

Proposal for an International Food Security and Nutrition Civil Society Mechanism for relations with the CFS (UN Committee on World Food Security)

“Draft 1” developed by Action Aid, the Governance Working Group of the International
Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty and Oxfam

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Role and purpose of the Committee on World Food Security

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) has been redesigned to act as an authoritative global policy forum deliberating on food policy issues following a year of negotiations among governments, CSOs and UN bodies.

Why was the CFS reformed?

The dramatic rise in food prices in 2007-2008 and the resulting riots in cities throughout the world, and an increase by 150 million in the number of hungry people highlighted the failure of the system of global decision-making on food and agriculture and created the momentum necessary to make changes to this system. A large number of international institutions such as FAO, IFAD, WFP, World Bank, WTO and others often have contradictory policies, fail to work together to ensure policy coherence and many follow the policy lines of the powerful countries that dominate them. This has left very little space for promoting the interests of small-scale food producers and poor consumers (i.e. the people most vulnerable to and affected by food insecurity and malnutrition), developing sustainable models of production and consumption, and tackling the underlying causes of malnutrition. In the scramble to define new structures for the global governance of food and agriculture, CSOs argued for a single space at the international level where all countries would have an equal say and where CSOs would be active participants in the debate. Along with a number of like-minded governments and international institutions, many CSOs argued that the existing Committee on World Food Security (CFS) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) could be reformed to play this role.

What will be the role of the new CFS?

According to the agreements, the reformed CFS, as the foremost body of global food security governance, should have the authority to formulate and approve a “Global Strategic Framework for food security and nutrition”. Governments would commit themselves to translating this framework into national action plans with the participation of all stakeholders, and would be held accountable for the results.

For the first time in the history of the UN system, representatives of small-scale food producers and other civil society organizations, along with private sector associations and other stakeholders, will be full participants and not just observers of the intergovernmental process.

Committees on Food Security at national and regional levels are foreseen. The CFS reform document states: “CFS Members States are encouraged, at their discretion, to constitute or strengthen multidisciplinary national mechanisms ... including all key stakeholders dedicated to advance food security at national and local levels.”

Civil society will be a formal participant in the new Committee on World Food Security (CFS). Even in the annual global meeting, although voting rights will continue to be reserved for member governments, civil society and non-governmental organisations and their networks will be “non-voting

participants”¹. This means that they will have the right to intervene in plenary and breakout discussions, to contribute to the preparation of meeting documents and agendas and to present documents and proposals. The opening up of this space should increase social participation in international policy making, contributing, hopefully, to more effective food security and nutrition strategies.

The CFS will no longer be limited to a single global session each year. It is foreseen that a series of on-going activities will take place between one session and another, linking national, regional and global levels, in which CSOs will have an important role to play.

What is the CSO Mechanism?

In order to play its part in this new international institutional framework, it is foreseen that civil society will build its own autonomous mechanism for participation in CFS activities, discussion, negotiation and decision-making. The present draft proposal is an initial effort in this direction. It is important to underline that, although this particular mechanism is a new one, we are by no means starting from zero. On the contrary we are building on the extensive networking experience that civil society organizations have accumulated in a range of policy areas and we are extracting lessons from existing examples of mechanisms of interface between civil society and multilateral institutions, including the IPC, the Farmers’ Forum, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, various NGO coordination mechanisms and others.

In this document CSOs refers to: *non–state and not-for-profit actors such as: small food providers’ organisations, social movements; Indigenous Peoples; community groups; and a broad range of non-governmental organisations providing services and/or conducting advocacy in the areas of food security and nutrition. The term does not include business associations, which are recognized in the CFS reform document as belonging to the private sector constituency.*

It is acknowledged that the Civil Society Mechanism may not function perfectly during the first year of operation (2010/11). However, every effort will be made to ensure that processes to select members of the Coordination Committee, members of the CFS Advisory Group, participants in the CFS Plenary Sessions and to generally facilitate the participation of the broadest range of civil society actors, are as inclusive and as transparent as possible. Recognising the challenges of establishing a global CSM of this nature, focal points will be selected to CSM and CFS roles for an initial period of one year. An evaluation of the CSM will be held in October 2011 and improvements made to its functioning, including the composition of the Coordination Committee (in terms of regional, gender and constituency balance). Subsequently, post holders will be selected for a 2 year period in line with the procedures of the CFS itself.

Background

¹ Civil society organizations are not the only non-voting participants of the CFS; the full list includes: representatives of UN agencies and bodies, CSO/NGOs, International agricultural research systems, such as the CGIAR, International and regional Financial Institutions including World Bank, International Monetary Fund, regional development banks and World Trade Organization (WTO), and representatives of private sector associations and private philanthropic foundations.

1. The Declaration of the People's Food Sovereignty Forum held in November 2009 in parallel to the World Food Security Summit underlined the important opportunity presented by the renewal of the Committee on World Food Security: *"We emphasize the fundamental importance of the renewed CFS as the foremost inclusive international policy body for food and agriculture within the UN system, and as an essential body where the knowledge and perspectives of those whose daily labours have fed humanity for generations are not only heard, but also acted upon."* It further noted that *"Civil society has played a fundamentally important role in the CFS reform process, opening up a critical space which we intend to fully occupy in a responsible and effective manner. In so doing we will ensure that the voices of the excluded continue to be heard at the heart of food and agricultural policy-making and governance, at all levels."*
2. The reform of the CFS was crafted through the work of a Contact Group established by the CFS Bureau, in which civil society organizations participated fully. One of the key achievements of civil society participants, with the support of like-minded governments, was the acknowledgement of the right of civil society organizations to autonomously organize themselves to interface with the CFS. The relevant paragraph of the CFS reform document states that:

"Civil society organizations/NGOs and their networks will be invited to autonomously establish a global mechanism for food security and nutrition which will function as a facilitating body for CSO/NGOs consultation and participation in the CFS. Such mechanisms will also serve inter-sessional global, regional and national actions in which organizations of those sectors of the population most affected by food insecurity, would be accorded priority representation. Civil society organizations/NGOs will submit to the CFS Bureau a proposal regarding how they intend to organize their participation in the CFS in a way that ensures broad and balanced participation by regions and types of organizations keeping in mind the principles approved by the CFS at its Thirty-Fourth Session in October 2008 (CFS: 2008/5; CL 135/10: paragraph 15)." (CFS2009/2Rev.2, para 16).

3. The civil society forum of November 2009 gave the civil society participants in the Contact Group a mandate to carry forward civil society interface with the CFS Bureau until the Civil Society Mechanism is operational. This mandate included the preparation of a draft proposal for an autonomous Civil Society Mechanism to relate to the CFS, for wide diffusion among CSOs concerned with food security and nutrition² (see section on Process, paras. 36-39 below).

² Food security exists when all people at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy lifestyle.

THE CIVIL SOCIETY MECHANISM (CSM)

Role and functions

4. The essential ***role*** of the Civil Society Mechanism is to facilitate the participation of CSOs in the work of the CFS, including input to negotiation and decision-making. The CSM will also provide a space for dialogue between a wide range of civil society actors where different positions can be expressed and debated. The CSM will present common positions to the CFS where they emerge and the range of different positions where there is no consensus.
5. The CFS reform document suggests that, in order to fulfill its facilitation role, the Civil Society Mechanism could perform a series of ***functions*** including the following:

- i) broad and regular exchange of information, analysis and experience;*
- ii) developing common positions as appropriate;*
- iii) communicating to the CFS and, as appropriate, its Bureau through representatives designated by an internal self-selection process within each civil society category;*
- iv) convening a civil society forum as a preparatory event before CFS sessions if so decided by the civil society mechanism.” (CFS2009/2Rev.2, para. 16)*

The Civil Society mechanism can, of course, decide to take on other functions if it sees fit to do so. The CSM will facilitate participation in both inter-sessional activities (activities that take place between the annual CFS Plenary Sessions) and the CFS Plenary Sessions held in proximity to World Food Day in October each year:

Year-round Activities

6. The new CFS is not limited to an annual meeting. Rather, it is intended that there will be an on-going Work Programme implemented by the Bureau with inputs from the Advisory Group and the High Level Panel of Experts. The Work Programme, will prepare the CFS Plenary Sessions and follow up on their conclusions and decisions. It will be coherent with the roles of CFS, will include the gathering of lessons learnt from national and regional levels, the development of policy guidance and the Global Strategic Framework, facilitating international support to national plans of action etc. All participants in the CFS process, including CSOs, are supposed to contribute to inter-sessional activities of the CFS at various levels, from national to regional to global. The Civil Society Mechanism is expected to facilitate and, where necessary, coordinate this process. Most of the year-round activities will be taking place at local, national and regional levels. Over the coming months, as the reform of the CFS is put into operation, the CSM will need to develop ways of supporting civil society engagement in year-round activities at all levels and building links among them. . In order to be effective, the CSM will have to strengthen its regular communication and networking with CSOs participating in multi-stakeholder food security governance structures at national and regional level. Civil society activities will include, for example, lobbying and advocacy, shared learning, promotion of specific working groups, capacity building, and monitoring and preparation of specific proposals to be discussed by the CFS Plenary sessions.

CFS Plenary Sessions

7. The CSM will dialogue with the CFS Bureau regarding the allocation of civil society seats in the annual CFS Plenary Sessions. The relevant paragraph of the CFS reform document states that:

“The Bureau will determine the allocation of seats for Participants and Observers [in the CFS Plenary] in consultation with the CSO/NGO coordination mechanisms. The quota assigned to civil society organizations and NGOs will be such as to ensure their visible and effective participation, equitable geographic representation, with particular attention to the categories of organizations detailed in paragraph 11(ii). (CFS2009/2Rev.2, para 15).

The procedure by which the CSM will develop its proposal for the allocation of seats is described below.

Organising Principles

8. The Civil Society Mechanism will be an inclusive space open to all civil society organizations: it will involve the full range of constituencies concerned about and affected by hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, including social movements and NGOs, particularly those from developing countries, those affected by hunger and those committed to the realisation of the right to food and food sovereignty.
9. The Civil Society Mechanism will ensure that a wide range of views can be heard on how to address the problems of hunger, malnutrition and violations of the right to food. Priority will be given to ensuring that the voices of smallholder producers, fisherfolk, pastoralists, indigenous, urban poor, migrants, agricultural workers etc. are heard. Particular priority will be given to peasant and indigenous food producers and workers affected by hunger and marginalization because they represent 80% of the hungry people in the world and produce the largest proportion of the food in the world. The CSM will make special efforts to support the capacity of the marginalized to follow and participate in the CFS process.
10. The Civil Society Mechanism will respect pluralism, autonomy and self-organisation. It will ensure a balance of gender, regions and constituencies and sectors.
11. Participation within the Civil Society Mechanism should aim to preserve unity and solidarity amongst CSOs, but should not imply a flattening of the diversity that exists between civil society in terms of objectives, strategies, and content. However, decision-making mechanisms should be agreed by the CSM’s Coordination Committee (see para. 26) in order to strengthen cooperation amongst all participants and allow common positions when possible.
12. The Civil Society Mechanism will avoid creating a bureaucratic structure in Rome, but will have a permanent secretariat, which will have a neutral role, dedicated to facilitating the functions of the Civil Society Mechanism as well as providing inter-sessional support to the four civil society members of the Advisory Group (see paras 35-37 below).

Participants in CFS processes

13. As stipulated in the CFS reform document, the CSM will give clear priority to organisations of the people most affected by hunger, recognising that victims of hunger are also the bearers of solutions. Membership of the Coordination Committee of the CSM and participation in CFS Plenary Sessions will be both on a regional and constituency basis and will also ensure gender balance. The CSM will use the following constituencies referred to in the CFS reform document:

- a. *“smallholder family farmers,*
- b. *artisanal fisherfolk,*
- c. *herders/pastoralists,*
- d. *landless,*
- e. *urban poor,*
- f. *agricultural and food workers,*
- g. *women,*
- h. *youth,*
- i. *consumers,*
- j. *Indigenous Peoples,*
- k. *NGOs³”;*

14. During consultations on the establishment of the CSM, a number of additional constituencies have been suggested. However, it is proposed that the constituencies listed in the CFS Reform Document (CFS2009/2Rev.2, para. 11 ii) be taken as the basis for the establishment of the CSM to help ensure its smooth and rapid interaction with the CFS starting with the 36th Session in October 2010. Following an evaluation of the first year of the functioning of the CSM, the Coordination Committee might decide to make changes to the constituencies.

Governance and structures

Members

15. All CSOs/NGOs and social movements active in the area of food and nutrition at any level, particularly those that represent food producers, consumers, and other actors directly involved in producing and consuming food who want to participate in CFS processes will be considered eligible to be participants in the Mechanism and to benefit from the information provision, facilitated participation in CFS processes and events and other such services that the Mechanism may be able to provide.

16. *National and regional movements, CSOs/NGOs and their platforms, networks and mechanisms*
CSOs/NGOs will be encouraged to group together at national and regional levels in order to participate more effectively in policy and programme processes concerning food security and nutrition. Already existing regional CSOs/NGOs, their organizations, platforms and networks dealing with food security and nutrition, particularly those which follow the main lines and principles

³This term refers to International NGOs, National NGOs and NGO Platforms.

of this document and are already engaged in dialogue with regional or national authorities, will therefore be accepted as participants in the global Civil Society Mechanism. If any CSOs/NGOs take the initiative to organize new regional or national civil society mechanisms these should also follow the main lines and principles of the current document and their application to, and participation in, the global Civil Society Mechanism will be considered. The identification of such bodies and their adherence to the global Civil Society Mechanism will take place progressively. National platforms, networks and mechanisms may wish to group themselves by region as soon as regional structures are in place. The regional mechanisms should maintain a facilitating role and engage with regional institutions on an on-going basis to help prepare positions and participants for the global meetings. It is hoped that regional CSO/NGOs consultations in conjunction with Regional FAO Conferences will be able to play a role in this regard.

Annual Civil Society Forum

17. The Coordination Committee will facilitate the organization of a civil society meeting every year if possible and strategic, just prior to the annual CFS session. The meeting will be open to all interested civil society participants that are members of the CSM. For decision making a balance among constituencies and regions is important. Appropriate mechanisms, including possibilities to vote when consensus is lacking, will be set up. These will be similar to those used in the parallel civil society fora organized so far. The meeting will provide an important occasion for exchanging information, discussing priority food security and nutrition issues, identifying priorities for civil society advocacy and, eventually deliberating common positions to be taken to the annual CFS Plenary. Any statements that result from these interactions will not be made available on the website of the CS Mechanism unless they are adopted by consensus. In the case that there is no consensus, the organizations that support the statement can make those statements available on their own websites.

Coordination Committee

18. The Coordination Committee is responsible for ensuring that the functions of the Civil Society Mechanism are carried out as effectively as possible and according to the organising principles.
19. A Coordination Committee for the Civil Society Mechanism will be established, composed of constituency and sub-regional focal points as follows: 4 focal points from smallholder family farmer organizations and 2 from each of the other constituencies mentioned above, and 1 focal point from each sub-region (suggested breakdown: North America, Central America and Caribbean, Andean Region, Southern Cone, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, West Asia, South Asia, South East Asia, Central Asia, Oceania and Pacific, Southern Africa, West Africa, East Africa, Central Africa, North Africa). As mentioned above, priority is given to small-scale farmers because they represent 80% of the hungry people in the world and produce the largest proportion of the food in the world.
20. Each focal point will hold the function for 12 months during 2010/11 and for a period of 2 years thereafter.

21. Gender and geographic balance among the focal points in the CSM Coordination Committee has to be ensured. International movements, CSOs NGOs and their platforms or networks participating in the CFS should aim for 50% women participation. This can be achieved by asking each constituency to nominate one man and one woman from two different regions to occupy their 2 slots in the Coordination Committee. Over time each constituency has to demonstrate that they have chosen focal points from all the regions.
22. Each constituency and sub-regions will decide through a process of internal negotiation what process they will establish for CC member selection, while adhering to regional and gender balance as outlined above and to the principle of transparency. It is suggested that each constituency/sub-region might establish a council of focal points representing the major organisations/networks in that constituency/sub-region and that members of this council might sit on the CC in rotation for a period of 2 years each. The process of CC member selection and outcomes will be documented and made available to all CSOs and others.
23. The process in the first year may not be as inclusive as we hope it will become, but it should be a transparent process. The methodology for selecting CC members will be improved according to the evaluation of the first year and with the experience of subsequent years.
24. The Coordination Committee will meet face to face at least once a year and virtually once every quarter.
25. The Coordination Committee will make decisions on the functioning of the Mechanism such as: criteria for participation in the Mechanism, quotas for participation in the CFS Plenary, selection of civil society members of the Advisory Group, providing support to the CSO Advisory Group members, and assisting in the organisation of the civil society forums related to the CFS.
26. Decisions will be made in consultation with participants in the Mechanism as much as possible. Decisions will be made by consensus wherever possible. The Coordination Committee will determine which kind of decisions require consensus and which could be made through voting if no consensus emerges. It should be noted that silence will not be taken for consent, and the views of all Committee members will be clarified when seeking consensus. In any case, all divergent positions will be noted and reported.
27. When the CSM provides advice to the CFS through its Coordination Committee, it will seek to communicate the range of divergent positions that are held by participants in the Mechanism.
28. The Coordination Committee will be responsible for dialoguing with the CFS Bureau regarding the allocation of civil society seats in the annual CFS plenary sessions. It should be noted that membership in the Coordination Committee does not guarantee automatic participation in the annual CFS plenary sessions.

Civil society members of the CFS Advisory Group

29. The role of the Advisory Group is to bring the views of the non-voting CFS participants, including civil society, to the Bureau of the CFS and *“to provide input to the Bureau regarding the range of tasks which the CFS Plenary has instructed it to perform”* (CFS2009/2Rev.2, para.32). It also has a role in nurturing and maintaining linkages with different actors at regional, sub regional and local levels (CFS2009/2Rev.2,para. 23), including the large number of civil society networks operating at the regional and national levels (CFS2009/Rev.2, paras. 25 and 28).
30. The Civil Society Mechanism is responsible for communicating to the Bureau the names of the persons who will fill the places in the Advisory Group allocated to civil society (currently 4 places). The process for doing so is described below.
31. The role of the civil society members of the Advisory Group will not be one of representation but rather of facilitating two-way communication between the Bureau and the Civil Society Mechanism. The essential tasks of the civil society AG members will be to share information and to present the range of views of the Mechanism and any common positions that CSOs may have developed. They will share the agendas of upcoming Advisory Group and Bureau meetings with all members of the Mechanism via the website and other means of communication and solicit comments which they will share with the Advisory Group. Other aspects of their role may be clarified progressively as the functioning of the Advisory Group itself is clarified. It is essential that, as much as possible, all regions, constituencies, organizations, networks and sectors have the opportunity to follow and feed into the work of the Advisory Group through the Coordinating Committee. The civil society AG members will coordinate among themselves and through the Coordinating Committee to ensure as a collective the maximum possible participation. The AG will respect the organizing principles of the CSM. In line with the organizational principles of the CSM it will be essential to ensure that organizations and networks from affected constituencies in developing countries are given priority in being able to participate in and inform the work of the AG.
32. The CS members of the Advisory Group, currently four, will be elected by and among the members of the Coordination Committee, according to their ability to perform the role expected of them and respecting the priority given to small food producer constituencies. They will constitute a collective of four people who have the trust of the Coordination Committee and will be allocated on a rotational basis, for a 2-year period (one year during the first 12 months of operation of the CSM). This is in line with the term for focal points of the Coordination Committee and will help ensure all regions/constituencies are able to feed into the work of the AG.
33. Key selection criteria include:
- Ability to participate regularly in AG meetings in person or via tele-conference and video conferencing facilities
 - Demonstrable commitment to the organizing principles of the Mechanism, especially inclusiveness and prioritizing input from those most affected by hunger
 - Ability to network with a broad range of constituencies, organizations, networks and sectors
 - Communication and networking skills

34. Civil society Advisory Group members, particularly those from social movements, will need significant support in order that they themselves are able to participate effectively (e.g. translated documents, interpretation, flights, accommodation, etc.) and in order that they can facilitate the participation of other civil society actors (through emails, administration of web sites, organization of telecoms, face to face meetings etc). Much of this support will be provided by the CSM Secretariat but they may also require some support from within their own organizations and movements as well as funding from the CSM.

The Secretariat

35. A light Secretariat will be established in Rome to provide support to members of the CSM, the Coordination Committee, civil society members of the Advisory Group and to help organise the annual Civil Society Forum.

36. The Secretariat will report to the Coordination Committee. Its role will be administrative, facilitating the functioning of the CSM by performing financial, logistical and communication tasks. It will be politically neutral and will not perform advocacy and lobbying roles.

37. Members of the Secretariat will require experience facilitating the participation of a wide range of civil society actors, particularly social movements from the South, in policy dialogue and governance mechanisms. It will be in the interest of the CSM to build on the experience of the IPC Secretariat in this regard. Language skills, particularly English, Spanish and French, will also be another important criteria taken into consideration.

Allocating civil society seats in CFS Plenary Sessions

38. There may be a limit on civil society seats in the CFS Plenary Sessions in the future, and there will certainly be a limit on the number of civil society participants who are able to speak during the Plenary Sessions. Seats and speaking slots allocated to CSOs in CFS meetings will be distributed among the constituencies and the sub-regions by the Coordination Committee. A quota system will ensure that priority is given to voices from developing countries and to the constituencies most affected by hunger according to the organising principles of the CSM.

39. As stated above, membership in the Coordination Committee does not guarantee automatic participation in the annual CFS plenary sessions

40. Seats will be allocated in a balanced way following the criteria suggested for the Coordination Committee itself (see paras. 19,21) and their possible contribution to the discussion of the items on the agenda of the CFS meeting.

41. Information about annual CFS Plenary Sessions will be put on the Civil Society Mechanism website and sent to the email list.

42. Organizations wishing to attend the CFS meeting will be requested to fill in an online form which asks them to detail their organization, areas of work and organizational affiliations, which

agenda item they are most interested in, and what they think they can contribute to the discussion.

43. All the forms will be sent to the Coordination Committee, which will decide seat allocation taking into account the concrete technical or political contribution. Regional and gender balance and the relevance of the CFS agenda to each constituency and region will influence the acceptance of specific applications. Participants will be given sufficient notice in order for them to organize travel, visas etc.

Communications

44. The Coordination Committee will establish, with the support of the secretariat, an email list and website. All relevant information will be posted on the website in English, French and Spanish. Any interested CSO will be able to sign up to receive the emails by registering their email address on the website.

Resource requirements

45. The resources necessary to ensure effective civil society participation in the CFS process should be addressed in calculating the budgetary requirements of the CFS, as indicated in the CFS reform document (CFS2009/2Rev.2, para.50). These requirements include travel costs for CSO participants from developing countries, website development and updating, secretariat staff, translation and office expenses.⁴ While responsibility for ensuring full and active participation of CSOs in the CFS processes falls on the CSM, financial resources must be made available and provided by participating governments and where possible, better resourced NGOs.

Accountability and Evaluation

46. Elements of accountability:

- The Coordination Committee will be accountable to CSOs worldwide working on food security and nutrition on the one hand, and the CFS on the other.
- The CC will maintain an updated website and email list and issue an annual report detailing its activities over the previous year. These tools will be the main devices to facilitate and encourage accountability.
- While each focal point will naturally be responsible first and foremost to their own constituency, the CC will collectively be responsible for all its actions to all CSOs.
- Participants in the Mechanism will be able to feedback on the quality of their participation, the performance of the Coordination Committee and Advisory Group Focal Points and make suggestions as to how to improve the functioning of the Mechanism.
- The mechanisms for accountability of any regional or national Civil Society Mechanisms that may be established will be clarified once initiatives in that direction have been taken, but will follow the principles that underlie the current document.

⁴ A budget for the first two years will be developed in the course of finalizing this document and presented to the CFS Bureau along with the proposal for the Civil Society Mechanism.

- The mechanisms of accountability, detailed below, will be reviewed after 3 years and any necessary changes will be made by the Coordination Committee.

47. The CSO Mechanism's email list and website (available, at least, in English, French and Spanish, subject to availability of funding) will be the main tools for outreach. The website will contain the following information which will also be diffused through the email list:

- a) The current document;
- b) Link to the CFS website;
- c) Process and timeline for selecting the CC focal points for the upcoming 2-year term and an email address to contact for further information;
- d) List of current and previous CC focal points;
- e) Dates and agendas of annual CFS Plenary Sessions; number of seats allocated to CSOs in CFS meetings and an online form to request participation in the meeting;
- f) Dates and agendas of upcoming Advisory Group and Bureau meetings; an online form to submit comments regarding points on the agenda of the Advisory Group;
- g) Date of the annual meeting of CSOs that will take place each year before the CFS;
- h) Annual Report of the CC (see below);
- i) Any joint statements that are approved by consensus (of the CC or participants in the annual meeting as the case may be).

48. The Annual Report of the CC will include the following information:

- a) Outreach: Summary of the steps taken to share information about CFS processes to CSOs worldwide (number of "hits" on the website, number of CSOs receiving the email list, details of efforts made to diffuse information about the email list and website);
- b) Selection of focal points to the CSO mechanism: Each constituency will document the process for selecting their focal points, including the specific names of the organizations involved in the selection process, as well as efforts that were made to ensure regional and gender balance;
- c) Allocation of CFS Plenary seats to civil society participants: List of all organizations requesting to participate in each CFS meeting, the final list of participants (indicating regional and gender balance), and a summary of the criteria for selection;
- d) Advisory Group: Summary of criteria and process for choosing CSO appointees to the Advisory Group and details of efforts to ensure regional, constituency and gender balance together with the insurance that the most active organization in the CFS process are present;
- e) Facilitation of participation of CSOs in intersessional activities: The number and summary of all comments on the agenda items of the Advisory Group; summary of contributions and outcomes of the Advisory Group process⁵.

⁵ The Peoples' Food Sovereignty Forum of November 2009 indicated that "CSOs will evaluate both the performance of the CFS and their own performance in three years."

Annex 1: Key principles coming out of Working Group 1 of the Peoples' Food Sovereignty Forum 2009 regarding civil society participation within the CFS

- CSO participation in the CFS has to privilege the most affected, including smallholder producers, fisherfolks, pastoralists, indigenous, urban poor, migrants, agricultural workers etc.
- The renewed CFS needs an overarching gender perspective, especially given the shift in focus towards smallholder producers, of which women are the primary agents. CSO groups participating within the CFS should aim for 50% women participation.
- Participation within the civil society coordinating mechanism should aim to preserve the unity and solidarity created amongst CSOs in this process, but should not imply a flattening of the diversity that exists between civil society in terms of objectives, strategies, and content. Strategies of association have to reflect this.
- New funding mechanisms being established in response to the food crisis should be linked to the CFS.
- A renewed CFS has to have strong links to the local, national and regional, in order to contribute to assisting the struggles of actors to open up spaces of governance and policy-making at those levels, and to ensure that the perspectives and knowledge of locally-based actors is heard and acted upon.
- The CFS has to be a space in which CSOs can advance their own content and produce social change.
- The CSO contact group should continue in its work unchanged and start working out the details of CSO participation in the CFS.
- Those with the capacity – NGOs etc – must continue to help those lacking in capacity – the illiterate, marginalised – to follow the CFS process with helpful information distribution.
- National platforms have to mobilise as broad a section of society as possible.
- The CSO autonomous mechanism has to avoid creating a bureaucratic structure in Rome.
- Intersectoral representation within the CSO mechanism is very important – need a wide range of views.
- It is necessary to give more value to peasant and indigenous production mechanisms under threat.
- CSOs will evaluate both the performance of the CFS and their own performance in three years.

Annex 2: List of organizations that submitted comments on Zero Draft

- Action Aid;
- AdHoc Group of INGOs;
- CIDSE;
- CONSEA with contributions from Renato Maluf, CONTAG and the Brazilian Special Rapporteur for the Right to Land, Territory and Food, Sergio Sauer;
- Coordination Sud, Food and Agriculture Working Group;
- Concord European Food Security Working Group;
- Friends of the Earth International
- George Kent, University of Hawaii;
- The International Forum of National NGO Platforms;
- International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty;
- Martin Drago, Friends of the Earth
- Matias E. Margulis – Adviser to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food;
- Michael Nanz, FIAN Switzerland;
- Nutrition Action Group involving Concern, Save the Children and ACF
- WOCAN; and,
- World Rural Forum