

EU comments on the CFS Workstream : Zero Draft of the Action Plan 'Increasing awareness, ownership, use and usefulness of CFS policy outcomes'

06.05.2024 v.3

General comments

- The content of the draft CFS action plan relies heavily on stakeholders. The first step is to ensure that the identified stakeholders are properly involved and that the OEWS will follow up on this commitment.
- The Final Draft of the Action Plan will be uploaded on the 20 June 2024 and will for the first time include the estimated budget requirements for actions (Annex A). As there will be no opportunity to submit further comments and in order for CFS members to agree on the final text, we propose to hold an additional meeting to focus on the Annex A. Even an informal VTC meeting might be useful in this perspective. As a second option, we propose to discuss and agree on the text, paragraph by paragraph, during the last session of the OEWS (15.7.2024). We recognize that this last proposal does not reflect the non-negotiated nature of this workstream but we think it may pave the way for the endorsement by the CFS52 Plenary.
- Promoting CFS products is a key priority so Part 2 should appear first (as Part 1).

Paragr	Zero Draft text (29.4.2024) commented	Comments
Introduction		
i	In line with the indications provided in the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2024-2027, this Action Plan is intended to present a roadmap with actions for different CFS stakeholders that are responsible for promoting the uptake ¹ of CFS policy agreements at global, regional, national and local levels to progress towards the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.	
ii	This exercise is based on the recognition that strengthening the usefulness, ownership, awareness and use of CFS policy agreements is a collective responsibility that requires joint efforts as well as close collaboration between relevant stakeholders. While Member States have the primary responsibility for promoting the CFS and the use and application of its policy agreements, this needs to be the result of a collaboration with and strong engagement by the different CFS stakeholders, such as the Rome-based Agencies (RBA) and other UN and international bodies, financial, research and philanthropic institutions, civil society and the private sector. This collaborative effort requires coordination, which is intended to be promoted in the framework of this CFS workstream dedicated to strengthening the uptake of CFS policy agreements.	

iii	The Action Plan is structured around three main sections that include tiered actions to be addressed by CFS and different CFS stakeholders, with proposed activities to be undertaken, based on available resources, respectively, to strengthen the usefulness and ownership of CFS policy agreements, promote awareness and their use among intended users, and to advance cross-cutting areas that refer to the ability to raise resources, monitor and evaluate activities and provide a platform for discussions for interested stakeholders. A draft table with indications on stakeholders responsible for the implementation of specific actions, tentative timeline for their completion as well as budget requirements, is annexed at the end of the Action Plan.	
iv	This Action Plan represents ongoing discussions among CFS stakeholders about how to dynamically and over time seek to constantly improve the uptake of CFS agreements. This will reflect the reality that identifying best practices and implementing them is an ongoing process. As such, this Action Plan is meant to represent a guide and the starting point for a living process that draws on different experiences, practices and actions	
notes	<p>¹ For the purpose of this Action Plan, promoting uptake refers to increasing the “usefulness”, “use”, “awareness” and “ownership” of CFS policy processes and agreements. To have a common understanding, the following description of these terms are proposed, without representing a precedent for other CFS workstreams or for future CFS negotiated policy agreements:</p> <p>a) Usefulness: the more a CFS policy agreement responds to the needs of CFS stakeholders, the more useful it can be. The degree of usefulness depends on what happens prior to the endorsement of a policy agreement, and it is influenced by factors concerning the prioritization of topics for CFS policy workstreams, the process that leads to the development of a CFS policy agreement, and the concreteness and applicability of the agreed recommendations.</p> <p>b) Use: the use of a CFS policy agreement happens after its endorsement when strategies, programmes and policies are designed and developed, based on the CFS agreement. Usefulness and use are intrinsically linked to each other: the more useful a policy agreement in terms of the topic and the actionability, the higher the likelihood that this agreement is used.</p> <p>c) Awareness is a necessary prerequisite for the use of a policy agreement by CFS stakeholders. The more stakeholders are aware of a policy agreement, the higher the likelihood that it is used.</p> <p>d) Ownership is the level of identification of CFS stakeholders with a policy agreement, or parts of it. It can vary across and within stakeholder categories. While it depends on the usefulness of a policy agreement, the ownership impacts its use by the relevant stakeholders</p>	The definitions of “ policy agreement ” and “ policy product ” should be included.
Part1 - ACTIONS TO STRENGTHEN THE USEFULNESS AND OWNERSHIP OF CFS POLICY AGREEMENTS		
A. Promote an effective prioritization of topics for CFS policy processes		
1.A.1	The High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN) will prepare a compilation of key elements from CFS policy agreements to help relevant stakeholders identify gaps in CFS policy agreements to progress towards the progressive realization of the right to adequate food and the transformation of agriculture and food systems.	
1.A.2	CFS Members and Participants, in line with the prioritization criteria outlined in Annex B of the CFS	

	Implementation Report, will create an effective and streamlined prioritization of topics for CFS policy processes during the development of the CFS MYPoW beginning with the 2028-2031 version. Prioritization of themes for CFS policy processes will be linked to national priorities as well as to their alignment with priorities of relevant UN bodies, including the RBAs. A strategy for promoting future awareness and use, including resource requirements, will be linked to each policy process and included in the CFS MYPoW.	
1.A.3	The RBAs, other UN bodies and international organizations should contribute their technical expertise and capacities to ensure that CFS policy agreements are fit for purpose and add value to existing policy work.	
B. Promote the development of concrete and actionable CFS policy agreements, their ownership and visibility, through inclusive CFS policy processes		
1.B.1	CFS Members and Participants will ensure that CFS policy agreements are concrete, concise, understandable, user-friendly and actionable in terms of structure and language. In this regard, CFS policy agreements will focus on potential users and implementers at country level. Sufficient time for the provision of inputs and discussions, as well as negotiations, and where possible, informal sessions to discuss controversial topics will be provided.	
1.B.2	CFS Members and Participants should apply inclusive CFS policy processes. Participation of relevant stakeholders from different sectors, including representatives from all relevant ministries (including experts from capitals) is expected, to help increase policy convergence as well as ownership of the final output at national and regional levels.	
1.B.3	The RBAs, other UN bodies and international organizations should provide technical inputs to the development of CFS policy agreements and promote collaboration with existing UN initiatives and processes, in the context of ongoing CFS policy processes, as a way of increasing future ownership, visibility and use of CFS policy agreements.	

Part 2 - ACTIONS TO PROMOTE AWARENESS AND USE OF CFS POLICY AGREEMENTS

A. Develop uptake strategies and activities, and provide technical support

2.A.1	The CFS, in collaboration with the RBAs, will develop a toolkit that various stakeholders can use to promote awareness and use and to enhance the understanding of CFS policy agreements at local, national and regional levels. This toolkit should include indications of how different stakeholders can support the integration of CFS policy agreements into national policies, programmes and legal frameworks as a way to ensure a more coordinated and impactful implementation. This toolkit should include an analysis based on the experiences from the uptake of CFS main policy agreements that draws lessons learned, successful cases, challenges faced,	
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	main barriers and enablers for success.	
2.A.2	The CFS will develop a communication strategy for consistent and coherent dissemination and promotion of CFS policy agreements to relevant target audiences including those relevant to gender equality . This communication strategy will make strategic use of different media platforms, look at strengthening collaboration with different media outlets, explore innovative approaches to showcase the impact of CFS policy agreements, and promote the development of easy-to-understand materials that give visibility to CFS policy agreements.	This paragraph stressing on CFS communication strategy should appear first as well (2.A.1 instead of 2.A.2)
2.A.3	CFS Members should use and apply CFS policy agreements in national strategies, policies and programmes, adapting their implementation to national priorities and realities and targeting activities to relevant groups and stakeholders.	
2.A.4	The RBAs, other UN bodies and international organizations, in coordination with UN Resident Coordinators and UNFSS National Convenors, should come together and provide technical and institutional support to governments and national authorities as well as regional institutions to promote the integration and adaptation of CFS policy agreements into national and regional legislations, technical programmes and policy frameworks.	All the actors and stakeholders should act in a coordinated way that might informally be decided in advance
2.A.5	The CFS Members , RBAs, other UN bodies and international organizations should consider use the content of CFS policy agreements as a reference for the preparation of their projects to ensure their alignment to CFS policy guidance.	CFS products can provide a good basis for project work at national level thus increasing their use and dissemination as well as their value.
2.A.6	The RBAs and the CFS should identify countries from various regions where the application of specific policy agreements can be promoted, based on national priorities and contexts.	
2.A.7	Private sector companies should integrate the principles and objectives of CFS policy agreements into their corporate social responsibility and investments.	
2.A.8	Philanthropic foundations should support and encourage the integration of CFS policy agreements into programmes dealing with food security and nutrition and disseminate them across their networks of donors.	
2.A.9	Civil Society, Indigenous Peoples and non-governmental organizations should develop training, advocacy and capacity building activities for local and national practitioners engaged in the use of CFS policy agreements.	
2.A.10	All CFS stakeholders should promote the translation of CFS policy agreements into national and local languages in order to make them available to and usable by a wider audience	

B. Creating an enabling environment at national level with empowered stakeholders, inclusive institutions and enhanced policy and legal frameworks		
2.B.1	The CFS, in collaboration with FAO, WFP and IFAD, will carry out a mapping exercise of existing national and regional multistakeholder platforms with a view to strengthening linkages and fostering cross-sectoral dialogues to facilitate the use of CFS policy agreements.	
2.B.2	CFS Members should use national multistakeholder and cross-sectoral structures and mechanisms in the field of food security and nutrition to help elevate the platform for the promotion of the use and to discuss how CFS policy agreements can be implemented and adapted to national contexts as well as how they can foster dialogue and collaboration between different stakeholders. In that way, informing the Inter Parliamentary Union and, if relevant, national Parliaments on CFS products could play a key role for the uptake. Furthermore, these platforms could play a key role in informing the development of national negotiating positions in the context of CFS policy processes.	It is important to mention Parliament in the stakeholders as CFS products can be an useful element of information for them
2.B.3	CFS Members should identify CFS focal points at country level in the most relevant ministries or multi-stakeholder platforms to promote the dissemination, use and application of CFS policy agreements.	
C. Mainstreaming CFS policy agreements in and strengthening linkages with international strategies and fora		
2.C.1	CFS Members should advocate for active engagement and a role for CFS in relevant international fora and for the inclusion of CFS policy agreements in multilateral negotiations.	
2.C.2	The Rome-based Agencies, other UN bodies and international organizations should organize regular awareness raising and/or capacity building and sharing of best practices sessions with their staff at Headquarters and at regional and national levels, including with their national representatives and Resident Coordinators, to inform them about CFS policy agreements, discuss how they can inform their work at all levels and create synergies with ongoing initiatives, such as the UNFSS National Pathways, and the achievement of SDGs, Rio Conventions, G20 etc.	
2.C.3	The RBAs, other UN bodies and international organizations should strengthen the presence of CFS and include regular agenda items on CFS in the context of global and regional meetings of their governing bodies and strengthen linkages between CFS and their technical committees in order to raise awareness about CFS policy agreements, generate discussions on how they could inform the development of their programmes of work and identify potential synergies and ways of collaboration.	

Part 3 - CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF STRENGTHENED UPTAKE OF CFS PROCESSES AND POLICY AGREEMENTS		
3.1	The CFS will strengthen its strategy for monitoring and evaluating the use of its policy agreements. In particular, a consolidated overview of uptake activities should be provided by adding to the CFS webpage a digital repository that includes information on the use of CFS policy agreements at global, regional, national and local levels. The preparation of the CFS repository should be carried out in close collaboration with relevant technical units, especially of the RBAs, involved in CFS uptake activities and it should also be informed by the outcomes of the different CFS Global Thematic Events organized throughout the years. There should also be a space where CFS stakeholders can at any time comment on the current relevance of a specific policy agreement.	
3.2	The CFS will dedicate regular agenda items during CFS plenaries to discuss progress, challenges and ways to improve the use of CFS policy agreements at all levels. These dialogues could be an opportunity to share and discuss lessons learned from CFS uptake experiences with a view to informing future strategies for the promotion of the use of CFS policy agreements and feeding the preparation of the future CFS programmes of work by identifying best practices. These regular spaces for discussion could also be used to analyse CFS funding requirements and ways of mobilizing resources, to raise awareness about the time required for effective policy change as well as to identify ways to link the CFS monitoring mechanism with other existing initiatives and mechanisms. Furthermore, discussions could focus on ways to improve data collection of use of CFS policy agreements and collaboration with reporting systems existing at country level.	
3.3	The CFS will establish an Open-Ended Working Group that is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the present Action Plan, for providing a space for CFS stakeholders to report on the activities carried out in response to the Action Plan, and to prepare the regular agenda items that will take place in the context of future CFS plenaries.	
3.4	CFS Members and all relevant stakeholders should engage in mobilization of voluntary financial and non-financial, public and private contributions to support the development of activities aimed at promoting the usefulness, ownership, awareness and use of CFS policy agreements.	
3.5	The RBAs, other UN bodies and international organizations, in particular International Financial Institutions, should explore opportunities for joint programming and resource mobilization to support the implementation of CFS policy agreements, leveraging their comparative advantages and expertise.	

ANNEX A — TABLE OUTLINING ACTIONS, RESPONSIBILITIES, TENTATIVE TIMELINE AND BUDGET REQUIREMENTS

Paragr	Action	Responsible stakeholder	Tentative timeline	Budget estimate	Comments
1.A.1	Preparation of a compilation of key elements from CFS policy agreements	HLPE-FSN	To be determined		
1.A.2	Ensure an effective and streamlined prioritization of topics for CFS policy processes during the development of the CFS programme of work	CFS Members and Participants	During the process dedicated to the preparation of the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW)		
1.A.3	Bring technical expertise and capacities, in order to ensure that CFS policy agreements are fit for purpose and add value to existing policy work	The Rome-based Agencies, other UN bodies and international organizations	During the process dedicated to the preparation of the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW)		
1.B.1	Ensure that CFS policy agreements are concrete, understandable, user-friendly and actionable, focusing on potential users, allowing sufficient time for the provision of inputs, discussions and for negotiations and, where possible, foreseeing informal sessions to discuss controversial topics	CFS Members and Participants	During CFS policy processes		
1.B.2	Apply inclusive CFS policy processes, promoting the participation of relevant stakeholders	CFS Members and Participants	During CFS policy processes		
1.B.3	Provide technical inputs and promote collaboration with existing UN	The Rome-based Agencies, other UN bodies and	During CFS policy processes		

	initiatives and processes, in the context of ongoing CFS policy processes	international organizations			
2.A.1	Prepare a toolkit with indications on potential use of CFS policy agreements, an analysis based on the experiences from the uptake of CFS main policy agreements	CFS in collaboration with the RBAs	To be finalized before CFS 53 in October 2025		
2.A.2	Develop the CFS communication strategy	CFS	To be presented at CFS 53 in October 2025		
2.A.3	Use and apply CFS policy agreements in national strategies, policies and programmes	CFS members	Continuous exercise starting with the endorsement of the CFS policy agreement		
2.A.4	Provide technical and institutional support to governments, national authorities and regional institutions to promote the integration and adaptation of CFS policy agreements into national and regional legislations, technical programmes and policy frameworks	The RBAs, other UN bodies and international organizations, in coordination with UN Resident Coordinators and UNFSS National Convenors	Continuous exercise starting with the endorsement of the CFS policy agreement		
2.A.5	Use content of CFS policy agreements as a reference for the preparation of projects	The Rome-based Agencies, other UN bodies, and international organizations and CFS Member	Continuous exercise to be carried out as part of the project planning processes		
2.A.6	Identification of countries from various regions where to promote the application of CFS policy agreements	CFS in collaboration with Rome-based Agencies FAO, WFP and IFAD	Continuous exercise starting with the endorsement of the CFS policy agreement		

2.A.7	Integrate the principles and objectives of CFS policy agreements into corporate social responsibility and investments	Private sector companies	Continuous exercise starting with the endorsement of the CFS policy agreement		
2.A.8	Support and encourage integration of CFS policy agreements into FSN programmes and disseminate them across their networks of donors	Philanthropic foundations	Continuous exercise starting with the endorsement of the CFS policy agreement		
2.A.9	Develop training, advocacy and capacity building activities for local and national practitioners	Civil Society, Indigenous Peoples and non-governmental organizations	Continuous exercise starting with the endorsement of the CFS policy agreement		
2.A.10	Promote translation of CFS policy agreements into national and local languages	All CFS stakeholders	Continuous exercise starting with the endorsement of the CFS policy agreement		
2.B.1	Carry out a mapping exercise of existing national and regional multistakeholder platforms	CFS in collaboration with FAO, WFP and IFAD,	Preliminary version to be presented at CFS 53 in October 2025		
2.B.2	Use national multistakeholder and cross-sectoral structures and mechanisms in the field of food security and nutrition	CFS Members	Continuous exercise		
2.B.3	Identify CFS focal points at country level in the most relevant ministries or multi-stakeholder platforms	CFS Members	Continuous exercise		
2.C.1	Advocating for an active engagement and role for CFS in relevant fora and for the inclusion of CFS policy agreements in	CFS Members	Continuous exercise		

	multilateral negotiations				
2.C.2	Organize regular awareness raising sessions with staff at Headquarters and at regional and national levels, including with their national representatives and Resident Coordinators	RBAs and other UN bodies, UNFSS Conveners and international organizations	Continuous exercise		
2.C.3	Strengthen the presence and include regular agenda items on CFS in the context of global and regional meetings of their governing bodies and strengthen linkages between CFS and their technical committees	The Rome-based Agencies, other UN bodies and international organizations	Continuous exercise		
3.1	Strengthen its strategy for monitoring and evaluating the use of CFS policy agreements and preparation of a digital repository that includes information on the use of CFS policy agreements at global, regional, national and local levels	CFS in close collaboration with relevant technical units, especially of the RBAs	To start after the endorsement of the Action Plan at CFS 52		
3.2	Inclusion of regular agenda items during CFS plenaries to discuss progresses, challenges and ways to improve the use of CFS policy agreements at all levels	CFS	Regular discussions to take place during CFS Plenaries		
3.3	Establishment of an Open-Ended Working Group that is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the present Action Plan	CFS	After the endorsement of the Action Plan at CFS 52		
3.4	Engage in mobilization of contributions to promote the use of CFS policy agreements	CFS Members and all relevant stakeholders	Continuous exercise		

3.5	Explore opportunities for joint programming and resource mobilization to support the implementation of CFS policy agreements	RBAs and other UN bodies, international organizations, and International Financial Institutions	Continuous exercise		
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