

Comments on the Agenda of the CFS Bureau Meeting 23 July Chris Leather, Oxfam

23 Jul 2010

Dear Noel

I am writing to provide some thoughts to help inform the discussions during tomorrow's Bureau meeting. Due to the short timeframe for review and consultation on the latest documents and the fact that I am currently on leave, please excuse the rather general nature of these comments. Furthermore, I would have hoped to have discussed these issues with other civil society members of the Advisory Group but unfortunately, due to my absence, have not had the opportunity to do so.

Agenda

I was wondering whether any consideration had yet been given to the changes to the agenda suggested previously by the civil society members of the Advisory Group. I still feel it is important to ensure that sufficient time is given to the core agenda items, i.e. the case studies, the policy roundtables and global coordination. As much as possible, I suggest that current sessions which primarily aim to share information are dealt with in other ways and as much time as possible is given to issues which require discussion, decision making and action planning

Session outcomes and the 2010/11 CFS Work Programme

I feel that there is a need to further clarify the desired outcomes of each session. I suggest that all decisions and actions be integrated into the 2010/11 CFS Work Programme. Perhaps it could be clearer that each session will aim to identify actions, which will be taken forward as part of the Work Programme. There should be draft decisions and action points for each session with proposals for how, and by whom (e.g. Advisory Group Task teams, HLPE etc), actions will be taken forward within the Work Programme. I would like to suggest that the next joint CFS Bureau and Advisory Group meeting in September reviews and discusses a draft of 2010/11 Work Programme.

Policy roundtables

In line with the above comment, I think more work might be needed to clarify the specific outcomes of each roundtable in terms of the decisions made and the follow up actions, which will take place, who is responsible etc

The identification of specific outcomes might be aided by the presentation of a short, precise problem statement on each issue. It should be clear how outcomes of the roundtables will help to address the stated problem, e.g. for protracted crises: *current aid architecture does not ensure long-term, predictable, flexible international assistance to ensure a comprehensive, twin track approach to food insecurity in protracted crises.*

Global Strategic Framework

Unfortunately I have not had sufficient time to review and consult upon the latest document. However, I intend to give this full consideration and engage in discussions on this with civil society colleagues on my return to work next week.

Wishing you a productive meeting tomorrow

Best regards

Chris