee, and the head of the PSM of CFS.

Annex 1: List of attendees of the joint Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting

CFS Bureau Members:

Mr Thanawat Tiensin (CFS Chair / Thailand); Mr Guillermo Spika (Argentina); Mr Felipe Antunes (Brazil); Ms Agnes Rosari, Mr Caka Awal (Indonesia); Mr Don Syme (New Zealand); Mr Ilya Andreev (Russian Federation); Mr Andrian McAdams, Ms Maria Adelaide D’Arcangelo (United States).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Ms Berioska Morrison, Ms Diana Infante, (Dominican Republic); Ms Delphine Babin-Pellier (France); Mr Baye Mayoro Diop (Senegal); Mr Tim Kranzlein, Ms Laurence Jeangros (Switzerland).

(ad hoc) Advisory Group:

Mr Maximo Torero Cullen, Mr Mark McGuire (FAO); Mr Shantanu Mathur, Ms Jordana Blankman, Ms Ruth Fianu (IFAD); Ms Alessandra Mora (UNN); Ms Marzella Wustefeld (WHO); Mr Felipe Dizon (World Bank); Mr Rodney Cooke (CGIAR); Mr Ammad Bahalim, Mr Fabrizio Moscatelli (Gates Foundation); Mr Martin Wolpold-Bosien, Mr Andre Luzzi, Ms Sofia Monsalve, Mr Stefano Prato, Ms Nora McKeon, Ms Cristina Brovia, Mr Luca Bianchi, Ms Paola de Meo, Ms Paola Gioia (CSM); Mr Brian Baldwin (PSM).

Observers:

Mr Damien Kelly (EU Delegation); Ms Silke Stalkamp (Germany); Ms Supajit Sriariyawat, Ms Ratchanok, Ms Federica Secchi (Thailand); Ms Patty Fong (GAFF); Ms Guilia de Castro (WFO); Ms Sara Farley (Rockefeller Foundation); Mr Fabrice DeClerck, Mr Olav Kjørven (EAT Foundation).

CFS Secretariat:

Mr Chris Hegadorn (Secretary), Mr Evariste Nicoletis (CFS HLPE Coordinator), Ms Françoise Trine, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Ms Elise Benoit, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Giorgia Paratore, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Mr Waiganjo Njoroge, Mr Martin Schunk, Ms Sylvia Orebi, Ms Marina Calvino, Ms Paola Termine.

Annex 2: Attendance list Bureau meeting

CFS Bureau Members:

Mr Thanawat Tiensin (CFS Chair / Thailand); Mr Guillermo Spika (Argentina); Mr Felipe Antunes (Brazil); Mr Bommakanti Rajender (India); Mr Caka Awal (Indonesia); Mr Don Syme (New Zealand); Mr Ilya Andreev (Russian Federation); Mr Andrian McAdams, Ms Maria Adelaide D’Arcangelo (United States).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Ms Berioska Morrison, Ms Diana Infante (Dominican Republic); Ms Delphine Babin-Pellier (France); Mr Baye Mayoro Diop (Senegal); Mr Tim Kranzlein (Switzerland).

Observers:

Mr Damien Kelly (EU Delegation); Ms Silke Stallkamp (Germany); Ms Supajit Sriariyawat, Ms Ratchanok (Thailand).

CFS Secretariat:

Mr Chris Hegadorn (Secretary), Mr Evariste Nicoletis (CFS HLPE coordinator), Ms Françoise Trine, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Ms Elise Benoit, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Ms Giorgia Paratore, Mr Waiganjo Njoroge, Mr Martin Schunk, Ms Sylvia Orebi, Ms Marina Calvino.

**STATE OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE WORLD 2021,
ITS POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND THE ROLE OF CFS IN THE
CONTEXT OF COVID-19 – Draft Conclusions**

1. Opening statements are delivered by: [.....]
2. The Committee:
 - a. Welcomes the collaboration between FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO on the preparation of the 2021 report on the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI);
 - b. Takes note of a presentation delivered by [xx];
3. Expresses deep concern over:
 - a. The estimated 720 to 811 million people facing hunger in 2020, as many as 118 million more than in 2019;
 - b. The 660 million people who may still be facing hunger in 2030, in part due to lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on global food security, adding up to 30 million more people than in a scenario in which the pandemic had not occurred;
 - c. The nearly 2.37 billion people without access to adequate food in 2020, representing an increase of 320 million people in just one year;
 - d. The estimated 3 billion people unable to afford a healthy diet and the associated higher levels of moderate or severe food insecurity;
 - e. The millions of children under 5 years of age who were affected by stunting (149.2 million), wasting (45.4 million) or overweight (38.9 million);
 - f. The increasing gender gap in the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the year of the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. Takes note that the SOFI report underlines that food system transformation is required to address the problem of millions of people that are unable to afford healthy diets. The Committee acknowledges that food systems transformation should be encouraged in a coherent manner, as appropriate and in accordance with and dependent on national context and capacities.
5. Takes note of the following comments provided in Plenary:
 - [.....]
 - [.....]

FORUM ON UPTAKE OF THE CFS VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON FOOD SYSTEMS AND NUTRITION (VGFSyN) – DRAFT CONCLUSIONS MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE

1. For item III.a “Forum on the uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition”, the Committee:
 - a) Welcomes the discussion on the uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition to mobilize political commitments by governments and all relevant stakeholders for further promotion and implementation of these Voluntary Guidelines;
 - b) Recognizes the role of the Voluntary Guidelines as a useful tool in the hands of policy makers and development partners and highlights the importance of various actors and coordination mechanisms in promoting their effective utilization and uptake.
2. The session is opened by keynote interventions by [...], followed by a panel discussion moderated by [...]. The panel is made up of:
 - [...]
 - [...]
 - [...]
3. The Committee takes note of the following comments provided in plenary:
 - a) [...]
 - b) [...]
 - c) [...]
4. For item III.b “Progress report on follow-up to ICN 2”, the Committee:
 - a) [Welcomes], in the context of the ongoing implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, [the preparation of] the document “Progress report on follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), including implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition” (CFS 2021/49/6) presented jointly by FAO and WHO and took note of its findings;
 - b) Recognizes the contribution of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition in helping to translate commitments for action made in the ICN2 Rome Declaration on Nutrition in the context of national food systems and nutrition-related policies;
 - c) Reiterates its request to FAO and WHO to be periodically updated on further progress in the implementation of ICN2;
 - d) [...]
 - e) [...]

THE UN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR CFS – DRAFT CONCLUSIONS

1. The Committee:
 - a. Congratulates the United Nations Secretary General, his Special Envoy, and all those involved in organizing the [23] September 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit;
 - b. [Welcomes][Takes note of] the background paper prepared by the CFS Secretariat on “The United Nations 2021 Food Systems Summit and its Implications for the Committee on World Food Security”;
 - c. Takes note of a presentation delivered by [.....];
2. The Committee took note of the potential implications of the UNFSS on the CFS, [and may respond to the outcomes of the Summit] [within its mandates and existing mechanisms][and calls upon its Chairperson to establish a [Working] Group [of Friends] among CFS stakeholders for this purpose];
 - g.
 - h.
 - i.

**MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPoW) 2020-2023 - UPDATE
OF THE ROLLING SECTION – with Draft Decisions
MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE
COMMITTEE**

The Committee:

- a. endorses document “CFS 2021/49/8 “CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2020-2023 - Update of the rolling section – with Draft Decisions, as presented by CFS Chairperson Thanawat Tiensin;
- b. notes that the full implementation of the MYPoW 2020-2023 will be contingent upon sufficient financial and human resources, taking into consideration a manageable workload, in accordance with document CFS 2018/45/3;
- c. strongly encourages the three Rome-based agencies to honor their verbal agreement to share equally the costs of the CFS Secretariat budget, through either cash or in-kind contributions, as a symbol of joint ownership and shared commitment to the Committee via effective Rome-based agency collaboration;
- d. requests continued deliberation on, and due attention to, the impacts of COVID-19 on food systems, agriculture and nutrition at all stages of the implementation of the approved MYPoW workstreams;
- e. requests the Chair and Secretariat, consistent with the CFS Resource Mobilization and Outreach Strategies, respectively, to continue their efforts to expand and diversify the CFS financing base, including by reaching out to CFS Member States, private foundations, the private sector, and financial institutions.

VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT – DRAFT CONCLUSIONS MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE

For Agenda item V.b the Committee:

1. Takes notes of the document CFS 2021/49/10 “Zero Draft of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition” and the update on the preparation of the Voluntary Guidelines, presented by the newly appointed Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment;
2. Expresses its appreciation for the work of the OEWG on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment, and acknowledges the effective leadership of the former Co-Chairs of the OEWG;
3. Reiterates the importance of the multi-stakeholder nature of the CFS Regional Consultations and the electronic consultation as a way to strengthen the ownership and success of the process of preparation and implementation of the Guidelines;
4. Recommends that the OEWG on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment continues working on the development of Voluntary Guidelines with a view to presenting a final draft for consideration and endorsement at CFS 50.
5. Takes note of the following comments provided in Plenary:
 - [.....]
 - [.....]

PROMOTING YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND EMPLOYMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEM – DRAFT CONCLUSIONS MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE

1. Mr Martin Cole, Chairperson of the HLPE Steering Committee, introduces the HLPE report on “*Promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems.*” Ms Hannah Wittman, HLPE Project Team Leader, presents the main findings and recommendations of the HLPE Report.

2. The Committee:

- a. Acknowledges with appreciation the work of the HLPE to prepare the Report on “*Promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems*” and the presentations made by Mr Martin Cole and Ms Hannah Wittman, on the main policy relevant evidence included in the report;
- b. Recalls the provisions contained in paragraph 16 of the rolling section of the CFS MYPoW 2020-2023¹;
- c. Welcomes the nomination of [...] as Rapporteur of the policy convergence process which, based on the HLPE report and other relevant available scientific sources, will be identifying areas of agreement to be addressed by different actors and at different levels;
- d. Recognizes the importance of an inclusive process, open to all interested stakeholders, leading to the endorsement of an agreed set of CFS policy recommendations to be presented to the Committee for endorsement at CFS 50 in October 2022;
- e. Takes note of the following comments, initiatives and experiences shared in the plenary discussion:
 - i. [...]
 - ii. [...]
 - iii. [...]

¹ The process will start with a dedicated and substantive discussion within the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group on how youth can meaningfully engage in food security and nutrition related policymaking. Advisory Group members will be encouraged to invite representatives of their youth constituencies to provide inputs and share their perspectives and experiences.

MONITORING OF CFS POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER – DRAFT CONCLUSIONS

MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE

1. The objective of the session was to take stock of the use and application of two sets of CFS policy recommendations: (i) [Food security and climate change](#) (CFS 39: 2012); and (ii) [Water for Food Security and Nutrition](#) (CFS 42, 2015).
2. The discussion was moderated by XXX. A keynote presentation was delivered by XXX.
3. The panel was composed of:
 - a. [...]
4. The Committee:
 - a. welcomes the session as a contribution to monitoring progress towards implementation of the two sets of CFS policy recommendations, and as a useful opportunity to share experience and good practices in the use and application of CFS policy recommendations at all levels;
 - b. takes note of the overview provided in document CFS 2021/49/Inf.xx “insert title”;
 - c. agrees that climate change and water scarcity, amongst other economic, social and environmental factors that affect Agenda 2030 development goals, threaten food security and nutrition, and require special attention and appropriate responses in accordance with the three dimensions of sustainable development;
 - d. pledges to make additional efforts to promote a much broader and systematic dissemination, use and application of the two sets of policy recommendations, and other relevant CFS policy products, where appropriate at global, regional, national, and sub-national levels, supported by all CFS Members, the Rome-based Agencies, and other CFS constituencies, while seeking similar commitments and support from the UN Rio Conventions’ secretariats, UN Water, and other UN agencies, towards a joint and coordinated uptake campaign;
 - e. encourages all Parties attending the COP 26 UN Climate Change Conference to use CFS policy recommendations when making pledges to climate action that can increase implementation of sustainable agricultural practices to achieve food security;
 - f. takes note of the following comments provided in Plenary: