

## **CSIPM written contribution to draft outline of the action plan on INCREASING AWARENESS, OWNERSHIP, USE AND USEFULNESS OF CFS POLICY OUTCOMES**

**07.03.2024**

The CSIPM welcomes draft action plan as an initial skeleton for the action plan and would like to highlight again the utmost importance of this workstream. The draft Action Plan entails several positive elements that point to the need for collaboration, support and coordination to strengthen the use and application of CFS policy outcomes and the CSIPM also welcomes the structure of the document.

For the CSIPM, it is fundamental to make sure that the work we do in this global space is unique and addresses the concerns and proposals of people on the ground in a participatory manner, and that the outcomes that are negotiated here go back to the territories and transform realities there, **supporting the progressive realization of the right to food** in the different regional and national contexts, translate them into policies and legislation that are relevant within the different territories, implement the policies, and monitor the implementation processes as well as their effects.

We see the work on Uptake and Application of CFS Policy Outcomes deeply related with the CFS Coordination Function – which promotes CFS's linkages with other spaces to which our policy outcomes are relevant - and consider a great opportunity that the workstream on Uptake and the twentieth anniversary of the Right to Food guidelines coincide.

Although there is still a lot to be clarified and concretized in the Action Plan, the CSIPM is appreciates this detailed list of roles and responsibilities coming together and looks forward to working with CFS members and participants' counterparts in capitals, communities and territories to make sure the CFS policy frameworks meet their objective, from Rome to home.

The CSIPM has some overarching suggestions both to improve the existing action areas and to include some additional ones. **We have proposed concrete text to add to the draft action plan language (see annex).** These proposals respond mainly to the following key points.

### **1. Right to adequate food:**

The reference to the right to food is currently missing from the action plan and should be included throughout the document as overarching framework (e.g. in the introduction, point 1.A.1, point 1.B.7, point 2.B.4).

### **2. Social Participation:**

The relevance of social participation shall be highlighted to centering the most vulnerable during the entire process and at all levels. When it comes to the use of CFS policy outcomes, it is essential to develop and/or to strengthen national multisectoral and coordination spaces that are human rights based. These government-driven platforms must be leveraged for the uptake of CFS products, while at the same time improving their inclusiveness and the representation of the most vulnerable through participation of social movements. The CONSEA in Brazil is a good practice of such a multi-actor space, in which social participation and horizontal exchanges are guaranteed. Working with networks of Parliamentarians can also be an idea to consider. FAO has done so much work on this in LAC and Africa. Therefore, we suggest concretizing the point 2.B.3 in this regard.

### **3. Ownership:**

The use of CFS products increases when ownerships exists. This points to the need for inclusive processes, by CFS providing the necessary environment for all actors to meaningfully participate, i.e. providing interpretation for all OEWDs, AG/Bureau sessions etc. Therefore, and in coherence with the title of this

workstream, we suggest that the sections A are called “Actions to strengthen the **ownership** and **usefulness** of CFS policy agreements”.

When it comes to the usefulness and ownership of CFS policy outcomes to other UN agencies we consider it key to highlight that CFS’s policy outcomes have high legitimacy due to its unique inclusive policy convergence processes and should therefore be taken into account by other UN agencies. The VGGTs are a wonderful example as they have been included in a resolution of UNCCD and therefore been adopted as a binding policy instrument.

#### **4. Member States responsibility:**

As noted in the introduction of the draft Action Plan “**Member States have primary responsibility** for promoting CFS and the use and application of CFS policy agreements at all levels”. Even though the policies endorsed are non-binding, Member State representatives who convene and take part in negotiations commit to socializing their governments with the policies and leverage these for policy reform. This could be stressed further, e.g. through a strong chapeau to points 1 and 2.

#### **5. Role of Rome Based Agencies (RBA`s):**

Under the section of UN agencies, we would like to underline the important role that the RBAs play on one hand hosting the CFS and supporting technically policy convergence, on the other hand supporting the dissemination of outcomes through their national and regional offices and in the national governance spaces where they interact.

#### **6. Indigenous Peoples:**

The CSIPM requests that the **Action Plan consistently refers to Indigenous Peoples’ organizations** in addition to civil society ones.

#### **7. Updated strategy for monitoring and evaluation:**

The CSIPM considers that action plan presents a great opportunity to put in practice recommendations of the CFS evaluation from 2017/2018 which should be taken into account. In this regard we propose an addition to the point 1.B.4 mentioning that the proposed updated **strategy for monitoring and evaluation shall respect previously defined principles and also build on the framework for monitoring-related activities**. Both are referenced in the annex.

Following: CSIPM text insertion suggestions in draft outline for action plan.

2 February 2024

## **INCREASING AWARENESS, OWNERSHIP, USE AND USEFULNESS OF CFS POLICY OUTCOMES DRAFT OUTLINE OF THE ACTION PLAN**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In line with the indications provided in the **CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2024-2027**, the objective of this workstream is to foster an in-depth debate among CFS stakeholders on how to increase the impact, promote the dissemination, ownership, use and uptake of CFS policy agreements.

The Action Plan that will result from this process is intended to present a roadmap with actions to be carried out by different stakeholders that are responsible for promoting the use of CFS policy agreements at global, regional and national levels **working towards the progressive realization of the right to food**. Likewise, the action plan will include recommendations to strengthen the usefulness of CFS policy agreements. Both dimensions, the **usefulness and the use** of CFS policy agreements are intrinsically linked to each other: the more useful a policy agreement in terms of the topic and the actionability, as well as some intentional requirements built into the overall process of developing the policy agreement process, the higher the likelihood that this agreement is used.

This exercise is based on the recognition that promoting the use and uptake of CFS policy agreements is a collective responsibility that requires joint, intentional efforts and close collaboration between all relevant stakeholders. While **Member States have primary responsibility** for promoting CFS and the use and application of CFS policy agreements at all levels, this needs to be the result of a **collaboration with and strong engagement by the different CFS stakeholders**, such as the Rome-based Agencies and other UN and international bodies, financial, research and philanthropic institutions, civil society, **Indigenous Peoples**, and the private sector. This collaborative effort requires coordination, which can be undertaken, inter alia, in the framework of this workstream foreseen for 2024-2027.

This **Draft Outline** of the Action Plan is a compilation of areas of action that were suggested by the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) members during the Meeting held on 18 December and in their written contributions that were submitted in January 2024. When proposed issues overlapped, they have been merged. They have been sorted according to the respective stakeholders responsible for the action to be taken. For each stakeholder category, the action area is distinguished in relation to its contribution towards improving the usefulness or to the increased use of CFS policy agreements. For the **next versions** of the Action Plan, each action will be further described and specified with indications on potential timeframe and required resources.

In line with the [agreed workplan](#), OEWG members have time until 7 March to submit written inputs on the Draft Outline of the Action Plan, that will be used together with the feedback that will be provided at the OEWG meeting scheduled on 7 March, to inform the preparation of the Zero Draft of the Action that is expected to be circulated on 14 April. [2 February 2024](#)

## 1. THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (CFS)

*[To be added: introductory sentences highlighting roles and expected contribution of these actors] [„CFS is an intergovernmental committee within the United Nations system, and it is the CFS Members who ultimately bear the duty of ensuring that the Committee delivers on its mandate.“(CFS 2018/45/2 , recommendation 7, p. 11) and include a mention to HLPE.]*

### A. Actions to strengthen the **ownership and usefulness** of CFS policy agreements:

1.A.1 - **Effective prioritization** of topics for CFS policy convergence processes during the MYPOW development (urgency and relevance of the topic to **[the realization of the Right to adequate food by addressing structural causes of food insecurity that need for multisectoral coordination and convergence,]** national needs and priorities, alignment with priorities of relevant UN bodies)

1.A.2 - Development of **concrete, understandable and actionable** CFS policy agreements, focusing on potential users and targeting specific stakeholders **with a special emphasis on implementation of CFS products at the local and territorial levels in collaboration with civil society and Indigenous Peoples organizations;**

1.A.3 - Application of an inclusive policy convergence **process [giving priority to most affected constituencies and countries of food insecurity]** (sufficient time for inputs and discussions, diverse technical sources and stakeholders to be engaged, adequate time for negotiations, **ensure adequate interpretation**).

### B. Actions to promote awareness and **use** of CFS policy agreements:

**[1.B.X Substantive dialogue and policy coordination involving a critical assessment of factors that limit the use and application of CFS policy outcomes, particularly at the local and territorial levels.]**

1.B.1 - Development of **guidance on how to promote** the use of CFS policy agreements through identification of:

- i **Uptake and dissemination tools and activities** that can be developed by different stakeholders to promote the dissemination and integration of CFS policy agreements into, as appropriate, national, institutional, legal and policy frameworks;
- ii **Target groups** of different uptake activities;
- iii **National needs** linking the application of each specific CFS policy agreement to relevant national priorities and realities;
- iv Relevant **stakeholders** across sectors that could be involved in order to increase cross-sectoral collaboration and coherence between different policy areas;
- v **Lessons learned** from previous uptake exercises, including what worked and what did not work, main barriers and enablers for success.

1.B.2 - **Mapping of national and regional multi-stakeholder platforms [that are human rights-based, inclusive, multisectoral and]** that can analyse and adapt CFS policy agreements to national and regional contexts, and promote cross-sectoral dialogues to facilitate their uptake;

1.B.3 - **Identification of pilot countries** where the application of specific CFS policy agreements can be promoted, based on national priorities and needs;

1.B.4 - Development of an updated **strategy for monitoring and evaluation** of the uptake of CFS policy agreements that is linked to national reporting mechanisms [respecting previously defined principles<sup>1</sup> and building on the framework for monitoring-related activities<sup>2</sup>];

1.B.5 - **Mapping of relevant spaces and processes** where linkages with CFS have to be strengthened to disseminate its outcomes [and to coordinate amongst these spaces and processes to reach policy convergence]

1.B.6 - Development of a **communication strategy for consistent and coherent information, dissemination and promotion of CFS policy agreements** to relevant targeted audiences; [which could include activities such as virtual and in-person events, webinars, and panel discussions (at regional or national level) to discuss and showcase the real-world impact of CFS policy agreements, and the development of easy-to-understand and visually appealing materials that break down the technical jargon of CFS policy agreements for different key audiences that play a role in the use and application of CFS policy agreements].

1.B.7 - Development by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (**HLPE-FSN**) of **a compilation of key CFS agreements [based on the right to food framework]** concerning policies to address [the challenges of hunger and the transformation of food systems, as well as the identification of gaps that could be addressed in the coordination platform] ~~food insecurity and malnutrition and to promote agrifood systems transformation;~~

1.B.8 - **Translation** of CFS policy agreements into national and local languages;

1.B.9 - Engagement in **resource mobilization** efforts to support the development of such uptake activities (targeted activities, indications on funding required, awareness on time required for effective policy change).

## **2. CFS MEMBERS IN THEIR NATIONAL CAPACITY**

*[To be added: introductory sentences highlighting roles and expected contribution of these actors]*

*Highlight Member States have primarily responsibility to implementing CFS policy outcomes, to “bringing Rome Home”.*

A. Actions to strengthen the **ownership and usefulness** of CFS policy agreements:

[To be added depending on future inputs]

[2.A.1 – Ensuring good governance and the rule of law while empowering rights holders to make demands to their governments and devise policies that address their specific needs (RtF Guidelines 1.2).]

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<sup>1</sup> These entail: Be human-rights based, with particular reference to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food; Make it possible for decision-makers to be accountable; Be participatory and include assessments that involve all stakeholders and beneficiaries, including the most vulnerable; Be simple, yet comprehensive, accurate, timely and understandable to all, with indicators disaggregated by sex, age, region, etc., that capture impact, process and expected outcomes; Not duplicate existing systems, but rather build upon and strengthen national statistical and analytical capacities. [Global Strategic Framework](#), 29

<sup>2</sup> [CFS 2018/45/3](#) (p. 19)

[2. A. 2 - Involvement of ministries and all relevant actors, including experts from capital from the beginning in policy convergence processes to increase ownership of policy convergence outputs at country and regional levels (CFS 2018/45/2, p.12).]

#### B. Actions to promote **awareness and use** of CFS policy agreements:

2.B.1 - Provision of **financial resources** dedicated to strengthening the use of CFS policy agreements at regional [, **national**] and local levels;

2.B.2 - Identification of **CFS national focal points** at national level (roles, sectors, ways of communication);

2.B.3 – Establishment **and strengthening** of **national multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral structures [which are human rights-based, inclusive and multisectoral, and that can discuss how CFS policy outcomes can be implemented adapting them to national contexts]** and mechanisms that can support the use of CFS policy agreements;

[2.B.X Inviting Member countries to strengthen the links between CFS policy processes and outcomes and ongoing initiatives and agendas of regional intergovernmental mechanisms and organisations, to strengthen policy coherence at this level. (CFS 2018/45/2, para 38, p. 12)]

[2.B.X CFS stakeholders are encouraged to continue disseminating HLPE reports to the relevant ministries at country level, recognizing that they are not CFS-endorsed policy recommendations (CFS 2018/45/2, para 60, p. 18)]

2.B.4 - Creation of an **enabling environment** at national level (empowered change agents, inclusive institutions, enhanced policy and legal frameworks **for the human rights-based development of policies and programmes**);

2.B.5 - Development of activities that **increase the visibility of CFS policy agreements** (thematic events, awareness raising events, advocating for inclusion of references to policy agreements in multilateral negotiations).

[2.B.X Strengthen capacities of civil society and indigenous peoples organizations to be able to actively follow policy convergence processes, including through direct funding, by respecting their autonomy and self-organization.]

### **3. UN AGENCIES AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

*[To be added: introductory sentences highlighting roles and expected contribution of these actors]*

#### A. Actions to strengthen the **ownership and usefulness** of CFS policy agreements:

[3.A.X – Ensure good collaboration between the CFS and the RBA's to ensure good functioning of CFS.]

3.A.1 - **Improve collaboration across UN system** to ensure that **[UN agencies bring their technical capacity to CFS which provides its space to coordinate among UN agencies on topics dealing with food security and the progressive realization of the right to food.]**

~~CFS policy agreements are fit for purpose and are connected to existing initiatives and processes.~~

B. Actions to promote awareness and use of CFS policy agreements:

3.B.1 - **Mainstreaming CFS policy agreements** in the strategies, programmes and technical activities of the Rome-based Agencies and other relevant UN bodies and institutions;

[3.B.X - In response to countries' requests, the RBAs should continue to leverage their interactions with national authorities and stakeholders to actively promote CFS and mainstream its work into policies and programmes, where relevant to their priorities. (CFS 2018/45/2, para 55, p. 18).]

[3.B. X - Encouraging the RBAs, through the appropriate channels, to include CFS as a regular agenda item in their Governing Body meetings (CFS 2018/45/2, para 38, p. 12) and to consider CFS-endorsed policy recommendations in their programme of work. (CFS 2018/45/2, para 60, p. 18).]

[3.B.X - Explore the relevance of CFS policy outcomes for international spaces such as the COP's of the three Rio Convention, WHO, UNEA and others.]

3.B.2 - Strengthening CFS presence in the context of the global and regional meetings of the **Governing Bodies of the Rome-based Agencies** [, e.g. **FAO regional conferences**] to raise awareness about CFS policy agreements;

3.B.3 - Strengthening **interaction and collaboration between CFS and UN technical committees** that deal with issues linked to the topics of the CFS policy agreements;

3.B.4 - Regular **awareness raising sessions** to inform UN staff on CFS activities and agreements and strengthen linkages and development of uptake activities involving relevant **UN actors at national level** (e.g. UN Resident Coordinators);

3.B.5 - Development of **uptake activities and tools to promote the use** of CFS policy agreements at national level (e.g. in collaboration with UN technical units and country representatives, UN Resident Coordinators, etc.);

3.B.6 – Provision of **technical support and policy advise** to ~~countries~~ **governments** and ~~regions~~ **regional organizations or spaces** to promote the integration of CFS policy agreements into national and regional legislations, programmes and policy frameworks **to promote the right to adequate food**;

3.B.7 - Engagement in **resource mobilization efforts** to support activities that promote the use of CFS policy agreements at national and regional levels;

3.B.8 - **Guidance on expectations** of how the Rome-based Agencies and other UN agencies should use CFS policy agreements.

**4. CIVIL SOCIETY [AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES] AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

*[To be added: introductory sentences highlighting roles and expected contribution of these actors]*

A. Actions to strengthen the ownership and usefulness of CFS policy agreements:

[To be added depending on future inputs]

[4.A.X - Active participation of the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism in policy processes at all levels.]

B. Actions to promote **awareness and use** of CFS policy agreements:

4.B.1 - Development of **trainings, advocacy and awareness raising events and activities** carried out by national civil society organizations **and Indigenous Peoples' organizations** to raise awareness about CFS policy agreements.

[4.B.X – Provision of capacity-building support to CSOs and Indigenous Peoples engaged in the implementation of CFS policy agreements.]

[4.B.X – Encourage contributions from CSOs and Indigenous Peoples to uptake and monitoring activities undertaken by independent and autonomous human rights institutions at the national level (*RtF Guidelines 18.1*).]

[4.B.X – Conduct “impact assessments” to identify the effects of domestic policies, programmes, and projects particularly on the progressive realization of the right to adequate food, ensuring the direct participation of CSOs and Indigenous Peoples in the assessments as well as in the construction and adoption of necessary corrective measures (*RtF 3.2, 3.8, 3.9, 17.2, 17.6*). ]

## **5. PRIVATE SECTOR AND PHILANTHROPIC FOUNDATIONS**

*[To be added: introductory sentences highlighting roles and expected contribution of these actors]*

A. Actions to strengthen the **ownership and usefulness** of CFS policy agreements:

[To be added depending on future inputs]

B. Actions to promote **awareness and use** of CFS policy agreements:

5.B.1 - Development of **educational webinars or other events** for private sector representatives targeting different geographical areas.