

CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meeting and CFS Bureau meeting

Date: 19 December 2023

Time: 09:30 – 12:30 and 14:00 - 17:00

Hybrid meeting (FAO Ethiopia Room and Zoom Platform)

**Bureau and Advisory Group Meeting Outcomes -
With Bureau Decisions**

Agenda

1. CFS 51 Review
2. CFS workplans, activities and calendar
 - a) Workplan of CFS policy workstream on Reducing Inequalities
 - b) Workplan of CFS workstream on Promoting the use of CFS policy outcomes
 - c) Overview of additional MYPoW activities (collaborative governance, GTE on the Right to Food, Forum on uptake of GEWE Guidelines, Plenary discussion on decent work in agriculture)
 - d) CFS Calendar for 2023-2024
3. Workstream updates
4. Any other business

The CFS Chairperson, Ambassador Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile, welcomed all to the first meeting of the Bureau and Advisory group following the 51st session of the CFS plenary and the last Bureau meeting in 2023. Her opening remarks to the meeting referenced the conclusions of CFS 51 casting a reflection to a rich and busy inter-sessional period leading up to CFS 52 by October 2024, which will entail the implementation of MYPOW 2023-2027.

She informed the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group members about her recent outreach activities and engagements in several events, including her involvement at COP 28 in Dubai, her virtual participation in an international seminar organized by the Brazilian National Council of Food and Nutrition Security (CONSEA), her presentation at the first Global Working Conference of the FAO Regional Representatives held in Rome on CFS policy products, and her virtual participation at a high-level meeting on the creation of a policy network for the promotion of sustainable agrifood systems and improved nutrition organized by the Ministry of Health of

Mexico, jointly with the Regional offices of FAO, UNICEF and WHO. She further reflected on a retreat session held with the CFS Secretariat, and the HLPE coordination team as an opportunity to understand and facilitate alignment and to strengthen a working arrangement upholding good governance.

The Chairperson gave an overview of the agenda proposed for the seating, with a focus of both the joint meeting and the Bureau on reviewing CFS 51, to further discuss follow up actions and to initiate planning for the 52nd session of CFS to take place in October 2024. The meeting was to consider the CFS work plans for the various Workstreams and MYPOW activities for the upcoming weeks and months including the CFS calendar for 2024.

The Chairperson also outlined some of her upcoming engagements aimed to enhance visibility of CFS and the outlook for the upcoming year, including her participation in the FAO Regional Conferences. With reference to these, Bureau members were encouraged to provide suggestions about the potential role and contribution of CFS in the context of the FAO Regional Conferences. She also mentioned the opportunities that could arise from holding regular meetings on CFS matters with the Regional Groups based in Rome, similarly with the RBAs and requested the Secretariat to prepare a proposal for a standard note that could be used to update Regional Groups on CFS activities.

The Chairperson underscored the important role of the Bureau and the strategic importance of the inter-sessional period. She encouraged the members of the Bureau to be the link between the CFS and the Member States through the regional groups, suggesting the introduction of CFS as a standing item in Regional Group Meetings in Rome.

She also mentioned the possibility of requesting meetings with key stakeholders, the RBAs and other UN agencies outside Rome, including New York, Washington, Geneva, Brussels for purposes of visibility, strengthening relations and improving alignment. She highlighted the possibility to participate in the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA), an international conference on global agricultural and food policies, held from 17.-20 January in Berlin, Germany. She also mentioned her envisaged travel to New York at the end of January 2024 for introductory purposes as new CFS Chair to the UN Deputy Secretary General, and for a courtesy meeting with the President of ECOSOC, with UN Women and possibly other CFS-relevant actors.

The Chairperson acknowledged the receipt of a letter submitted by the CSIPM informing about the Mechanism's current inability to fully participate in the CFS due to a lack of funding. A representative from IFAD explained the situation and ensured that the financial problems are expected to be resolved shortly. IFAD representative, Mr Shantanu Mathur, also confirmed the financial contribution, and secondment of staff to CFS had progressed sufficiently and officially communicated to the FAO accordingly.

Furthermore, referring to conversations retreat session held with the CFS Secretariat, the Chairperson highlighted the need for more stability in the human resource capacity of the Secretariat, making also reference to the prolonged vacancy on the position of the Secretary. She encouraged to share information when the position will be filled. The FAO representative, Mr Maximo Torrero provided the meeting with an update confirming that the selection process for the Secretary had been undertaken, and that a decision was awaited soon regarding the appointment of the Secretary. He also confirmed the progress regarding IFAD funding and an HR contribution for the CFS.

1. CFS 51 Review (with Bureau discussion)

Positive feedback was provided by CFS Bureau and Advisory Group members who stressed that the agenda of the plenary was well-balanced and that the relevance of multilateralism as well as the importance of high-level dialogues and discussions clearly emerged from CFS 51.

The number and timing of side events was underlined as an element for further discussion and the need to prioritize was highlighted to facilitate the participation of the different delegations.

Bureau and Advisory Group members suggested that ways to give more prominence to the special event be explored with a view to promoting higher participation and wider engagement.

It was requested that for a smooth preparation of the CFS 52 Final Report, the draft discussions and decisions are discussed at the end of each agenda item.

It was requested that the new Bureau be given the opportunity to discuss and analyze the different CFS activities scheduled for this year in order to effectively implement the agreed programme of work and prepare an ambitious and realistic agenda for the next plenary.

It was suggested that possible synergies and ways of collaboration with the World Food Forum be explored.

Attention was raised on the need to reconsider dates of future CFS plenary sessions to avoid fatigue for member States in the context of the schedules for the RBA governing bodies, to ensure the highest participation and visibility.

Bureau discussion:

The Bureau confirmed the dates for the CFS from 21-25 October 2024 and noted the need for a follow-up discussion on potential alternative dates for future CFS plenaries from 2025 onwards. The Secretariat was requested to prepare a proposal containing options, considering the overall calendar of FAO, RBA and UN events, as well as the interlinkages between the CFS Plenaries and intersessional work.

The importance of ensuring high-level political involvement and participation in CFS plenaries was underlined as a key element to promote CFS visibility and outcomes. In this regard, the role of CFS Bureau members in encouraging high-level participation from their countries was underlined.

The importance of discussing the draft conclusions and decisions in plenary was reiterated as well as the need for clear steps for the preparation of the final report.

The Bureau expressed positive feedback on the quality and combination of topics of the side events. At the same time, it was requested that further discussions are held on the total number of events as well as on criteria for merging and prioritization.

2. CFS workplans, activities and calendar

a. Workplan of CFS policy workstream on Reducing Inequalities (with Bureau decision)

The Chair introduced the item by highlighting that this workstream carries forward from the previous CFS MYPoW and that a preliminary workplan, with different dates, had already been discussed in September.

Bureau and Advisory Group members welcomed the newly appointed Rapporteur, Ms Lara Lobo (Alternate Permanent Representative of Brazil) who encouraged Members from all regional groups to actively engage in the process for the development of a concise and precise set of policy recommendations. The importance of reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition as a key priority was emphasized by many both in the context of the G20 agenda and beyond.

A request was made to extend the current deadline of 8 January 2024 for sending written inputs. The overlap between the 2 February Thematic Discussion and the Asia and Pacific Regional Conference was also mentioned.

Bureau decision:

The draft workplan was approved with a revised deadline (15 January) for the submission of written inputs by CFS stakeholders and a request to the CFS Secretariat to look for alternative dates for the 2 February Thematic Discussion meeting.

[b. Workplan of CFS policy workstream on Promoting the Use of CFS policy outcomes \(with Bureau decision\)](#)

The CFS Chairperson provided an overview of the Draft Workplan and reminded Bureau and Advisory Group that this was already presented and discussed at the OEWG meeting on 18 December. It was underlined that during that meeting a request was made to extend the deadline for the provision of written inputs from 15 to 19 January and to secure an alternative date for the OEWG instead of 23 February which clashes with the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, possibly early March.

Bureau decision:

After a discussion on the nature of this workstream, the Bureau adopted the workplan as presented in Doc No. BurAG/2023/12/19/02b with two amendments:

- the deadline for written input on objectives and potential areas of work will be extended from 15 to 19 January, and
- the OEWG will not meet on 23 February, but on a later date not coinciding with the meeting of the Asia and Pacific Regional Group, so possibly early March.

[c. Overview of additional MYPoW activities \(collaborative governance, GTE on the Right to Food, Forum on uptake of GEWE Guidelines, Plenary discussion on decent work in agriculture\)](#)

Participants were informed that steps towards the implementation of the additional activities under the MYPoW are underway and expected to gain momentum including through the CFS's outreach and advocacy efforts. As part of these efforts, a concept on the item collaborative governance for coordinated policy responses to emerging global food crises towards sustainable agriculture and food system transformation focus area: 'Fostering resilience of agriculture and food systems to shocks and stresses' will be developed during the Q1 of 2024.

d. CFS Calendar for 2023-2024

The CFS Chairperson underlined that the aim of the agenda item was to provide an overview to Bureau and Advisory Group members of the different meetings that are scheduled in the course of this intersessional period. The CFS Secretary a. i. presented the key dates contained in the draft calendar and noted that confirmation of some of the dates by FAO Meeting Service was awaited.

3. Workstream updates

The CFS Chairperson provided an overview of the key updates contained in the background document, referring to the earlier discussion of the workstreams on Inequalities and on the Uptake of CFS policy outcomes. The Chairperson further referenced her recent outreach engagements, which were described in detail at the opening of the meeting.

In addition, the CFS Secretary a. i. gave an oral update on the CFS budget, providing an overview of the status of Regular Programme and Extra-budgetary Resources as the biennium was drawing to a close. Members appreciated the briefing on the general pillars defining the CFS budget and their relation to the resource needs expressed in the MyPoW 2023-2027. Members also pointed out that in addition to an oral update, a written overview on the budget would be helpful, as this would allow them to proactively contribute to resource mobilisation efforts for those priority areas of work which are not yet sufficiently covered. The CFS Secretary a. i. offered to provide a such a further update at the end of January or in early February when final information on 2023 expenditures is available in the financial systems.

4. Any other business

The CFS Chairperson informed the Bureau and Advisory Group that the CFS had received an invitation from ECOSOC to provide an input to the thematic review of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2024, which will focus on the topic “Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions.” To prepare the CFS input in an effective and timely manner, the Chairperson asked for a volunteer from among the Bureau members to take leadership of this process together with support from the CFS Secretariat. The CFS Vice Chairperson (New Zealand) agreed to taking on this role.

Annex 1: Attendance list – Bureau and Advisory Group meeting

CFS Bureau Members:

H.E. Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile (CFS Chair), Mr Bennie Lombard (South Africa); Ms Jenny Reid (New Zealand/Vice-Chair); Mr Guillermo Spika (Argentina); Ms Lara Lobo (Brazil); Mr Hanghao Li (China); Mr Michel Leveque (France); Mr Jujjavarapu Balaji (India); Mr Yaya Olaniran (Nigeria); Ms Christina Blank (Switzerland); Ms Danielle Maniscalco (USA).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Mr Maarten de Groot (Canada); Ms Claudia Gozalez Toledo (Cuba); Ms Berioska Morrison (Dominican Republic); Ms Erma Rheindayani, Ms Rini Indiyati, Mr Purna Cita Nugraha (Indonesia); H.E. Sem Aly Coulibaly (Mali); Ms Diana Ingrid (Norway); Ms Catalina Costantin (Romania); Ms Federica Veschi (Thailand).

Advisory Group:

Mr Maximo Torero, Ms Dubravka Bojic (FAO); Mr Shantanu Mathur, Ms Elena Bertusi (IFAD); Mr Jacopo Valentini (WFP); Mr James Garrett (CGIAR); Mr Fabrizio Moscatelli (Gates Foundation); Ms Nora McKeon, Ms Magdalena Ackermann (CSIPM); Mr Brian Baldwin (PSM); Ms Paola de Meo (SR RtF); Ms Ludovica Donati (PFM); Ms Lina Mahy (WHO).

Observers:

Mr Pierre Terlinden-Ruhl (EU Delegation).

CFS Secretariat:

Mr Günter Hemrich, Ms Bahar Zorofi, Mr Lorenz Franken, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Ms Tatiana Moruz, Ms Marina Calvino, Ms Carolin Busch, Ms Raquel Morato, Mr Evariste Nicoletis (HLPE-FSN Coordinator), Ms Paola Termine, Ms Silvia Meiattini (HLPE-FSN).

Annex 2: Attendance list – Bureau meeting

CFS Bureau Members:

H.E. Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile (CFS Chair), Mr Bennie Lombard (South Africa); Ms Jenny Reid (New Zealand/Vice-Chair); Mr Guillermo Spika (Argentina); Ms Lara Lobo (Brazil); Mr Hanghao Li (China); Mr Mina Rizk (Egypt); Mr Michel Leveque (France); Mr Jujjavarapu Balaji (India); Mr Yaya Olaniran (Nigeria); Ms Christina Blank (Switzerland); Ms Danielle Maniscalco (USA).

CFS Bureau Alternates:

Mr Maarten de Groot (Canada); Ms Claudia Gozalez Toledo (Cuba); Ms Berioska Morrison (Dominican Republic); Ms Erma Rheindayani, Ms Rini Indiyati, Mr Purna Cita Nugraha, (Indonesia); Ms Diana Ingrid (Norway); Ms Catalina Costantin (Romania); Ms Ratchanok Sangpenchan, Ms Supajit Sriariyawat (Thailand); Ms Sadia Daak (Sudan).

Observers:

Mr Matthijs van Huijgevoort (EU Delegation).

CFS Secretariat:

Mr Günter Hemrich, Ms Bahar Zorofi, Mr Lorenz Franken, Ms Chiara Cirulli, Mr Emilio Colonnelli, Ms Tatiana Moruz, Ms Marina Calvino, Ms Carolin Busch, Ms Raquel Morato, Mr Evariste Nicoletis (HLPE-FSN Coordinator), Ms Paola Termine, Ms Silvia Meiattini (HLPE-FSN).