

**CFS Youth Open-Ended Working Group meeting**  
**19 NOVEMBER 2021 – 15.00-18.00 (Zoom)**

**CHAIR'S SUMMARY**

**1. Overview of the process by the Rapporteur**

The meeting was opened by Ambassador Pio Wennubst, Rapporteur of the CFS Youth policy process, who highlighted the relevance of the topic under discussion, the importance of the task ahead of CFS stakeholders and the need to develop a set of concrete and effective policy recommendations that strengthen youth engagement and employment in food systems and agriculture.

The workplan that was approved by the CFS Bureau, in consultation with the Advisory Group, was presented to the OEWG members who were reminded of the importance of sticking to the agreed steps as a prerequisite towards the development of an effective and concrete policy document.

It was reiterated that the objective is to produce a meaningful, focused and action-oriented document that encourages public policies to foster enabling environments capable of tapping into the energy and skills of youth to improve food systems.

CFS stakeholders were reminded that, in order to receive all relevant information, notifications and background documents concerning this policy workstream, it is necessary to subscribe to the [CFS Youth Mailing List](#).

**2. Inputs on priority issues and policy relevant areas to be included in the Zero Draft**

OEWG members were given the opportunity to provide inputs on which priority issues and policy-relevant areas should be addressed through this CFS policy convergence process and included in the policy recommendations.

A high number of comments, proposals and suggestions were provided by CFS stakeholders. These, together with the written inputs that are sent to the CFS Secretariat by 22 November, will inform the preparation of the Zero Draft of the policy recommendations.

Some delegations expressed concerns on specific aspects included in the HLPE Report while others underlined the importance of certain topics addressed in the report. Generally, positive feedback was received on the structure of the policy recommendations presented in the report.

However, based on past experiences with previous CFS policy processes, the central role of the HLPE Report as the starting point for the preparation of these policy recommendations was highlighted. As stated in the CFS MYPoW for 2020-2023, this workstream will benefit from the findings and recommendations of the HLPE Report.

In line with the [agreed workplan](#), the Zero Draft of the policy recommendations will be circulated by the end of January 2022.

### **3. Inputs on ways to engage youth constituencies in the policy convergence process**

Inputs focused on the need to ensure wide and meaningful participation by youth organizations from all ethnic groups, regions and sectors of society, bearing in mind that “youth” represent a diverse group with a plurality of cultures, knowledge, experience, capacity, education and identities.

Specific comments and suggestions included:

- Engaging in stronger outreach and active and regular information sharing on the progress of this policy convergence process by the CFS Secretariat, Rapporteur and all CFS Members and Participants involved in the OEWG;
- Building on existing youth networks, particularly at the national and regional level, including young parliamentarians and the FAO Youth Committee;
- Capitalizing on youth mobilization initiatives emerging from UN food system summit and the national dialogues;
- Prioritizing multilingualism at all stages of the policy convergence process as a way to maximize effective participation and sustained engagement;
- Setting-up additional virtual consultations with youth on specific issues, as well as on the zero draft and draft one of the Policy Recommendations;
- Ensuring fairness in the process and addressing power imbalances.

**4. Wrap-up by the Rapporteur**

The Rapporteur thanked all stakeholders for their contributions and welcomed the general willingness to participate in the development of meaningful policy recommendations. He noted the challenges ahead but also the common ground emerging from this first dialogue.

In reminding that the deadline to submit written inputs (22 November), the Rapporteur reiterated his commitment to producing a balanced zero draft, as well as the need to continue the constructive dialogue.

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