

Informal OEWG Meeting on Effectiveness of CFS CHAIR'S SUMMARY

Background

As noted in the Outcomes document of the CFS Bureau meetings of 27 November 2020, and consistent with the recommendations of the CFS Evaluation, Bureau agreed to the Secretary's proposal to organize an informal working group comprising CFS Members and (ad hoc) Advisory Group members, to discuss and consider potential steps aimed at strengthening the effectiveness of CFS policy work at country level. This item was tabled again in the Bureau and Advisory meetings of January and March 2021, in which the CFS Secretariat explained that the objective of this exercise was to brainstorm on how to assess the effectiveness of CFS products – particularly at country level, to see what further actions, if any, are needed. The CFS Bureau agreed that a first meeting of an informal working group would be convened by the CFS Chair and Secretariat, with the intention of further discussing this matter at the April Bureau meetings.

Feedback from first informal OEWG meeting on Effectiveness of CFS

Some 32 individuals participated in the meeting held on 18 March 2021 (see below annex A for the participants' list), in addition to members of the CFS Secretariat team, and the CFS Chair.

Participants generally welcomed the timely initiative of assessing the effectiveness of the CFS in an objective and systematic manner, and agreed that the exercise:

- Should engage all interested CFS stakeholders and focus on strengthening the awareness and utilization of CFS products consistent with the CFS vision and mandate¹ (potential questions could include.: *“what happens after a CFS policy product is negotiated and approved?”*; *“how CFS policy convergence products– such as the VGFSyN and PR-AEAOIA – are promoted and used?”*; or *“how to make CFS products more effective in terms of adoption and adaptation at regional and national level?”*);
- should anchor itself in the negotiated 2018 CFS mechanism² (Annex C in particular), to promote accountability and share best practices at global, regional and national levels;
- should explore ways to strengthen the implementation of Pillar 2 of Annex C negotiated innovative framework for monitoring (*assessment of CFS effectiveness*), as well as Pillar # 3 (*use and application of CFS outputs*) – see table below;
- should in no way seek to duplicate the evaluation and management response exercise, but rather serve as a solution-oriented exploration of what works well (or not) to enhance the policy influence of CFS products through communications and outreach efforts and resource-mobilisation;
- should, consistent with agreed principals and processes, be engineered to produce useful, practical and actionable solutions for improving the adoption and adaptation at country level of CFS negotiated products;
- will benefit from technical support from the RBA teams, as well as other stakeholders that are either engaged in tracking the use of a particular CFS product (e.g. WHO) or in assessing similar products of their own (e.g. CGIAR);



¹ See Annex B below for a list of useful background documents related

² See CFS2018/45/3 – CFS Evaluation: Implementation of the Response to the Evaluation, Annex C – Promotion of accountability and sharing best practices

- should consider a variety of possible actions (including those under way, or others not tested in the context of CFS, including those referenced in Annex D of the 2017 evaluation).

[From CFS 2018/45_3 - Annex C - Promotion of accountability and sharing best practices]

Adaptation of Table 1: Proposed framework for promoting accountability and sharing best practices

		I - FSN Situation & Trends (all levels)	II - Assessment of CFS effectiveness (global)	III - Use and application of CFS Outputs (all levels)
Innovative monitoring mechanism	GLOBAL	<i>On-going through:</i> Annual discussion on SOFI report Periodic discussions based on HLPE Note on Critical and Emerging Issues Periodic Review of global FSN situation / trends (e.g. HLPE COVID updates) Follow-up and Review of country/region FSN progress (in line with 2030 Agenda, SDGs, ICN2 and Decade of Action on Nutrition, etc.)	<i>On-going through:</i> Annual Progress Reports (by CFS Secretariat) a Plenary [2014 opinion survey]	<i>On-going through:</i> Voluntary Monitoring of - use and application of CFS main policy products and other CFS policy recommendations at national, regional and global level: - share experiences and good practices in applying CFS decisions and recommendations through organizing events on national, regional and global levels. Biennial Global Thematic Events at CFS Plenaries Ad-hoc events/Side Events on other CFS policy recommendations ⁵
	COUNTRY or REGION	Annual VNRs ⁷ and others, e.g. nutrition		

Next steps

Organization of a follow-up informal OEWG in which participants would be asked to further explore and debate how to strengthen the effectiveness of CFS products and processes.

After this OEWG meeting #2, consider draft terms of reference for the process to continue, including a suggested timetable of planned activities and key deliverables.

A short report would be presented to the Bureau in July, to provide an update on the progress of the exercise, and summarize the key findings and forward-looking suggestions for further consideration.

Annex A: List of Participants to the informal OEWG on Effectiveness of CFS of 18 March 2021

Name	Title	Delegation
Liudmila KUZMICHEVA,	Counsellor, Alternate Representative.	Rep Dom
Kai Kasenurm	Adviser - Min Rural Affairs / Int Coop Departement	Estonia
Hans Hoogeveen	Ambassador Permanent Representative.	Netherlands
Marzella WÜSTEFELD	Technical Officer, Dept Nut & Food Safety	WHO
Rodney Cooke	CIP Board	CGIAR
Ilya Andreev	Mission to FAO in Rome	Russian federation
Fabrizio Moscatelli	BMGF	BMGF
Ms Silke Stallkamp	Alternate Permanent Representative	Germany
Brian Baldwin	IAFN Development and Policy Advisor	PSM
James Garrett	Sr Research Fellow Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH)	CGIAR
Halimatou Traore	Représentante Permanente Adjointe auprès de la FAO, le PAM et le FIDA	Mali
Shantanu Mathur	Lead Adviser, GRP	IFAD
Sundeep Vaid	Global Engagement, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization	IFAD
Jacopo Valentini	Programme Officer, RBA	WFP
Stephanie Hochstetter	Director, RBA	WFP
Mark Mcguire	Senior Food Security Officer (Governance and Policy)	FAO - DDCG
Marco Derrico	Governance and Policy Support to Chief Econ	FAO - DDCG
Oksana Savorotko	Head of Expert Group FS - Dir. Dev Agr, Min Dev of Economy	Ukraine
Olha Slipneko	State Expert - Dir Dev Agr, Min Dev Economy	Ukraine
Alina Shemet	Chief Specialist Proj Support Div, Dept Multi/Bilateral Trade Agreements, Min Dev Econ Trade & Agriculture	Ukraine
Chitra Deshpande	Sr Evaluation Officer	IFAD
Nuno Francisco Manana	Counsellor for Agriculture & Food Affairs, Embassy	Portugal
Mr. Guilherme Maciel	Permanent Rep RBA	Portugal
Luca Bianchi		CSM

Martin Wolpold-Bosein		CSM
Cecile ADAM	Sécurité alimentaire, nutrition et agriculture durable Sous-direction du développement humain - Dir. Dev Durable MAF	France
Angela Liborova		Argentina
Caka Awal	Rome Mission	Indonesia
Agnes Rosari		Indonesia
Damien Kelly	Rome delegation to RBA	EU
Zoltan Kolman	Ambassador	Hungary

Annex B: Background and Reference Documents useful to the informal OEWG on Effectiveness of CFS

Below find references to various relevant background information to inform the Informal Open-Ended Working Group discussions. Note the first listed document in particular, which will be the starting point of the informal OEWG discussions.

All can be found on the CFS website at: <http://www.fao.org/cfs/en/>

- **CFS 2018/45/3** – *CFS Evaluation: Implementation of the response to the Evaluation*. See **Annex C - Promotion of accountability and sharing best practices** and the *Proposed framework for promoting accountability and sharing best practices*, see in particular **Table 1** of this Annex;
- **CFS 2019/46/7** – *CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (2020-2023)*. See in particular the **Strategic objective 3**;
- **CFS 2017/44/Inf 23** – *Independent Evaluation of CFS*. See **Conclusion 4** and **Recommendation 10** in particular, as well as **Annex E** on ideas for outreach and communications.

Other related references (that provide the historical perspective on the incremental developments on topic in CFS)

- **CFS:2008/3** – *Follow-up to the World Food Summit: Report on progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action (section IV* in particular);
- **CFS/2019/39/9** – *Information note on the Monitoring of CFS decisions and recommendations*;
- **CFS 2013/40/8** – *A framework for monitoring CFS decisions and recommendations*;
- **CFS 2014/41/11** – *Towards a framework for monitoring CFS decisions and recommendations*;
- **CFS 2015/42/10** - *Towards a framework for monitoring CFS decisions and recommendations: Report of the findings of the CFS effectiveness survey*.