

Committee on World Food Security (CFS)/Informal Group of Friends (GoF): “Implications of the UNFSS on the CFS and its HLPE”

Here: GER comments referring to the „CFS Options Paper“ (30 March 2022)

GER thanks the CFS Chair for preparing and sharing the „CFS Options paper“, compiling the inputs provided by GoF members during the much appreciated consultative process. We thank the CFS for the opportunity to submit written feedback as a follow-up on the 3rd GoF session held on 5 April 2022 to discuss the „Options paper“.

We much welcome the many positive and constructive suggestions included in the „Options Paper“ laying the ground for further debate on the potential role of CFS in the UNFSS follow-up process. Having a closer look at the document, we would like to highlight three key aspects:

Close cooperation CFS – FSS Coordination Hub

While a link between the CFS Chair and the „Oversight Group“ is already incorporated in the UNFSS follow-up architecture, we strongly support to also connect the Hub and the CFS. In the spirit of joining forces, the CFS could assist the Hub’s work through providing an intergovernmental and inclusive multi-stakeholder platform as well as offering concrete guidance to Member States on a voluntary basis by capitalizing on the excellent CFS policy products. To reflect this idea, we suggest to include the CFS in the „Ecosystem of Support“ and to accordingly complement the „FSS follow up architecture and the UN Food Systems Coordination“-Chart (as presented in the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub Webinar on 24 March 2022).

CFS as a global platform to bring all FNS stakeholders together

Speaking of its added value, the CFS should contribute to the UNFSS follow-up process through its inclusive and rights-based multi-stakeholder platform as well as its convening power. Referring to CFS’s unique approach and set-up within the UN system, we fully support CFS to serve as a platform to present and connect actors and initiatives focusing on implementing the National Pathways and raising awareness of the work of the Coalitions of Action.

Uptake and implementation of CFS policy products

Since the CFS is not an „implementing agency“, RBAs should assist countries in applying CFS products, where applicable, through raising awareness and presentation of CFS’ work on local, national and regional level. In addition to the valuable proposals included in the „Options paper“ (e. g. „CFS needs more presence in the liaison offices of the RBAs“), CFS might want to consider to set up a meeting with RBA representatives working in the field. Entering in a debate could help to better understand what country offices need to get more

involved in CFS' work and provide an opportunity to elaborate why CFS products can contribute for example to the implementation of National Pathways.

To conclude, we would much appreciate if the CFS Chair and the Secretariat - when updating the „Options paper“ - could check in a joint effort the rich list of ideas presented in this paper against available CFS resources and advice GoF members and the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group (28th April 2022), if there is a need for prioritization. Having said this, we follow-up on our input from January 2022 according to which CFS's insecure and limited funding situation needs to be tackled in order to strengthen its impact and contribution.