



## **Swiss Inputs on “Increasing awareness, ownership, use and usefulness of CFS policy outcomes”**

### **Guiding Question 1: Expectations in terms of desired outcomes and areas of the CFS workstream**

A strong anchoring and support of all CFS stakeholders, including the RBAs is central. The workstream should also allow considerations to be made as to whether future CFS products can be structured differently to facilitate and improve uptake. Likewise, how the other roles of the CFS in addition to policy convergence role can be utilized better and more strategically.

### **Guiding Question 2: Main elements that would be important to include in the Action Plan**

The action plan should include objectives, activities, responsibilities, deadlines and a monitoring mechanism. In addition, the roles of the different CFS stakeholders in the context of uptake and implementation of CFS products should be described.

### **Guiding Question 3: Concrete examples of uptake activities**

Please refer to the oral presentation at the meeting on 18 December 2023 and the rapporteur’s summary.

In addition to breaking it down into language that is understandable for the implementers (VGGT Technical Guides), opportunities and political buy-in at international level (e.g. UNCCD - VGGT), regional level (e.g. ASEAN - RAI) and national level (VG Food Systems and Nutrition with the project on the promotion of people centered food systems) can be used to strengthen the uptake.

## Speaking Points:

- I was invited to present the perspective of a donor country and talk about how we support the promotion and uptake of CFS policy products with our activities. I am happy to share some of our approaches, success factors, opportunities but also challenges.
- Starting with the VGGTs: The activities correspond to a typical approach:
  - Make the policy product understandable and actionable, raise awareness and activities at global, regional, national and local levels:
    - SDC, with other donor countries supported a multi-donor programme of the FAO that:
      - produced technical guides and interactive e-learning tools [bringing the principles of the VGGT into practical application.]
      - disseminated the VGGT and contributed to regional and national awareness-raising through workshops (national, regional), specific communication material, regular newsletters and FAO's redesigned tenure website, and
      - assisted a number of countries in the implementation and the integration of the VGGT into their legislation by providing technical and institutional support
    - In addition, SDC supported projects with different partners at global, regional and national level that have land governance as a central topic.
    - And, there is still a community of like-minded countries, organizations, and practitioners active shares information about ongoing activities, as well as started to work on a common agenda to put land tenure higher on the agenda.
  - The opportunity that arose at the UNCCD was interesting in this context. In general, the UNCCD and CFS-RBAs communities are different and do not always talk to each other. The topic of Land Governance was pushed by civil society at UNCCD on the one hand and taken up by member states that were also active in the CFS/FAO context on the other. This led to a landmark decision at UNCCD COP 14 in 2019. The decision also encouraged UNCCD and FAO to jointly develop a technical guide on the integration of the VGGT in to the implementation of the UNCCD.
- What were the success factors? From the beginning, the anchoring of the topic in the FAO as well as a broad involvement of CFS Members and Participants, the urgency of the topic, the realization that the inclusive character of the CFS can achieve consensual results and therefore a broad support for the implementation.
- Even if the topic of land governance has lost some of its attention and the discussions on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the VGGT continue to show a great need for action, we still consider this to be one of the most successful CFS products. The topic and thus also the VGGT is still key and could gain more attention in the future due to increased demand on the not infinite resource of land.
- With the CFS RAI, we tried to take a similar approach and, as a first step, to break down the complexity at a global level supporting the development of technical guidelines and dissemination and awareness raising activities. However, this never materialized. Instead, the opportunity arose to do this in a regional context. ASEAN

developed and adopted the ASEAN - RAI Guidelines. At the same time, various activities were launched in the region to promote implementation.

- What was the difference compared to the VGGT? Competition between different organizations and their principles and approaches and therefore less buy-in, less support in the CFS and correspondingly less dissemination.
- Probably the least recognized of the four CFS major products by Switzerland was the Framework for Action in Protracted Crises. The necessity of developing this framework was questioned by those responsible in Switzerland. The uptake was accordingly low. In today's context and a more differentiated discussion of the development-humanitarian nexus, this could be different.
- To promote the implementation of the VG on Food Systems and Nutrition we release a call for proposal and subsequently support the project on the promotion of people-centred food systems. There are also plans to strengthen activities, projects and programmes on gender and women's empowerment as well as on youth.
- A few words about the Policy Recommendations: the process of drafting them and their scope and complexity have changed considerably in recent years. The uptake varies depending on the relevance of the topic and our strategic priorities.
- For example, we were heavily involved in the development of the Policy Recommendation on Agroecology (and other innovative approaches) and also in strengthening agroecology as an approach to transform food systems. However, this did not happen in isolation. The FAO Conferences on Agroecology, the 10 Elements of FAO, the FAO Council Decision, the Group of Friends of Agroecology, the Donor Group on Agroecology and now the Agroecology Coalition were and are part of the puzzle. We have also set ourselves a measurable goal to give our projects and programmes a stronger and more comprehensive agroecological focus. In order to do this not only in isolation, we received a mandate from parliament to raise awareness on agroecology among offices in the federal administration that deal with the World Bank and IFIs in particular. This in the spirit of a whole-of-government approach.
- We received technical support from the Federal Statistical Office during the PR on Data negotiations. It is a happy coincidence that this person is active in the UN Stats Commission. This allows the PR on Data to be known in this body as well.
- In addition to the negotiated text, the recommendations drafted by the HLPE are also interesting. Just like the HLPE Report itself. This basis makes it possible to deal with the topic in greater depth. These findings can then be incorporated into the conceptual considerations when developing projects and programmes.
- To summarise: it stands and falls with interest, commitment and ownership. In addition, the relevant stakeholders, whether within the administration at country level or the various UN organisations and IFIs, must not only be connected at top management level, but also further down and maintain the necessary exchange. The focus should be on cooperation and not competition. And, if a new opportunity arises, it should also be used.