



## NEGOTIATIONS ON THE CFS POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON AGROECOLOGICAL AND OTHER INNOVATIVE APPROACHES

Dear CFS stakeholders,

Following the Open Meeting held on 25 February 2021, I am pleased to share additional information on work modalities during the negotiations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches (29-30-31 March 2021; 4- 7 and 10 May 2021).

### Format and procedures

- a) The negotiations will be chaired by the Rapporteur, with the support of the CFS Secretariat and the Technical Focal Points, as required. Sessions will be conducted in all FAO official languages. Punctuality is required due to the schedule for interpretation;
- b) In the interest of time and efficiency, the Rapporteur may place limits on the time available for interventions, and indicate the number of interventions that will be heard before sharing a Rapporteur's proposal. A timer will be displayed on the screen;
- c) CFS stakeholders are asked to refrain from making lengthy opening or general statements. Inputs should focus on substantive topics or issues where amendments are requested, bearing in mind the iterative and consultative process which led to this final negotiation phase. Interventions should contain concrete text proposals and concise clarifications of their rationale/meaning;
- d) Regional Groups and Participant constituencies are strongly invited to form collective positions, where possible;
- e) Proposals from Participants that do not find Members' support, will not be further considered;
- f) Negotiations will begin with Recommendation 1. Once the 5 Policy Recommendations have been agreed, the preamble will be aligned with the content of the recommendations. This approach is also likely to result in a shorter and more streamlined preamble;
- g) Proposed schedule:

time	29 March	30 March	31 March
9:30 - 12:30	From rec. 1a) to rec. 1 n)	From rec. 3 f) to rec. 3p)	From rec. 4 e) to rec. 5 a. bis- the end).
14:30 - 17:30	From rec. 2a) to rec. 3 e)	From rec. 3 q) to rec. 4 d)	Preamble

- h) The Rapporteur will open the floor for a first round of comments on a few paragraphs, after which a Rapporteur's proposal will be formulated and projected on the screen;
- i) Uncontested changes will be accepted;
- j) Absent agreement, the Rapporteur may request bilateral or small-group discussions to be carried out in a separate virtual room; if/when appropriate the Rapporteur may also call for a Friends of the Rapporteur (FoR) discussion to resolve outstanding issues;
- k) Each FoR group will identify its own Chair who will work on specific unresolved paragraphs. Each FoR Chair will convey the outcomes of the informal meetings to the main negotiation session.

### **Details regarding virtual negotiations**

- a) Zoom calls will be set for each session for all registered participants who will be given a password to access the sessions;
- b) Observers will be allowed to access the virtual sessions, pending registration, in line with paragraph 13 of the CFS Reform Document;
- c) Different channels will be made available for interpretation services;
- d) All participants in the virtual meeting will be visible to one another and able to turn their video and audio on and off. All participants are encouraged to remain in mute mode until given the floor to speak, and to keep their video on to ensure a constructive dialogue;
- e) All participants are requested to enter their name and indicate the name of the Member Nation or the Participant/Observer constituency;
- f) Please note that poor sound quality is the biggest impediment to interpretation in a virtual meeting, therefore it is recommended to use a USB-headset or earphones with integrated microphone (not Bluetooth), or use a USB clip-on or personal external microphone;
- g) The text of the document under negotiation will be projected by the CFS Secretariat, when needed, through the "share the screen" option;
- h) Delegates of the same constituency are invited to coordinate to avoid that they intervene multiple times on the same matter.

I encourage Members and Participants to carefully review Draft One in order to start the negotiations with clear instructions/mandate to agree on a Final Draft to submit to CFS 48 (Special Session) on 4 June.

I am sure that you share my desire to reach a successful conclusion within the time that we have available and I look forward to working with you in a spirit of collaboration.

Yours sincerely,

Yaya Olaniran