

CFS Bureau and (ad hoc) Advisory Group meeting and CFS Bureau meeting

Dates: 24 March 2023

Time: 9:00 -13:00 and 14:00 - 17:00

Virtual/Hybrid meetings (Zoom Platform + German Room)

Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting Outcomes - With Bureau Decisions

Agenda

Thematic Updates:

- A. *Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5)***
- B. *The UN Biodiversity Conference (COP-15): implications on food systems***

- 1. CFS 51 Draft Provisional Agenda**
- 2. Coordinated policy responses to the global food crisis**
- 3. Gender Workplan**
- 4. CFS Advisory Group Reporting Exercise**
- 5. Workstream Updates**
- 6. AOB**

The CFS Chairperson, Ambassador Gabriel Ferrero y de Loma – Osorio, opened the meeting informing that, for the substantive thematic updates, he had invited the Acting Executive Secretary of the UNCBD Secretariat to brief on the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP-15), and its implications on food systems; and the Director of the Office for Least-Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, and Landlocked Developing Countries at FAO to brief on the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5), that had just concluded at the beginning of March in Qatar.

The CFS Chairperson also informed Bureau and Advisory Group Members that he had received a video-message from the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, and he had asked the Secretariat to share it at an appropriate time during the meeting.

Following this introduction, the provisional agenda was adopted. Participants were informed that the meeting would be recorded, per usual practice, for the Secretariat's note-taking purposes,

while the segment on the two thematic discussions would be streamed live for broader participation.

1. CFS 51 Draft Provisional Agenda

The CFS Chair informed Bureau and Advisory Group members that he met with the FAO Director-General to discuss the scheduling of the next plenary session of CFS. In this meeting it was concluded that the dates of CFS 51 would be from 23 to 27 October 2023.

Some Bureau members and the CSIPM voiced their concerns with respect to the dates of CFS 51.

The CFS Chair presented a revised version of the CFS 51 Provisional Agenda highlighting that this has been prepared taking into account all comments, inputs and suggestions that were provided by the Bureau and Advisory Group members in January.

Bureau and Advisory Group Members observed that the agenda was heavily loaded, which would imply the organization of at least one, if not two, evening sessions, throughout the week, in addition to the Drafting Committee that was scheduled to meet on Thursday evening.

It was confirmed that, following the adoption of the Provisional Agenda, a draft Timetable would be prepared for discussion at the next Bureau and Advisory Group meeting.

It was suggested that the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food as well as a woman leader be included in the list of panelists for the High-Level Opening Ceremony. In this regard, it was requested that the CFS Secretariat should strive for gender balance in this session, to the extent possible.

Requests were made to ensure an adequate balance between dialogues and discussions and the preparation of the Final Report of the plenary session.

Bureau decision:

The CFS 51 Provisional Agenda was approved¹ by the Bureau with the following proposed amendments:

¹ The CFS 51 Provisional Agenda as approved by the Bureau is available as an annex to this outcomes document.

- a) The Provisional Agenda should contemplate two distinct interventions from the President of the UN General Assembly and from the President of the ECOSOC.
- b) Under item 3b, the reference to “high-level” before “conclusions” would be deleted.
- c) Under item 3c, the sentence should end with: “and advancing food systems transformation for the achievement of food security and nutrition and the right to adequate food”. In addition, a reference to WTO progresses on trade should be added.
- d) It should be specified that item 4 is for information and discussion.

Bureau members highlighted the key importance of sending invitations or at least informing CFS stakeholders as soon as possible of the dates of CFS 51 in order to give them enough time to plan their participation and ensure high-level attendance at the plenary.

Initial indications on the preparation of the final report were provided and will be included in a draft guide for the preparation of the final report that will be circulated and discussed by the Bureau and Advisory Group in one of the next meetings.

2. Coordinated policy responses to the global food crisis

The CFS Chair recalled the mandate received by the CFS 50 Plenary in line with its first strategic objective, for the CFS to leverage its convening power to bring together key stakeholders to discuss policy responses to the multiple dimensions of the ongoing global food crisis.

He also recalled what the CFS had already done, since the beginning of the crisis:

- The Bureau and Advisory Group tackled the global food security crisis in the regular substantive segment of its meetings;
- The engagement of the CFS Chairperson, the HLPE-FSN, Secretariat and autonomous mechanisms of CFS within the UN Secretary General’s Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance;
- The high-level event co-organized with the President of the General Assembly in July 2022 in New York.
- The Ministerial Segment at CFS 50.

In follow up to the plenary's commitment, the CFS Chair proposed to convene a series of substantive thematic sessions to enhance policy coordination in response to the global food crisis, taking a people-first approach and guided by the six priority action areas that were identified at the High-Level Event that CFS co-convened with the 76th President of the General Assembly on 18 July 2022.

He also informed that the proposed expected outcomes of these sessions were to:

1. foster a comprehensive understanding of the policy responses needed at all levels that are country-focused and that prioritize the most affected people and communities; and
2. enhance coordination, coherence and convergence of responses to the crisis, seeking a balance between short-term urgent interventions with longer-term food systems transformation and resilience efforts.

Finally, the Chair concluded that the thematic discussions will feed into a high-level event, to be organized in July, probably in parallel to the Food Systems Stocktaking Event, which likely to be co-convened with the President of the UN General Assembly.

During the debate, some Bureau and Advisory Group members requested the involvement of the HLPE-FSN in these thematic discussions.

Some Bureau and Advisory Group members requested that the issue to be re-discussed at the Bureau meetings in April. Meantime, the CFS Chair proposed to share the Concept Note with the Bureau and Advisory Group Members to seek their guidance and support in the design, preparation and convening of the sessions, to achieve the desired outcomes.

Some Bureau members cautioned about the overload these sessions may cause to Rome missions. In order to avoid that, the CFS Chair emphasized that the target participants are country-level, and he suggested that focal points from capitals be invited to participate in these meetings.

Following further requests for clarification from some Bureau members following the distribution of a draft concept note on the Chair's proposal, the item will be presented again to the Bureau and Advisory Group on 14 April for further discussion and to the Bureau on 20 April for decision.

3. Gender Workplan

The CFS Chair presented the revised Workplan (annexed to this outcomes document) for the policy convergence process on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment for Food Security and Nutrition, recalling that two meetings already took place this year (a Friends of the Chair meeting on 8 February, and an OEWG meeting on 7 March). He highlighted the progress in implementing the workplan, pointing out that a renewed draft of the GEWGE Guidelines was shared in an advanced version in English on 24 February and the language versions were shared in early March. The CFS Chair recalled that the deadline for sending detailed comments on the renewed draft was on 24 March 2023. These comments would be incorporated into the next version of the Guidelines, which will be the Draft for Negotiations. This new Draft for Negotiation is expected to be discussed in a second OEWG meeting on 5 May AM, with the main objective of allow the sharing of different views on the new Draft before the official negotiations, which were scheduled to take place from 15 to 19 May. The CFS Chair concluded the item underscoring that the revised workplan presented to BurAg members was a reasonable option to finalize the Guidelines on time for CFS 51 Plenary.

4. CFS Advisory Group Reporting Exercise

The CFS Chair presented the template for the CFS Advisory Group Reporting Exercise concerning the period January-December 2022 intended to inform the Bureau about the work carried out by the Advisory Group members, during the year in fulfilment of their roles.

In addition to the list of questions presented in the background document, the CFS Chair suggested to give the possibility to each Advisory Group member to present one voluntary commitment for 2023 concerning the promotion of the work and policy guidance of the Committee.

It was suggested that Advisory Group members be encouraged to use videos and infographics to present the outcomes of their activities.

Bureau decision:

The Bureau approved the list of questions for the CFS Advisory Group Reporting Exercise, with the additional question proposed by the CFS Chair.

A template will be circulated in the coming days to CFS Advisory Group members who are expected to submit their reports by 28 April 2023.

5. Workstream Updates

The CFS Chair highlighted some key updates and pointed to the background document for more information on the ongoing workstreams (Gender, Data, MYPoW).

CSIPM asked whether, given the compressed workplan, the policy convergence process on FSN Data would require more time to be completed.

6. AOB

CFS Chair informed that the Bureau and Advisory Group meetings in April will take place in two parts, on 14 and 20 April 2023.

Thematic Updates:

For the first thematic discussion, Ms Angelica Jacome, Director of FAO's Office for Least-Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, and Landlocked Developing Countries briefed on the LDC5 Conference that was held in Qatar from 5 to 9 March 2023.

She underscored the importance of agriculture and food systems for the group of Least-Developed Countries, where agriculture is the mainstay of many LDC economies.

She also stressed the vulnerability of LDCs to, among others, climate and economic shocks, conflict, natural resource degradation, loss of biodiversity and demographic pressure, which impacts on their agri-food systems.

She underscored that agri-food systems transformation cuts across all focus areas of the Doha Programme of Action (DPoA), and highlighted that the DPoA recognizes the CFS voluntary

guidelines on food systems and nutrition as a multi-laterally agreed framework for supporting countries to adopt food systems approaches to deliver safe, sufficient and nutritious food. She also noted that the DPoA called upon Members to increase financial and technical support to LDCs to promote family farming and the development of small, medium and large agribusinesses and industries with sustainable value addition along the agricultural value chain. Finally, she highlighted that the DPoA committed to supporting the implementation of science- and evidence-based and data-driven agricultural practices that increase resilience and sustainable productivity, help to maintain ecosystems, strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change and extreme weather events, improve food security and reduce malnutrition in all its forms.

The second thematic update focused on the Kunming/Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework which was adopted in December 2022 during the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15).

David Cooper, Acting Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, underscored the importance of this Framework, which supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through an ambitious pathway to reach the global vision of a world living in harmony with nature by 2050.

Among the Framework's key elements, many of which are extremely relevant for agriculture, food security and nutrition, Mr Cooper highlighted target 10, which referred to ensuring that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry were managed sustainably, and drew language directly from the CFS policy recommendations on agroecological and other innovative approaches.

However, Mr Cooper also pointed to the fact that the Framework, to be implemented, needed national targets, policies and plans, to translate global targets into actions.

Finally, a video-message from Michael Fakhri, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, concluded the thematic updates. The message underscored the centrality of the right to food to respond to the global food crisis, and the important role of the CFS to promote a coordinated policy response to the global food crisis. The Special Rapporteur also informed of his newest report on Violence, Conflicts, and Food Systems, which he presented to the Human Rights Council in Geneva, and of a possible resolution to be adopted, also in Geneva, calling on the elimination of all forms of violence from all food systems.

The CFS Chair wrapped up the thematic updates underscoring the function of CFS as the platform for all organizations and institutions to come together to work towards achieving food security and nutrition.

Annex 1: Attendance list for the Bureau and Advisory Group meeting

CFS Bureau Members:

H.E. Gabriel Ferrero (CFS Chair/Spain); Mr Anthony Muriithi (Kenya); Mr Sergio Costa, Ms Antonietta Patricelli (Angola); Mr Guillermo Spika (Argentina); Mr Hanghao Li (China); Ms Moira Vargas, Ms Berioska Morrison (Dominican Republic); Ms Silke Stallkamp (Germany); Ms Christina Blank (Switzerland); Mr Sean Cox, Ms Ronit Gerard (USA).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Ms Lara Lobo, Mr Claudio Garon (Brazil); Mr Maarten De Groot (Canada); Mr Purna Cita Nugraha, Ms Rini Indiyati, Ms Erna Rneindayani (Indonesia); Ms Yvonne van Laarhoven (Netherlands); Ms Ekaterina Vybornova (Russian Federation).

Advisory Group:

Ms Dubravka Bojic (FAO); Ms Elena Bertusi (IFAD); Mr Marco Cavalcante, Mr Jacopo Valentini (WFP); Ms Stineke Oenema, Ms Alessandra Mora (UNSCN); Mr Rodney Cooke, Mr James Stapleton (CGIAR); Mr Fabrizio Moscatelli (Gates Foundation); Mr Hernando Salcedo Fidalgo, Mr Andre Luzzi, Ms Patti Naiylor, Ms Hala Barakat, Ms Nora McKeon, Ms Magdalena Ackermann, Ms Mariam Mohammad, Ms Patti Naylor, Mr Luca Bianchi, Ms Giulia Simula, Ms Saima Zia, Mr Dee Woods, Mr Matthew Canfield (CSM); Mr Brian Baldwin (PSM); Mr Matheus Zanella (GAFF); Ms Giulia De Castro (WFO); Ms Marjolein Smit Mwanamwenge (WHO).

Observers:

Ms Margot Puelinckx (Belgium); Ms Carolina Seri (EU Delegation); Ms Kai Kasenurm (Estonia); Ms Marilena Montanari (Holy See); Mr Alexander Bång Bergström (Sweden).

Special Guests:

Ms Angelica Jacome Daza (FAO); Mr David Cooper, Ms Monica Kobayashi, Mr Chris Pereira (UNCBD).

CFS Secretariat:

Mr Günter Hemrich (*CFS Secretary a.i.*), Ms Bahar Zorofi, Ms Françoise Trine, Mr Lorenz Franken, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Mr Fabio Isoldi, Ms Giorgia Paratore, Mr Waiganjo Njoroge, Ms Tatiana Moruz, Mr Martin Schunk, Ms Marina Calvino, Ms Anne Marie Thow, Mr Evariste Nicoletis (HLPE-FSN Coordinator), Ms Paola Termine, Ms Silvia Meiattini (HLPE-FSN).

Annex 2: Attendance list for the Bureau meeting

CFS Bureau Members:

H.E. Gabriel Ferrero (CFS Chair/Spain); Mr Anthony Muriithi (Kenya); Mr Guillermo Spika (Argentina); Mr Hanghao Li (China); Ms Moira Vargas, Ms Berioska Morrison (Dominican Republic); Mr Mina Rizk (Egypt); Ms Silke Stallkamp (Germany); Ms Christina Blank (Switzerland); Mr Sean Cox (USA).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Ms Lara Lobo (Brazil); Mr Maarten De Groot (Canada); Mr Purna Cita Nugraha, Ms Rini Indiyati, Ms Erna Rneindayani (Indonesia); Ms Yvonne van Laarhoven (Netherlands); Ms Ekaterina Vybornova (Russian Federation).

Observers:

Ms Margot Puelinckx (Belgium); Ms Carolina Seri (EU Delegation).

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