



FAO headquarters, Food and Agriculture



Organization of the United Nations

REPORT on CFS 43 at FAO headquarters, Rome, 17-21 October 2016

As happens each year Pope Francis offered a reflection to the FAO events marking World Food Day (16 October each year). Francis began his MESSAGE FOR WORLD FOOD DAY 2016 with these words: 'The fact that the FAO has chosen to devote today's World Food Day to the theme "Climate is changing. Food and agriculture must too", leads us to consider the struggle against hunger as an even more difficult objective to attain in the presence of a complex phenomenon such as climate change.' Pope Francis referred to *Laudato si'*, 25 and said he puts his reflection in the context of 'the challenges that nature' poses to humanity and that humanity

poses to nature. He said ‘We must question our individual and collective responsibilities’ and puts this into the historical context we all know, the recent COP 21 promises country states made in December 2015 in Paris and the coming COP 22 implementation response plans of country states to be unveiled at Marrakech, Morocco next month in November. This requires, Pope Francis says, ‘courageous decisions able to make solidarity not only a virtue but also a working model in economics, and fraternity no longer an aspiration but a criterion for domestic and international governance.’ In other words, I believe, Pope Francis repeated what he has often said: The hungry are people, not statistics; we must see ourselves in them and them in us, and act accordingly.

CFS SESSION 43 AGENDA, PLENARY DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS:

1. Monday 17 October, morning plenary: H.E. Ms Amira Gornass, Ambassador of Sudan to the UN Agencies in Rome is Chairperson of CFS, the Committee on World Food Security. As such she did chair most of the plenary sessions throughout the week. Monday morning first hour was mostly opening remarks, including a video from UN Sec-Gen Ban Ki Moon and then in order by Ambassador Gornass, Jose Graziano Da Silva, Director-General of FAO, and the heads of WFP (World Food Program) and IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development). All linked the major themes of food security (nearly 800 million people hungry), nutrition (160 million children under five stunted, 1 billion people overweight including 600 million obese and 2 billion suffering from one or more nutrient deficiencies in their diet) and climate change (in 2013 more than 90% of natural disaster events were climate related). We cannot be too pessimistic (in 1990 40% were in extreme poverty, living on less than \$1.90/day) nor too optimistic (in 2015 the percentage of extremely poor had dropped to 12.9%). Dr P Carron, the chairperson of the HLPE (High Level Panel of Experts) which prepared the HLPE Report, # 10 on SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION, INCLUDING THE ROLE OF LIVESTOCK, emphasized that climate change is central to food security and sustainable Development. I brought copies of this Report in Spanish, French and English to our Office. The rest of the plenary on Monday afternoon was a debate and discussion on this HLPE Report. The document was endorsed by the government delegations. The final appeal was: get the results of the document to the GROUND (that is to local people and to local levels of government where the people concerned can reap the results).
2. On Monday over lunch break time a group of us, CSM members and observers, from Canada and the United States met with members of the 2 countries’ governmental delegations to talk over common issues, such as the future of CFS, where will it go, what topics will it develop. Also to the government delegations our group expressed the concern that we feel the human rights basis of the CFS is being challenged now, that the integrity of the CFS structure is challenged by growing corporate influence and that financial restrictions are inhibiting participation of civil society groups and individuals

(for example, budget restraints have kept documents from being translated and limited interpretation at some meetings). This meeting was a reminder of the importance for all of us to look for opportunities when we might be able to meet our own country delegations to do a similar exercise to relate our concerns and issues. 3.

3. Tuesday 18 October afternoon session: CFS ENGAGEMENT IN ADVANCING THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. (The 17 SDGs [Sustainable Development Goals] call for a radical transformation in the approach to development, particularly with regards to food security and nutrition).

An Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) has been working since CFS 42 last year to see how CFS can support the advancement of the 2030 Agenda. After endorsement by the government delegations a discussion followed on the 'hows' of doing this. The results will be continued during 2016-2017 year aimed at a CFS contribution to the 2017 UN HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM.

4. Tuesday continuing pm session: MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CFS DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

Terms of Reference (TOR) to Share Experiences and Good Practice in Applying CFS Decisions and Recommendations Through Organizing Events at National, Regional and Global levels had been drawn up. After discussion these were endorsed by the governmental delegations.

5. Wednesday 19 October morning session: The monitoring TOR (Terms of Reference) from the Tuesday afternoon session was now used and applied to the: Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security (VGGT). The lessons learned from this event will be made available to CFS stakeholders.

6. Wednesday 19 October afternoon session: CFS ENGAGEMENT IN ADVANCING NUTRITION.

Here special mention was made again with regard to nutrition and malnutrition. And efforts include the implementation of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) recommendations, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Decade for Action on nutrition agreed by the UN General Assembly in March 2016. CFS endorsed the draft document.

7. Wednesday 19 October afternoon session: MULTI-YEAR PROGRAM OF WORK (MYPOW).

New and emerging topics are brought up constantly at the CFS. An Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) was established to track these and a MYPOW for the 2018-2018 biennium is working and will present its finding at CFS 44 next October. This year's work was reviewed and endorses.

8. Thursday 20 October morning session: FORUM ON URBANIZATION, RURAL TRANSFORMATION AND IMPLICATIONS FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION.

This is a new line of work but so necessary because the world is changing. It is time to pay more attention to urbanization because from now on ALL net population growth in Africa and Asia will be in urban areas; and in Africa 56% of the people in urban areas live in what we call slums. So urbanization, rural transformation and food security are all linked together. The results of this forum will be reviewed and developed by an OEWG and its results presented for endorsement at CFS 44 in 2017.

9. Thursday 20 October afternoon session: **THE GLOBAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK (GSF) FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION.**

The GSF provides an overarching framework and reference with practical guidance for food security and nutrition strategies, policies and actions. This year the fifth version of the GSF (2016) has been prepared. It is undergoing a periodic update and will be and the results will be presented to CFS 44 in 2017.

10. Friday 21 October morning session: **STATE OF FOOD INSECURITY IN THE WORLD AND THE 2030 AGENDA.**

In 2017, the Rome based agencies will again publish a newly conceptualized report to replace the former State of Food Insecurity in the World (SOFI), focusing on monitoring the Strategic Development Goals (SDGs). For 2016, a stand-alone Report will be produced to table the issues and challenges posed by monitoring the SDG2 (Zero Hunger) indicators.

11. Friday 21 October afternoon session: **EVALUATION OF CFS.**

The Evaluation Manager of the independent evaluation of the effectiveness of CFS Reform (done in 2009) made a brief presentation of progress of the evaluation, with questions and discussion. Then some arrangements were agreed upon by the government voting delegations on arrangements for the CSF October 2017 Session and finally the **ADOPTION OF THE FINAL REPORT** by endorsement.

Many other activities continued throughout the week, including Side-events three times daily, an exhibition of the 40th birthday of CSF and an Information Marketplace where materials of all kinds were displayed. It is interesting, and exhausting to take it all in.

Ken Thesing, MM, ICR (International Congregations of Religious) Association
Representative, 24 October 2017