

Report on the first joint meeting of the reformed Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and its Advisory Group (AG), by the pro tempore civil society organizations (CSO) members of the Advisory Group.^{1 2}

Rome, March 19th, 2010

1. Reporting back to you on the first joint meeting of the CFS Bureau with the Advisory Group, we forward you attached the notes of the meeting which took place on the 18th (informal meeting) and on the 19th (joint working meeting). These introductory notes have the objective of highlighting some relevant aspects of this first meeting, and providing some suggestions on how interested CSOs could communicate with the CSO members in the AG, until the more detailed processes of the CSO mechanism are put in place.
2. The meeting was held in a very open, transparent and productive atmosphere, with significant interaction among Governmental representatives and Advisory Group members. The discussion on the preparation of the October CFS meeting as well as on the intersessional work of the CFS advanced and some issues were clarified or reaffirmed:
 - a. The CFS work must be ongoing and not limited to the CFS annual meeting, and for that it would be fundamental to create working groups to discuss the preparation of each of the proposed pillars of the CFS meeting (case studies, overarching global coordination and policy convergence, and CFS Reform: the way forward) as well as one on the new committee rules and procedures;
 - b. The need to make the CFS annual session more dynamic and relevant, reducing the number of general statements and concentrating on the relevant agenda topics.
 - c. The importance of having important case studies (national, regional or thematic), with strong input from Civil Society Organizations and other stakeholders (pillar one), which could inform the discussion of the central themes under the second pillar (global coordination and policy convergence) and into the CFS working plan, the third pillar.
 - d. That the CFS work plan could contemplate 6 to 7 relevant themes, on which global coordination and policy convergence is needed, out of which 2 or maximum 3 would be tackled in more detail in each of the CFS sessions. (see notes for most relevant topics and different positions of governments and other stakeholders).

¹ The four interim Civil Society Organization (CSO) members in the AG were chosen among the most active CSO in the CFS Contact Group, created by the CFS in 2009 to support the CFS reform discussion process. It has been agreed with CFS Bureau that the four effective CSO members in the AG will be nominated by the Global CSO Mechanism, once it is constituted in October 2010. At the present time, the interim members are: Mamadou Chissoko (Réseau des organisations Paysannes & de Producteurs de l’Afrique de l’Ouest - ROPPA) George Dixon Fernandez (Mouvement international de la Jeunesse Agricole - MIJARC); Beatrice Gasco- Verdier (International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty – IPC) and Chris Leather (OXFAM international).

² In this first meeting, due to the fact that the invitation to it was too late, the participation of George Fernandez MIJARC and Mamadou Chissoko - ROPPA was impossible due to agenda and visa problems, and they were replaced by Herman Kumara (World Forum of Fisher Peoples - WFFP) and Flavio Valente (FIAN international).

3. On the basis of the discussion, the Civil Society Organization members of the Advisory Group understand that in the coming period it would be important to reaffirm:
 - a. The fundamental relevance of having civil society organization members of the AG in the working groups to be created;
 - b. The need for the participation of civil society organizations in the elaboration of the case studies, at national level, and guarantee the space for an independent view of national/regional and INGOs in relation to the case studies.
4. Along the same lines, we understand it would be important to reaffirm the relevance of dedicating the next CFS session to discuss two main issues:
 - a. Tools to address food price volatility;
 - b. Responsible investment in small scale, sustainable agriculture. (Oxfam proposes to include climate change adaptation finance into it)
 - i. Important to reaffirm this in opposition to “responsible investment in land” as proposed by some participants, as the proposal for the latter is made by the same actors that are leading the controversial initiative towards the elaboration of “principles for responsible investment in agriculture” which is seen by many food producers’ organizations as an attempt to somehow legitimize “land grab”.
5. OXFAM suggests adding a third topic to the two above: food security & nutrition
6. Taking into consideration that there were some interventions defending that the CFS should adopt or approve the CFA in the October session, we think it would be important to reaffirm that:
 - a. The CFS must come up with a Global Strategic Policy Framework on Food Security and Nutrition, and the CFA should be one of the inputs that informs this process, together with others including the IAASTD report and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food, and that there should not be a rush to endorse a framework based on the CFA. There needs to be national and regional level discussion and input, with strong civil society organization participation, into a global framework.
 - b. The process towards this should be discussed in the CFS Bureau/AG working group created to elaborate the CFS working plan proposal to be discussed in the next CFS session.
7. We suggest that:
 - a. all Civil Society Organization willing to provide inputs into the CFS Bureau/ Advisory group process, should send their comments, suggestions and proposals to the four CSO members in the AG group, in the following emails: Mamadou Chissoko (fkdiop@cyg.sn); George Dixon Fernandez (georgedixon72@yahoo.co.in); Beatrice Gasco (lo@foodsovereignty.org); Chris

Leather (Chris.Leather@oxfaminternational.org). Deadline for comments before next meeting of the CFS: April 6th

- b. All Civil Society Organization communication directly sent to the CFS Bureau, should be copied to the CSO members in the AG, so that they are kept informed of any communication between CSOs and the CFS Bureau.

Rome, March 26th, 2010.