

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

Dates: 24 and 25 November 2021 (14:00 - 17:00 and 09:30 – 12:30)

Venue: Hybrid meeting (Green Room for Bureau and Alternate members – Zoom platform for Advisory Group members and Observers)

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

Agenda

1. Briefing on outcomes of UNFCCC COP-26, implications for food security/nutrition and open deliberation
2. CFS-49 review
3. Overview of draft CFS Workplan, 2021-2022
4. Workstreams updates
5. Youth participation in the CFS policy workstream on Promoting Youth Participation and Engagement in Agriculture and Food Systems (with Bureau decision)
6. CFS philanthropic foundations mechanism
7. Interpretation and translation services for Bureau and Advisory Group meetings – Cost estimates and considerations (Bureau only)
8. Conversation between CFS Bureau and HLPE Steering Committee (Bureau only)
9. Any other business

CFS Chairperson, Ambassador Gabriel Ferrero y de Loma-Osorio, opened the hybrid meeting and welcomed all Bureau members and alternates, the members of the (ad hoc) Advisory Group, including invited ad hoc Participants – including the Chair of the International Steering Committee of the UN Decade on Family Farming, Ambassador Federico Zamora Cordero of Costa Rica, and Ms Emilia Saiz, Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) - to the first meeting between the new CFS Bureau and its Advisors.

The provisional agenda was approved without additions/deletions, and the CFS Chair noted that the meeting would be recorded by the Secretariat to use in drafting this Outcomes document.

1. Briefing on outcomes of UNFCCC COP-26, implications for food security/nutrition and open deliberation

The CFS Chair opened this item informing of his intention to continue the tradition of starting the joint Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group meetings with a substantive discussion on a globally-relevant topic. He further noted that more time will be allocated for these substantive discussions, while addressing more administrative and procedural issues during the latter part of the joint meetings. This practice might better attract the participation of Ambassadors and other senior participants.

For this meeting, the CFS Chair proposed to discuss the outcomes of the UNFCCC COP26 meetings in Glasgow and its implications for global food security and nutrition. He recalled recent debates held at the CFS 49 plenary, the Committee's conclusion to encourage the use of CFS policy recommendations when making pledges to climate action, and the CFS 49 Special Event on "The 3 Rio Conventions and the CFS: Perspectives on Synergies and Opportunities" - recognizing the natural interlinkages between respective Secretariats. He also informed of his participation in two side events organized at COP26: one on urban food systems, led by the OECD; and the second on agroecology, led by CGIAR/CIFOR and the Global Landscapes Forum.

- Ms Anna di Palma, of the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office of the UK, shared the outcomes of COP26 from the perspective of the host government, underscoring an urgent need to act now to stop further climate change, and highlighting that food systems will continue to be a focus of COP27 in Egypt.
- Mr Youssef Nassef of the UNFCCC Secretariat spoke about some of the negotiated outcomes of COP26, such as the agreement to report annually on the Nationally Determined Contributions and the National Adaptation Plans. He mentioned that the Koronivia joint work program on agriculture confirmed the importance of healthy soils and sustainable livestock management for climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Mr Abias Huongo (Angola) presented a continental perspective on the results of COP-26, and highlighted the relevance of climate change negotiations and strong agreements for Africa.

Comments and contributions from the floor followed. These highlighted the contribution of agriculture, food security and nutrition to address climate change impacts through adaptation and carbon sequestration.

Ms Valerie Guarnieri, WFP Assistant Executive Director and new WFP representative in the CFS Advisory Group, spoke about the importance for humanitarian organizations to work on disaster prevention and resilience-building of communities most vulnerable to climate disasters.

Mr. Maximo Torero, FAO Chief-Economist, underlined the importance of resilience, the theme of the 2021 SOFA Report, and the relevance that FAO attaches to the environment - one of the Four Betters of the new FAO Strategic Framework.

The UCLG highlighted that both climate action and biodiversity conservation take place at the local level within territories and communities, and encouraged the inclusion of local governance structures into adaptation planning.

The UNN and WHO highlighted the role of healthy and affordable diets that are good for the climate and for the people.

CSM expressed concerns over the failure of previous climate commitments and the lack of political will of Member States, and urged the need to distinguish between different contribution levels to climate change from different types of agricultural systems.

CFS Chair concluded this conversation noting that COP27 will be held in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt in 2022, and requested the support of the members of the CFS Bureau to secure the highest level of consideration

of the links between climate and food security and nutrition at COP 27, including through the involvement of the CFS.

2. CFS-49 review

The CFS Chair summarized key statistics and successes of the last plenary. He highlighted the substantive plenary discussions, high-level participation - including three RBA Heads, the UN Secretary General, and President of ECOSOC - a substantive Special Event, and 16 side events.

Participants highlighted the record-breaking year for the CFS, in which the Secretariat successfully organized three Plenary sessions in one year – CFS 47, 48, 49. A suggestion was made to adjust the timing of side events, when virtual, to accommodate different time zones and to avoid overlapping.

CSM highlighted the absence of interpretation for the joint Bureau meeting and requested that FAO allow external interpretation modalities, for inclusiveness. With regard to the CFS plenary, CSM requested that draft plenary agendas be discussed with the Advisory Group before they are endorsed by the Bureau. With regard to the content of the Plenary, CSM regretted the decision not to create a separate policy process on COVID-19, questioned the choice of the moderator for the UNFSS session, regretted the absence of references to gender diversity and other elements in the Youth session 'decision box,' and complained that dis-associative statements had not been included in the Final Report annex.

In concluding this item, the Chair informed that regarding interpretation for Bureau meetings held in hybrid format, all efforts will be made with FAO management to try and have external interpretation permitted. The Chair agreed to discuss with the Advisory Group the proposed plenary agendas prior to Bureau decision, as per past practice.

Bureau discussion:

Bureau members were very pleased with the outcomes of CFS 49 and congratulated the CFS Chair (present and previous) and Secretariat for their tremendous work to deliver three plenaries and a special event in one twelve-month period, along with a long list of other impactful events and processes (GFFA event, 3 public webinars on the VGFSN, HLPE's youth report launch, CFS public event on data, selection of the HLPE Steering Committee, contribution to HLPF, Food Systems Summit preparations, etc). Bureau members also appreciated the involvement of youth within some national delegations and mechanisms.

The Secretary informed that, pending Council approval, CFS 50 will be held 10-13 October 2022 and the Secretariat was already working on a provisional agenda and timetable for discussion at the January Bureau meetings.

3. Overview of draft CFS Workplan, 2021-2022

The CFS Chair introduced the item highlighting that this will be an intense intersessional period, including negotiation of two new policy products (VGs on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment, and Policy recommendations on Youth Engagement and Employment), GFFA 2022, FAO Regional Conferences, follow-up to the UNFSS, preparations for HLPF 2022, launch of the HLPE Data Report, and an inter-sessional event on the topic of Inequalities.

Comments from members of the (ad hoc) Advisory Group referred to: (i) featuring/mainstreaming impacts of COVID-19 on food security and nutrition in all workstreams; (ii) adding negotiation days for both policy convergence processes up front in the planning; (iii) ensuring inclusiveness by providing interpretation at CFS meetings; and (iv) the process to develop the "HLPE note on critical and emerging issues", and a request to allow a minimum of 4 weeks for its e-consultation to ensure sufficient time for all stakeholders to participate.

Bureau discussion:

CFS Bureau members requested some clarifications on the process and timeline for the preparation of the next MYPoW and highlighted the importance of the 3rd HLPE Note on Critical and Emerging Issues as the basis for this process.

CFS Bureau members requested some clarifications on the process for the preparation of the CFS contribution to the HLPF, noting that in 2022 the Forum will feature an in-depth review of SDG 17 on partnerships.

With regards to the ongoing workstreams on youth and gender, Members requested that:

- The two policy convergence processes focus on issues relevant to food security and nutrition and do not expand to include more controversial topics.
- The Secretariat develops contingency plans, in case the two processes require more days of negotiations, with Members informed well in advance for them to prepare accordingly - especially small delegations.
- The Secretariat ensures interpretation for formal sessions and timely availability of translated versions of documents for inclusive participation, independent of the format of the negotiations (in person, virtual, or hybrid).

Specifically with regards to the gender workstream, CFS Bureau members asked for sufficient time to provide comments on the two versions of the first draft of the Voluntary Guidelines on GEWGE.

In concluding the item, the CFS Chair requested a volunteer from among Bureau members to lead the preparation of CFS's contribution to the HLPF. Also, he proposed that, in addition to the Secretariat developing contingency plans for the two negotiations, Members should discuss and agree on some general principles for improving the time efficiency of these negotiation processes, especially on how best to avoid getting bogged down on controversial political issues.

4. Workstreams updates

The CFS Chair noted progress made on the Gender workstream, with all six regional consultations and an e-consultation completed.

He also informed of his own outreach activities, including his recent participation in the Paris Peace Forum, and his upcoming trips to Geneva, New York and Washington DC.

Finally, the CFS Chair informed of a financial contribution from the BMGF in the pipeline for the data workstream, for which CFS will strictly adhere to FAO's safeguard policies on conflict of interests, consistent with CFS's own Resource Mobilization Strategy, as it does for all contributions to the CFS.

5. Youth participation in the CFS policy workstream on Promoting Youth Participation and Engagement in Agriculture and Food Systems (with Bureau decision)

The Chair recalled the provisions included in paragraph 84 of the 2020-2023 MYPoW and highlighted the overall objective of this agenda item, which is to provide Bureau guidance on the issue of enhanced youth participation in the policy convergence process.

The Chair noted the discussion and the wide support expressed by Advisory Group members to the idea to strike a balance between inclusiveness and efficiency in the negotiation process.

Bureau decision

The Bureau:

- a) recognized existing rules on participation in CFS proceedings and encouraged interested youth organizations to participate in the preparation of the policy recommendations on youth, and to provide inputs in the course of the consultation phase;
- b) emphasized that youth organizations can participate in the negotiations through existing categories of CFS Participants, as outlined in paragraph 11, in articulation with paragraphs 12, 16, and 17, of the CFS Reform Document, as observers, or as part of official member delegations;
- c) encouraged all CFS stakeholders to include youth representatives at all stages of the Youth policy convergence process to provide inputs and share their perspectives and experiences;
- d) encouraged all CFS stakeholders, to engage in stronger, more innovative and more interactive outreach with youth groups and active and regular information-sharing on the progress of the youth policy convergence process.

6. Philanthropic foundations mechanism

The representative of the BMG Foundation informed of recent efforts intended to broaden the representation of foundations within the "foundation seat" of the CFS (ad hoc) Advisory Group beyond itself. Gates, the Global Alliance for the Future of Food (GAFF), and the Agroecology Fund (AEF), had recently reached agreement among themselves to develop an inclusive, diverse and collective philanthropic 'mechanism' that would speak with one voice as an Advisor to CFS, while broadening awareness and engagement with CFS. Their agreement envisions a rotation system of leadership, a shared

support staff member in Rome, yearly review/audit for accountability purposes, and an annual report to Bureau per standard practice.

Members of the Bureau and the (ad hoc) Advisory Group noted that the effort may contribute to the richness of Advisory Group discussions, further underlining the importance that the Advisory Group remains open, transparent and inclusive. Nonetheless, a need for caution was voiced in terms of avoiding any potential conflicts of interest and detriment of the role of members by expanding the number of foundations included via the mechanism.

Bureau discussion:

While some members valued the proposal to establish a new ‘mechanism’ for the philanthropic foundations as a way to foster openness, inclusiveness and transparency, additional clarification was sought on the process for establishing mechanisms, in particular whether foundations are meant to be covered by the seat established for PSM, and whether a ‘mechanism’ for foundations should be considered by the Plenary. Questions were also raised about possible financial contributions these foundations might bring to CFS.

In summarizing the conversation, the CFS Chair proposed to return to this item at the Bureau’s next meeting, to circulate a document containing the foundations’ proposal for establishment of a philanthropic ‘mechanism,’ and to request FAO Legal Counsel’s clarification on this matter (i.e., interpretation of paragraph 17 of the CFS 2009 Reform document.)

7. Interpretation and translation services for Bureau and Advisory Group meetings – Cost estimates and considerations (Bureau only)

Short on time, this discussion was postponed to the next meeting of the CFS Bureau, in January 2022.

8. Conversation between CFS Bureau and HLPE Steering Committee (Bureau only)

The conversation with the newly appointed Steering Committee of the HLPE focused on two issues: (i) reporting on HLPE’s activities in progress; and (ii) strengthening the visibility and impact of the HLPE.

After individual introductions of the members of the HLPE Steering Committee and the HLPE Coordination Unit, Jose Maria Sumpsi and Bernard Lehmann provided an update on the process of preparation of the HLPE Report 17 “Data collection and analysis tools for food security and nutrition”, and HLPE Report 18 “Reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition”, and the 3rd Note on “Critical and Emerging Issues”.

Concerning the Note on Critical and Emerging Issues, the Chair of the HLPE Steering Committee informed that the note will be ready in Summer 2022, with the intention for the CFS to use this report in deciding the key topics of the next MYPoW and determining the subject of HLPE Report 19, to be prepared in 2024. It was requested whether general ideas could be shared by CFS stakeholders prior to the e-consultation scheduled for April 2022.

With regard to strengthening the visibility and impact of the HLPE, Jennifer Clapp and William Moseley of the HLPE Steering Committee highlighted the features of the HLPE that make it a robust science-policy interface for the CFS: scientific integrity, policy relevance, and legitimacy.

In their words, improving the impact and visibility of the HLPE, and by extension that of CFS, is justified by the dire global food security situation, and the fact that too many people are not aware of the important policy work of CFS and its HLPE, as the recent UNFSS illustrated. Instead, a stronger HLPE means a stronger CFS, which can contribute to more effective policies to address the pressing food security and nutrition challenges we currently face.

In concrete terms, they suggested: (i) expanding and diversifying the funding base of the HLPE; (ii) improving the regional impact of HLPE reports; (iii) enhancing outreach efforts and increasing the dissemination of HLPE work in order to increase impact; (iv) increasing the frequency of HLPE reports; and (v) increasing the capacity of the HLPE Secretariat.

9. Any other business

No other issues were discussed.

Annex 1: Attendance list Bureau and Advisory Group meeting (to be updated)

CFS Bureau Members:

H.E. Gabriel Ferrero (CFS Chair/Spain); Mr Guillermo Spika (Argentina); H.E. Maria Jardim, Ms Antonietta Patricelli, Mr Abias Moma Huongo, Mr Carlos Amaral (Angola); Mr Manash Mitra (Bangladesh); Mr Felipe Antunes (Brazil); Ms Li Xi (China); Mr Mina Rizk (Egypt); Ms Silke Stallkamp (Germany); Mr Anthony Gikandi Muriithi (Kenya); Ms Ely Salem Zeineb (Mauritania); Mr Don Syme (New Zealand); Ms Xenia Klaus (Switzerland); Mr Sean Cox, Mr Andrian McAdams (USA).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Mr Maarten de Groot (Canada); Ms Berioska Morrison, Ms Diana Infante, Ms Liudmila Kuzmicheva (Dominican Republic); Mr Patricio Esteban Troya Uarez (Ecuador); Dr. Bommakanti Rajender (India); Mr Caka Alverdi Awal (Indonesia); Ms Ekaterina Vybornova (Russian Federation); Mr Barend Jacobus Lombard (South Africa); Mr Kayoya Masuhwa (Zambia).

Advisory Group:

Mr Maximo Torero Cullen, Mr Mark McGuire, Mr Guilherme Brady, Mr Peter Wobst (FAO); Ms Jordana Blankman, Mr Shantanu Mathur, Ms Ruth Fianu (IFAD); Ms Valerie Guarnieri (WFP); Ms Stineke Oenema, Alessandra Mora (UNN); Ms Paola De Meo (OHCHR); Ms Marzella Wüstefeld (WHO).
Ms Maria Jesus Ferreira Trujillo (World Bank);
Mr Martin Wolpold-Bosien, Ms Cristina Brovia, Ms Magdalena Ackermann, Ms Mariam Mohammad, Ms Patti Naylor, Ms Paola Gioia, Mr Luca Bianchi, Mr Tyler Short, Mr Dee Woods, Ms Saima Zia, Ms Teresa Maisano, Ms Marion Girard (CSM);
Mr Brian Baldwin (PSM);
Mr Fabrizio Moscatelli (Gates Foundation);
Ms Giulia De Castro (WFO);
H.E. Federico Zamora (UN-DFF Chair, Costa Rica);
Ms Emilia Saiz, Mr Massimo Perrino, Mr Rodrigo Messias (UCLG);

Observers:

Mr Damien Kelly (EU Delegation); Mr Thomas Kelly (United Kingdom); Ms Anna De Palma (FCDO); Mr Youssef Nassef (UNFCCC)

CFS Secretariat:

Mr Chris Hegadorn, Ms Elise Benoit, Ms Françoise Trine, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Mr Waiganjo Njoroge, Ms Tatiana Moruz, Mr Martin Schunk, Ms Marina Calvino; Mr Evariste Nicoletis (HLPE Coordinator)

Annex 2: Attendance list Bureau meeting

CFS Bureau Members:

H.E. Gabriel Ferrero (CFS Chair/Spain); Mr Guillermo Spika (Argentina); Ms Antonietta Patricelli, Mr Abias Moma Huongo (Angola); Mr Manash Mitra (Bangladesh); Mr Felipe Antunes (Brazil); Ms Li Xi (China); Mr Mina Rizk (Egypt); Ms Silke Stallkamp (Germany); Mr Anthony Gikandi Muriithi, Ms Consolata Maina (Kenya); Ms Ely Salem Zeineb (Mauritania); Mr Don Syme (New Zealand); Ms Xenia Klaus (Switzerland).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Mr Maarten de Groot (Canada); Ms Berioska Morrison, Ms Diana Infante, Ms Liudmila Kuzmicheva (Dominican Republic); Mr Juan Tinoco (Ecuador); Mr Caka Alverdi Awal (Indonesia); Ms Manar Al Sabah (Kuwait); Mr Eric Hilberink (Netherlands); Ms Ekaterina Vybornova (Russian Federation); Mr Barend Jacobus Lombard (South Africa); Mr Kayoya Masuhwa (Zambia).

Observers:

Ms Cara Stauss (EU Delegation); Ms Delphine Babin-Pellier (France); Mr Moises Morera Martin (Spain); Mr Bernard Lehmann, Ms Jennifer Clapp, Mr Stefan Tangermann, Mr William Moseley, Ms Barbara Burlingame, Ms Akiko Suwa-Eisenmann, Ms Elisabetta Recine, Ms Hilal Elver, Mr José María Sumpsi Viñas, Mr Iain Wright (HLPE StC).

CFS Secretariat:

Mr Chris Hegadorn, Ms Elise Benoit, Ms Françoise Trine, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Mr Waiganjo Njoroge, Ms Tatiana Moruz, Mr Martin Schunk, Ms Marina Calvino; Mr Evariste Nicoletis (HLPE Coordinator), Ms Paola Termine (HLPE Secretariat).