

OEWG meeting for the workstream on “Increasing awareness, ownership, use and usefulness of CFS policy outcomes”

7 March 2024 (09.30 – 12.30), Hybrid meeting (FAO German Room and Zoom Platform)

RAPPORTEUR’S SUMMARY

Agenda

1. Introductory remarks by the OEWG Co-Rapporteurs
2. Feedback on the Draft Outline of the Action Plan
3. Overview of next steps of the process
4. Any Other Business

At the beginning of the meeting, the CFS Chairperson, Amb. Nosipho Jezile, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the UN Rome-based Agencies, commended stakeholders for the constructive and fruitful work hitherto and called for further efforts for the development of an ambitious Action Plan.

1. Introductory Remarks by the OEWG Co-Rapporteurs

After the introduction of Ms Ronit Gerard, United States, as Co-Rapporteur with Ms Josyline Javelosa, Philippines, and after agreement among the participants on the agenda, the Co-Rapporteurs referred to the Draft Outline of the Action Plan and described the rationale for its structure aiming at an Action Plan as clear and concise as possible. They invited OEWG members for comments on general issues and on the respective sections of the Draft Outline.

2. Feedback on the Draft Outline of the Action Plan

Overall, OEWG members welcomed the Draft Outline as a step in the right direction. Main comments included:

- General agreement was expressed on the structure of the Draft Outline. To increase actionability, it would yet be helpful to combine the respective actions with rough budget estimates and timelines for prioritization. Also, some pointed out that in addition to actions for specific stakeholders, the Action Plan should elaborate on potential linkages and cooperation between the stakeholder groups.

- Many delegations stressed that the Action Plan needed to elaborate on the importance of the ownership of CFS policy agreements, as referred to in the title of the workstream. A high degree of inclusivity, typical for CFS, was regarded as crucial for the dissemination. Hence, the Action Plan should encompass actions for all types of CFS stakeholders.
- It was deemed necessary to specify, to the extent possible, key terminology for the purpose of this workplan.
- The Action Plan must comply with the mandate of CFS. In that respect, many delegations suggested that the actions be closely related to the objectives of CFS, most importantly to the progressive realization of the Right to Food in the context of national food security.
- In line with initial indications provided in the Outline of the Action Plan (i.e. Action 1.B.1.v), the importance of designing uptake strategies based on lessons learned from previous uptake activities was underlined. It was also highlighted that the CFS uptake process should be a “living” process being regularly finetuned on the basis of new information.
- The long-lasting nature of the CFS uptake process was highlighted, and it was suggested that this is made a standing item in CFS plenaries, and it is regularly discussed by Bureau and Advisory Group members to monitor progress and discuss follow-up actions.
- There was overall agreement that the awareness of CFS policy agreements at all levels had to be increased. To this end, stakeholders to be better involved at the national level should include Members of the Parliament and National Convenors nominated under the UN FSS process. The importance of national inclusive and multisectoral platforms was reiterated in relation to this process.
- At UN level, the Rio Conventions and the UN FSS process were considered relevant entry points for an improved uptake of CFS policy agreements. The RBAs had systemic relevance for CFS, in particularly by hosting and financing CFS, but also through uptake-specific work.
- The Action Plan should also encompass work at the regional level.
- In respect of capacity building at national level, generally deemed as useful, one delegation described an ongoing bilateral project coordinated by the CFS Secretariat on dissemination activities developed by RBAs for various CFS policy agreements.

3. Overview of Next Steps of the Process

After a summary of main interventions, the Co-Rapporteurs informed about the way forward: oral and written feedback by OEWG members would inform the preparation of the Zero Draft of the Action Plan that is expected to be circulated on 14 April. On that basis, two more OEWG

meetings are foreseen for 29 April and 15 July with a view to allow for endorsement of the Action Plan by the CFS Plenary in October 2024.

4. Any Other Business

No other business was discussed.