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Take a look!
CSM Video Statements at the Plenary Session of CFS 42!
Click here!
1. LOOKING BACK TO CFS 42

Summary

The preliminary assessment of the process of the CFS 42 is quite positive, as the CSM statement to the final plenary highlighted: the meetings and processes conducted during CFS 42 did respect the principles of inclusiveness and participation of social movements and civil society organizations. This was particularly important in the long negotiations of the Water decision box, but also applicable to all the other items on the agenda of the session.

Regarding outcomes of CFS 42: the CSM expressed support for all decisions taken by the CFS members during CFS 42, particularly the adoption of the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crisis, the Water Decision Box, the amended Monitoring Decision Box, the MYPOW, and the more procedural decisions on GSF and Smallholders to Markets.

Regarding the items for discussion during CFS 42, the session gave an overview of the diversity of positions regarding the upcoming CFS workstreams on nutrition and SDGs, as well as on the continuation of the workstream on smallholder to markets. The views on how to foster youth participation in the CFS were quite divergent, particularly when considering the role of youth organizations and not only individuals.

Regarding the way forward, the most immediate challenges are: the funding of the CFS and its MYPOW, which in our view is more a political than a financial issue; the application and implementation of CFS decisions which is now of utmost importance for the Framework for Action on Protracted Crisis. And monitoring and accountability, on which the CFS did agree on a substantial step ahead with a monitoring session on the Tenure Guidelines during CFS 43. We are currently translating all CSM statements presented to the CFS 42, and will upload them to the website when ready.

In addition to the immediate challenges, a more strategic vision for the CFS is needed. The CSM and its own strategic planning process will have to play a critical role in this process, by defending and strengthening the space for civil society participation, by further assessing the development of the CFS within the context of the overarching global trends, and by articulating a civil society vision for the CFS that would allow it to fully comply with its mandate as the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform on food security and nutrition committed to the progressive realization of the human right to adequate food.

CSM Plenary Statements

Please find all CSM plenary statements text available at this link
Please listen to all CSM Plenary Statements on video at this link

2. UPDATES ON CFS PROCESSES

Preliminary CSM Comments on the 0 Draft of the HLPE Report

Please read the Preliminary CSM Comments on the HLPE Zero Draft Report on “Sustainable Agricultural Development for Food Security and Nutrition, including the role of Livestock” at this link

New Composition of the CFS Bureau

The new composition of the CFS Bureau and New Chair is as follows:

New CFS Chair – Ambassador Amira Gornass (Sudan)
New CFS Vice-Chair – Luca Fratini (Italy)
New Composition of the CFS Advisory Group

Bureau Members:

- Afghanistan
- Argentina
- Bangladesh
- China
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- Iceland
- Italy
- Morocco
- New Zealand
- United States

Alternates to Bureau Members 2015-2017:

- Australia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Costa Rica
- Ethiopia
- Germany
- India
- Indonesia
- Iraq
- Libya
- South Africa
- Switzerland

UN Bodies:

- FAO (Food and Agricultural Organisation)
- WFP (World Food Programme)
- IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development)
- Right-to-Food: Special Rapporteur on the right to food - Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- UN High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis
- UN Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN)
- For CSM: please check this link

International Agricultural Research Bodies:

- CGIAR Consortium

International Financial and Trade Institutions:

- World Bank

Private Sector/Philanthropic Foundations:

- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- International Agri Food Network

The next Joint meeting of the Bureau and Advisory Group will take place on 24 November 2015
CSM Letter to the New CFS Chair on the occasion of the first CFS Bureau Meeting 29 of October 2015

Dear Madame Chair,

Warm greetings from the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) for relations with the UN Committee on World Food Security. We would like to kindly reiterate our congratulations for your election as CFS Chair, and also express our gratitude for your participation in the Coordination Committee meeting of the CSM on October 9, 2015.

With this letter, we would like to share with you some essential considerations, concerns and suggestions regarding an important item of the agenda of the upcoming first meeting of the new CFS Bureau on Friday, 29 October, which will address the composition of the Advisory Group.

The CFS members and participants have expressed in many occasions their acknowledgement of the Civil Society Mechanism as the largest international space of civil society organizations working to eradicate food insecurity and malnutrition, and as one of the most active and committed participants of the reformed CFS.

The CSM was founded in 2010, as an essential and autonomous part of the reformed CFS. The purpose of the CSM is to facilitate civil society participation and articulation into the policy processes of the CFS.

During the past months and also during the CFS 42, the CSM has expressed its clear expectation that the CFS Chair, the CFS Bureau, and all CFS members and participants will underline the essential role of civil society in the CFS and make sure that the space of civil society in the CFS will not be reduced. One of the main spaces for civil society involvement in the CFS is the participation of four civil society members to the CFS Advisory Group. We strongly believe that the number of seats of civil society in the CFS Advisory Group must not be reduced, and we kindly request your support for this demand.

The CSM, as a category of the CFS Advisory Group, consists itself of 11 constituencies. All participating organizations in the CSM belong to one of the following 11 constituencies: smallholder farmers, pastoralists, fisher folks, indigenous peoples, agricultural and food workers, landless, women, youth, consumers, urban food insecure, and NGOs. The participating organizations in the CSM, particularly those who organize small-scale food producers and consumers, represent more than 300 millions affiliated members from all continents.

The fact that the CFS Reform opened the Committee to the organizations of the most affected by hunger and malnutrition, particularly the small-scale food producers as well as urban food insecure, is a fundamental element of the CFS as a still unique and innovative model for inclusive global governance on food security and nutrition within the UN.

The CSM Coordination Committee has recently elected four full members and four alternates as CSM Members to the CFS Advisory Group for the biannual period 2015-2017, and the CSM Secretariat has communicated these names to the CFS Secretariat. We understand that the CFS Bureau meeting next Friday will take note of these appointments and ratify their membership in the CFS Advisory Group.

However, if the CFS Bureau concludes this coming Friday, that changes in the composition of the CFS Advisory Group might be needed, we strongly recommend that these reflections and specific suggestions are discussed with the Advisory Group in the joint meeting scheduled for 24 November, before the CFS takes its decision. It has been a widely appreciated good practice in the reformed CFS that the CFS Bureau takes its decision after adequate consultation with the CFS Advisory Group.

Best regards,

Martin Wolpold-Bosien
CSM Secretariat Coordinator
New Composition of the HLPE Steering Committee and CSM Message

The new HLPE Steering Committee has elected its Chairperson Mr. Patrick Caron and it Vice-Chairperson Ms. Carol Kalafatic.

The New Composition of the HLPE Steering Committee is available at this link

Please find at this link the short bios of the new HLPE Steering Committee

On the 3rd of November the CSM attended an informal meeting of the newly elected HLPE Steering Committee with the Members of the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group. The CSM prepared a statement for that occasion. Please find it below.

**CSM statement for the new HLPE Steering Committee**

- We would like to welcome the new members of the HLPE steering committee and wish you a fruitful and inspiring two-year mandate in this role.

- We speak on behalf of the Civil Society Mechanism, which is the international mechanism to facilitate civil society and social movements’ interactions with the CFS. We bring together 11 global constituencies of rights holders, which are composed by small scale farmers, Fisherfolk, Agricultural workers, Consumers, Indigenous Peoples, Urban Food Insecure, Landless, Women, Pastoralists, Youth, and NGO, as well as 17 sub-regions. Our mandate is to bring into the CFS space the voice, the knowledge and the proposals of those that produce up to 70% of the food consumed in the world, and that too often are the most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition.

- We would like to reiterate the importance of the HLPE as a central element of the reformed CFS. The HLPE is expected to inform the CFS decisions through evidence-based research and reports. We’ll continue to fully support the HLPE work. The CFS has benefitted enormously from the HLPE reports that have enabled crucial CFS political processes and deliberations to be based on comprehensive and in-depth analyses and findings.

- We’ll continue to push for a fully operational HLPE, which includes an adequate funding for its work, and we’ll resist any attempt to reduce the role or scope of the HLPE in the future, as the HLPE is fundamental for the overall capacity of the CFS to deliver and to accomplish with its mandate of providing normative guidance.

- The HLPE reports are expected to be “critical and objective”, and to as well address controversial issues and document existing diversity of views where they exist, in order to nurture a more constructive discussion on food security and nutrition challenges. We expect this new SC to ensure that this continues to happen, for the benefit of the overall CFS.

- The HLPE is a cornerstone of the innovative character of the CFS system, by bringing into the policy-making process the contribution of the many different forms of knowledge. The HLPE is expected to bridge formally recognized expertise with field experience, world class academic research with traditional and indigenous knowledge and science, recognizing that experts on food security and nutrition are found in universities, territories and communities, bringing together the diversity of perspectives. This is part of the HLPE vision and mandate, and should always inform the way of working of this SC.

- An enormous amount of accumulated knowledge of humanity resides with the ancestral practices of indigenous communities, with the intergenerational capacity of small-scale food producers to save and further develop traditional seeds, with the innovations found by millions of men and women coping with climate change challenges through affordable and sustainable agroecological practices. All of this expertise and experience is recognized as part of the evidence-based knowledge, and we have always appreciated the HLPE’ way of participatory, consultative knowledge building processes that pays special attention to the expertise available in social movements and civil society in general.

- The CSM is very much looking forward to continue the fruitful and productive collaboration with the HLPE in the years to come.


**Agenda** (See list of attendees below):

1- Introduction of new Bureau members
2- Election of CFS Vice-Chair
3- Election of Chairs of CFS Open-Ended Working Groups
4- Election of CFS Advisory Group

The Chair opened the first meeting of the new Bureau by congratulating all members on their election and the strong commitment they have made by presenting their candidacy within their regional groups to become new CFS Bureau members, and expressed her deep commitment and complete availability to work together for an ambitious and successful upcoming biennium.

1- **Introduction of new Bureau members**

Bureau members and their alternates introduced themselves in a tour de table, congratulating the Chair on her election, and briefly stressing their expectations and priorities for the upcoming biennium.

Common themes raised on priorities for CFS were:
- Finding the right role and added value of CFS in a changing global context
- Increased impact of CFS work at country level
- Investing in monitoring, outreach and communication
- Being results-oriented, efficient, keeping the CFS workload manageable and valuing quality over quantity

2- **Election of CFS Vice-Chair**

The Bureau elected Mr Luca Fratini (Italy) as Vice-Chair of CFS.

3- **Election of Chairs of CFS Open-Ended Working Groups**

The Chairs of the Open-Ended Working Groups for the current biennium were agreed as follows:
- CFS role and contribution to nutrition: Mr Khaled El Taweel (Egypt);
- CFS engagement with 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Mr Willem Olthof (European Union);
- Multi-Year Programme of Work: Mr Mafizur Rahman (Bangladesh);
- Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition: Ms Candice Vianna Sakamoto (Brazil).

Bureau members requested additional time to provide nominations for the chair of the OEWG on Monitoring and Connecting Smallholders to Markets. It was agreed nominations could be advised for a further week (to close of business Thursday, 5 November 2015) and the Secretariat would advise of nominations received. Bureau members could agree via email on the remaining Chairs.

4- **Election of CFS Advisory Group**

In consideration of its prerogative to decide on the composition of the Advisory Group and the distribution of seats between existing categories, the Bureau agreed to confirm the current composition of its Advisory Group as follows:

i. 6 seats to UN agencies and bodies (FAO, IFAD, WFP, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, HLTF, SCN)
ii. 4 seats to Civil Society Mechanism
iii. 1 seat to Research Institutions (CGIAR)
iv. 1 seat to financial institutions (the World Bank)
v. 2 seats for the Private Sector Mechanism and Philanthropic Foundations (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation)
The Bureau noted the challenge in appointing a new Advisory Group when the Bureau members were also new. The Bureau asked the CFS Chair and Secretariat to follow up with those organizations that had been less active in the last biennium to check their willingness to continue as members of the Advisory Group. The need to ensure the Advisory Group was fully representative of all key stakeholders as CFS evolved was discussed. It was agreed that the planned independent evaluation of CFS since its reform would be a key source of evidence and advice on whether the Advisory Group, through its current categories, composition and distribution, best represents the full spectrum of actors with a stake in the field of food security and nutrition. In the meantime, the Bureau recommended the Chair make use of her authority to invite other important bodies to participate in Advisory Group meetings on an ad hoc basis on particular agenda items.

Meeting participants:

CFS Bureau:

Ms Amira Gornass, Chair (Sudan); Mr Seydou Cissé (Côte d’Ivoire); Mr Hassan Abouyoub (Morocco); Mr Mostafa Nahi (Morocco); Mr (China); Mr Mafizur Rahman (Bangladesh); Mr Jón Erlingur Jónasson (Iceland); Mr Luca Fratini (Italy); Mr Nazareno Montani (Argentina); Mr José Antonio Carranza (Ecuador); Dr Abdul Razak Ayazi (Afghanistan); Ms April Cohen (USA); Mr Matthew Hooper (New Zealand)

Alternates:

Ms Moshibudi Pampedi (South Africa); Mr Vimlendra Sharan (India); Mr Oliver Mellenthin (Germany); Ms Liliane Ortega (Switzerland); Ms Candice Vianna Sakamoto (Brazil); Mr Luis Fernando Ceciliano (Costa Rica); Dr Mahmud K.S. Eltellisi (Libya); Mr Muhsin Al-Samaraee (Iraq); Ms Mi Nguyen (Canada);

Observers:

Ms Myrthe de Kock (Netherlands); Mr Wierish Ramsoekh (Netherlands); Ms Lourdes Magana de Larriva (EU); Mr Lorenzo De Santis (UK); Mr Zoltan Kalman (Hungary); Mr Faisal Abdelazim Salim Mohamed (Sudan); Ms Abla Malik Osman (Sudan);

CFS Secretariat:

Ms Deborah Fulton (Secretary); Mr Emilio Colonnelli; Ms Ophélie Hémonin; Ms Francoise Trine; Ms Chiara Cirulli;

Please find all documents related to the next CFS Joint Bureau and Advisory Group meeting at this [link](#)

### 3. INTERNAL CSM PROCESSES

#### New Coordination Committee Members

The CSM has nominated the new Coordination Committee for the next biennium 2015-2017, after completing a renewal process at Global and sub-regional level.

Please find at this [link](#) the new composition of the CSM Coordination Committee

#### New Advisory Group Members

The CC has elected the new Advisory Group members for the next biennium 2015-2017, during the first meeting of the new CC on 8-9 October 2015. Please click on the [link](#) to see its new composition.
A new CSM Finance Working Group for the biennium 2015-2017 was elected during the first meeting of the new CC on 8-9 October 2015. The Finance Working Group is composed by 2 CC members and 2 Advisory Group Members. Please click on this link to see its composition.