

**CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meeting
And Bureau meeting
Dates: 06 April 2021 (9:30 – 12:30 and 14:00 - 17:00)
Venue: virtual meeting (via ZOOM)**

Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting Outcomes - With Bureau decisions

Agenda

1. Short brief on OECD's work of relevance to CFS
2. CFS 48 – Draft decision on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches (with Bureau decision)
3. CFS 49 Provisional Agenda and Timetable (with Bureau decision)
4. Update on OEWG on CFS Effectiveness
5. Update on UN Food Systems Summit
6. CFS Budget and Work-streams updates
7. Any other business

CFS Chairperson, Mr Thanawat Tiensin, opened the meeting welcoming the presence of Uzbekistan, one of twelve new Members of the Committee (since CFS 46), and congratulating the Secretariat for its ongoing, effective membership drive.

In keeping with the plan to start each Bureau meeting with a short, substantive presentation on an issue or topic of relevance for the CFS and its MYPOW, the Chairperson informed that he had invited Ms LeeAnn Jackson, Head of Agri-food Trade and Markets Division at OECD, to speak on some of their activities of relevance to the CFS.

Last, he informed that under item 2, he would like to include a discussion on the process to finalize the policy recommendations on Agroecological and other innovative approaches, in the presence of the process Rapporteur (Nigeria).

With this amendment, the Provisional Agenda of the meeting was approved.

1. Short brief on OECD's work of relevance to CFS

Ms LeeAnn Jackson, OECD, Head, Agri-food Trade and Markets Division, delivered a presentation on OECD's activities on food systems of relevance to CFS and its MYPoW. In her presentation, she focused on OECD's work on influencing positive food systems transformation. The presentation highlighted a recently-released OECD report (January 2021) on 'Making better policies for food systems.' With regard to agriculture/food systems data, she stressed the importance of overcoming data gaps and fragmentation to better understand synergies and trade-offs, to better inform policy-makers. She also referred to joint work by OECD and FAO, to monitor and evaluate agri-food policies to assess impact. Last, she mentioned OECD's work on stakeholders' engagement in preparation for the UN Food System Summit. Both the report and the presentation are available as part of the documentation for the Bureau and Advisory Group meeting of 06 April 2021 (<http://www.fao.org/cfs/workingspace/bag2021>).

2. CFS 48 – Draft decision on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches – (with Bureau decision)

As per CFS Chair’s proposal, the discussion started with a debate on the finalization of the policy convergence process.

The CFS Chair introduced the item recalling that a CFS 48 Special Session will be held virtually on 4 June 2021, and that invitations to RBA heads and the UN Secretary General have already gone out.

The process Rapporteur highlighted the positive attitude and friendly environment which characterized the first round of negotiations. He stressed the need for more discipline in terms of time management, as well as for additional sessions to be included in the negotiation schedule to ensure CFS can comply with its programme of work by the agreed timeline.

Lastly, the Rapporteur expressed his willingness to work with the Secretariat and Technical Focal Points to prepare a shorter and streamlined preamble and Rapporteur’s proposals on the draft Policy Recommendations.

Bureau and Advisory Group members expressed appreciation for the Rapporteur’s leadership in chairing the first round of negotiations. A collective commitment to arrive at 4 June with a final draft that is meaningful and ambitious was reiterated by many. The need to keep the process inclusive and to ensure manageable workloads was also highlighted. In terms of time management, suggestions were made on the importance of starting debate on each paragraph in terms of its core message and objective, as opposed to treating each paragraph as if it was a stand-alone text unrelated to the overall draft.

Several Bureau and Advisory Group members suggested utilizing agreed text/language from CFS policy instruments or other approved UN documents, to the extent possible, to avoid lengthy and fruitless debate on issues where consensus has not been reached.

In thanking the Rapporteur, the Bureau agreed on the importance of meeting the MYPoW deadlines and agreed to adding extra negotiation sessions, as well as to requesting the Rapporteur’s revised text proposals on Draft One with a view to making more efficient use of limited (and costly) formal negotiation sessions. The Rapporteur pointed out that “Friends of the Rapporteur” would be assembled sparingly, as/when appropriate, to help the working group move forward on contentious paragraphs/issues, outside of the handful of remaining formal negotiation sessions.

Bureau decision:

The draft decision for CFS 48 Special Session on 4 June was approved with minor amendments, which were captured by the Secretariat (Text with specific edits are found in Annex 1).

3. CFS 49 Provisional Agenda and Timetable (with Bureau decision)

The Draft CFS 49 Agenda and Timetable were presented to Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group members.

A request was made to make COVID-19 more prominent and visible in the agenda, in consideration of its strong impact on food systems, food security and nutrition.

With regard SOFI 2021, it was suggested that the discussion be focused on the role of CFS and its policy tools, and that sufficient space be allocated for dialogue on this. Likewise, to highlight the importance of COVID-19’s impacts on global food security and nutrition, this session’s formal title could reference the pandemic, as a way to highlight its importance on the plenary timetable.

Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group members acknowledged the forum on the uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN) as an important opportunity to promote the implementation of the recently-adopted policy tool, and suggested that champions be identified and Members come forward with concrete commitments for implementation of the VGFSyN. Bureau and (ad

hoc) Advisory Group members also mentioned the need for proper planning and coordination of related promotion activities with UN Nutrition - a key partner in promoting uptake of the Guidelines.

With regard to follow-up to ICN2, it was clarified that this is a recurring plenary agenda item which the CFS Vision on Nutrition (endorsed by the Plenary in 2016) foresees taking place every two years. Participants requested adequate time be afforded for discussion and interaction following the presentation at plenary of the joint progress report by WHO-FAO.

As part of the MYPoW discussion, a request was made to allocate more time to discussion on the preparation of Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment. Likewise, a discussion on the Implications of the UN Food Systems Summit should be treated as a stand-alone item on the Agenda, to allow a full and meaningful debate.

On the CFS HLPE's upcoming Report #16 – Youth Engagement and Employment in Food Systems - it was suggested that the discussion be linked in some manner with the World Youth Forum taking place in early October 2021, just before CFS 49. The CFS HLPE Coordination Unit clarified that Report 16 is on track for public release in late June, for which a public (virtual) release event is being planned.

With regards to queries on extending the Timetable to Friday afternoon, the CFS Secretary clarified that FAO's World Food Day celebration will be held that day, for which timing will be unknown until shortly before the event. Planning, therefore, was being done with the assumption that CFS 49 conclude with elections and final report adoption on the afternoon of 14 October.

Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group members were reminded of rules regarding the election of the CFS Chair, which are contained in Rule II, paragraphs 2 and 4, of the CFS Rules of Procedure.

Last, a request was made to expand the side-events schedule, to include side-events before the morning session, at the lunch-break, and following the afternoon sessions.

Bureau decision:

The Bureau requested the CFS Secretariat to circulate a slightly-revised version of the document for approval at its next meeting in May, reflecting the following adjustments:

- a) Introduce a stand-alone agenda item on the outcomes of the UN Food Systems Summit and its implications for CFS, with slight revisions of the title.
- b) Highlight more visibly in the Agenda the issue of COVID-19 and its impacts on global food systems, food security, and nutrition.

4. Update on Informal OEWG on CFS Effectiveness

CFS Secretariat updated the Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group members on the Informal OEWG held 18 March on the “effectiveness of CFS,” and outreach to interested stakeholders regarding this informal exercise.

Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group members expressed support for the objective of improving CFS effectiveness in line with the agreed monitoring framework, anchored in Annexes C and E of the Management Response to the CFS Evaluation (CFS 2018/45/3).

The Secretariat explained that the effort was intended as a learning exercise, to better understand opportunities for the Secretariat and CFS stakeholders to jointly strengthen outreach and communications, resource mobilization, and bolster CFS's credibility and role in contributing to reaching goals/targets of relevant SDGs.

Given the heavy meeting schedule during the current calendar year, this effort would remain mindful of Members' workload, with any informal meetings of the working group scheduled to avoid other CFS meetings, negotiations, or RBA governing body sessions.

The next informal meeting would most likely be scheduled sometime in the coming month, with summaries and progress briefed regularly to the Bureau.

Given the informal nature of the effort, it was suggested that ‘terms of reference’ for this working group are unnecessary.

Bureau meeting:

It was agreed that the CFS Secretariat will identify a date for another informal OEWG meeting (not to conflict with CFS negotiations) and invite interested individuals to join the discussion on strengthening effectiveness of CFS products and processes. The outcomes of these discussions will continue to be briefed to the Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group at its upcoming meetings.

5. Update on UN Food Systems Summit

CFS Chairperson informed about CFS engagement in the preparatory processes of the UN Food Systems Summit. The Chairperson noted he had participated in a meeting of the UNFSS Advisory Group chaired by the UN Deputy Secretary General on 19 March. He also informed that he had proposed that the Chair of the Scientific Group meet soon with the Chair of the HLPE Steering Committee to discuss stronger collaboration between the two groups.

CFS Secretary updated on a 24 March meeting between CSM members and the UN Special Envoy for the Food Systems Summit and her Deputy brokered by the CFS Chairperson. This meeting followed upon an open letter sent by CSM raising concerns about preparation of the UNFSS. During the B&AG meeting, CSM characterized the call by saying specific demands that they had made in their letter had not been met, hence they were planning a “counter pre-Summit” in mid-July in protest.

6. CFS Budget and Work-streams updates

CFS Secretariat briefed on the 2020 (final) and 2021 budget figures, providing an overview of the latest income and expenditure numbers and projections.

The update highlighted that the overall CFS budget for 2021 is healthy and expected contributions should cover 2021 requirements.

The Secretariat informed that all announced contributions (of IFAD, FRA, SPA, SWE, FIN) are now under processing and have been recorded as planned revenues in 2021.

IFAD announced that the second half of its in-cash contribution for 2020 of USD 250,000 is under processing; with the first tranche already received. IFAD’s funding for 2021 was still to be determined, based on internal reform of its grants policy. In this context, the IFAD representative congratulated the Secretariat for an impressive list of CFS accomplishments achieved over the past year, as described in an internal progress report provided to IFAD management as part of the CFS contribution process.

In response to a question, CFS Secretary clarified that despite the significant uncertainties and challenges posed by COVID-19 (i.e., 3 plenaries in one year) and by IFAD’s delayed 2020 and 2021 contributions, every effort was being made to carefully calibrate spending before the close of the current biennium 2020-2021.

As part of the workstreams updates, some Bureau members congratulated the Secretariat for the revamped CFS website, which they noted appears more modern and user-friendly.

7. AOB

USA asked to adjust a specific text citation in a brochure prepared by the Secretariat to promote the VGFSyN.

Switzerland enquired about the process to prepare the CFS contribution to HLPF 2022. The CFS Secretary confirmed that the intention is to follow the process as agreed in the MYPoW, but that a request for contributions for 2022 had not yet been received.

CFS 48 – Draft decision on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches

MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee considered document CFS 2021/48/XX “CFS Policy Recommendations Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems that Enhance Food Security and Nutrition” and CFS 2021/48/XX “CFS Policy Recommendations Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems that Enhance Food Security and Nutrition - Draft Decisions”, as presented by H. E. Yaya Olaniran (Nigeria), Rapporteur of the policy convergence process.

The Committee:

- a) expresses appreciation for the effective leadership of the current and previous Rapporteur;
- b) endorses CFS 2021/48/XX “CFS Policy Recommendations Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems that Enhance Food Security and Nutrition,” taking note of their voluntary and non-binding nature;
- c) encourages all CFS stakeholders to support and promote at all levels within their constituencies, in solidarity, and in collaboration with other relevant initiatives and platforms, the dissemination, use, and application of the Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches to support the development, enhancement and implementation of coordinated and multi-sectoral national policies, laws, programmes, investment plans, and various regional food security and nutrition initiatives, where appropriate;
- d) encourages all stakeholders to document lessons learned from using the policy recommendations and to share these lessons with the Committee in order to assess their continued relevance, effectiveness, and impact – in line with the standard monitoring practice of the Committee;
- e) underlines the valuable input the policy recommendations will provide to the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 discussions and any follow up process;
- f) decides to transmit the Policy Recommendations to the Governing Bodies of FAO, WFP and IFAD for their further consideration regarding supporting their utilization at country level, in line with country requests and pursuant to Rule XXXIII, paragraph 17, of the General Rules of the Organization and Rule X, paragraph 1, of the CFS Rules of Procedure, and in accordance with paragraph 22 of the CFS Reform Document;
- g) decides to request the United Nations General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, to consider [, endorse] and ensure the wide dissemination of the Policy Recommendations to all relevant UN Organizations and Agencies, consistent with Rule XXXIII, paragraph 15, of the General Rules of the Organization, Rule X, paragraph 4, of the CFS Rules of Procedure, and paragraph 21 of the CFS Reform Document;
- h) agrees to include these Policy Recommendations in the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF).

Annex 2: Attendance list Bureau and Advisory Group meeting

CFS Bureau Members:

Mr Thanawat Tiensin (CFS Chair / Thailand); Mr Guillermo Spika (Argentina); Mr Felipe Carlos Antunes (Brazil); Mr Bommakanti Rajender (India); Ms Agnes Rosari (Indonesia); Ms Halimatou Traore (Mali); Mr Don Syme (New Zealand); Mr Ilya Andreev (Russian Federation); Mr Rafael Osorio (Spain); Mr Sean Cox (United States).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Ms Elsa Simoes (Cabo Verde); Ms Mi Nguyen (Canada); Ms Liudmila Kuzmicheva, Ms Berioska Morrison (Dominican Republic); Ms Delphine Babin-Pellier (France); Mr Baye Mayoro Diop (Senegal); Mr Tim Kränzlein (Switzerland).

Advisory Group:

Mr Maximo Torero Cullen, Ms Nancy Aburto, Mr Mark McGuire. Mr Marco Derrico (FAO); Mr Shantanu Mathur, Mr Sundeep Vaid (IFAD); Ms Stephanie Hochstetter, Mr Jacopo Valentini (WFP); Alessandra Mora (UNSCN); Mr Andre Zandastra, Mr Rodney Cooke (CGIAR); Mr Fabrizio Moscatelli (Gates Foundation); Mr Martin Wolpold-Bosien, Mr Andre' Luzzi, Ms Azra Saeed, Ms Christiana Louwe, Ms Magdalena Ackermann, Ms Musa Sowe, Mr Stefano Prato, Ms Teresa Maisano, Mr Luca Bianchi, Ms Nora McKeon (CSM); Mr Brian Baldwin (PSM); Ms Giulia De Castro (WFO); Mr Francesco Branca (WHO).

Observers:

Mr Yaya Olaniran (Nigeria); Mr Damien Kelly (EU Delegation); Ms Silke Stralkamp (Germany); Mr Eduardo Mejia (Guatemala); Ms Angeles Gomez (Mexico); Ms Ratchnok (Thailand); Ms Lee Ann Jackson (OECD); Mr Nuriddin Kushnazarov (Uzbekistan); Mr Juan Lucas Restrepo (Alliance Bioversity CIAT).

CFS Secretariat:

Mr Chris Hegadorn (Secretary), Mr Evariste Nicoletis (HLPE Coordinator), Ms Paola Termine, 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 Tatiana Moruz.

Annex 3: Attendance list Bureau meeting

CFS Bureau Members:

Mr Thanawat Tiensin (CFS Chair / Thailand); Mr Guillermo Spika (Argentina); Mr Felipe Carlos Antunes (Brazil); Ms Agnes Rosari (Indonesia); Ms Halimatou Traore (Mali); Mr Don Syme (New Zealand); Mr Ilya Andreev (Russian Federation); Mr Rafael Osorio (Spain); Mr Paul Welcher, Mr Sean Cox (United States).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Ms Lynda Hayden (Australia); Mr Federico Zamora (Costa Rica); Ms Liudmila Kuzmicheva, Ms Berioska Morrison (Dominican Republic); Ms Delphine Babin-Pelliard (France); Mr Baye Mayoro Diop (Senegal); Mr Tim Kränzlein (Switzerland).

Observers:

Ms Fiorella Cruz (Colombia); Mr Damien Kelly (EU Delegation); Ms Silke Stallkamp (Germany); Mr Yaya Olaniran (Nigeria).

CFS Secretariat:

Mr Chris Hegadorn (Secretary), Mr Evariste Nicoletis (HLPE Coordinator), Ms Paola Termine, 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 Tatiana Moruz.