



CHAIR'S SUMMARY

CFS JOINT ADVISORY GROUP AND BUREAU MEETING

22 November 2010 – 9.30 - 12.30 and 14.00 - 17.00 (Ethiopia Room)

Agenda (see list of attendees below):

The following agenda was agreed:

- 1) Lessons Learned from CFS 36
- 2) Workplan for 2010/11
- 3) HLPE Priorities
- 4) Workplan for the VG on Responsible Land Tenure
- 5) Any other business:
 - CFS response to G20 Final Declaration
 - Farewell party for Maria del Carmen Squeff

1. Lessons learned from CFS 36

The Chair presented an evaluation form which has been distributed to participants of the 36th Session of CFS and underlined the importance of receiving feedback as soon as possible.

During the discussion, the following lessons learned were highlighted:

- Many noted that the CFS Agenda was extremely heavy and did not take into consideration the constraints faced by small delegations.
- The expected outcomes for each item should be more clearly indicated in the agenda. This will help identify the main issues being addressed during debates and help evaluate concrete objectives reached by the Plenary.

- The format used for the Policy Roundtables was very useful but could be improved by holding them earlier in the week to allow more negotiation, avoiding broad topics, and allowing sufficient time for plenary debates.
- National Case Studies could be improved in particular by using more inclusive formats to encourage the active participation of different stakeholders (not only governmental actors) and by providing more support during the preparation.
- The process to select topics to be addressed by the agenda and to invite panelists should be more inclusive involving all interested stakeholders.
- Ways to strengthen the engagement of regional initiatives/partners should be found.
- A clear communication strategy for CFS is needed to identify target audiences and how to convey key messages in order to ensure efficient press coverage, including better linkages with the World Food Week theme.
- One of the major outcomes of the 36th Session was its inclusiveness and active participation by wide ranging stake holders. Member countries participated in a focused and disciplined way and CSO participation was very successful. This reflects a participative reform process. Efforts should be made to improve involvement by Members and Participants who featured less prominently, notably Africa and the private sector. Participation by Members and Participants should be assessed to provide a benchmark for future monitoring.
- Comments about how Members and Participants could be incited to play a more active role in CFS included:
 - understand why their participation is weak;
 - identify linkages between their interests/concerns and CFS outputs;
 - engage AG members more in intersessional activities and in Plenary, including in the preparation of the Plenary agenda;
 - Encourage clear, focused outcomes from CFS and make these known in advance;
and
 - Minimize conflict between CFS meetings and other events during the week.
- The Secretariat will synthesize the suggestions offered during the meeting on how to improve engagement by the private sector including more appropriate terminology for this category. A task team will be established to propose ways of improving participation by the private sector in CFS.

2. Workplan for 2010/2011

The Secretariat presented three draft planning documents outlining proposed tasks to be undertaken by the Bureau, the HLPE Steering Committee and the Secretariat.

Particular attention was paid to the open-ended Working Groups to be coordinated by Bureau Members, including:

- Rules of Procedure: Jordan
- PWB-MYPOW: Belgium
- Global Strategic Framework: Brazil
- Voluntary Guidelines for Responsible Land Tenure: USA

The Coordinators will ensure the active participation of Advisory Group Members in Working Groups and to facilitate consultation system between the Advisory Group and the Bureau.

A meeting between the Secretariat and the Working Group Coordinators will be held before the end of November to prepare a road map for the work plan including timelines, method and responsibilities.

The Secretariat will update information on the list of tasks to be undertaken by them to help the Bureau and Advisory Group members track and possibly contribute to these activities.

3. HLPE Priorities

The Secretariat confirmed that the next HLPE Steering Committee meeting will take place on 13-15 December 2010 in FAO to discuss issues to be addressed during the next year and related methodology and timelines.

The Panel of Experts faces four major challenges:

- Work methodology
- Agenda for 37th Session of CFS – items to be included
- Financing – analysis of what can be done given existing resources
- Manageable level of work – studies to be undertaken and appointment of Project Teams

The names of experts for project teams can now be added to the current roster including those who were not selected for the Steering Committee.

Bearing in mind the multiple tasks given to the HLPE as well as current financial limitations, there was concern about the capacity of the HLPE to deliver on all these studies given at the high standard expected. It was suggested that tasks be prioritized accordingly, however, it was also pointed out that the mandate set by the CFS should be respected. Instead of prioritization, Bureau and Advisory Group members should, together with the HLPE Steering Committee, establish how these topics could be best addressed by project teams within the available time and resources.

The Secretariat confirmed that the current financial gap for the tasks to be performed by the HLPE is estimated to be 500.000 USD. The Chair has already co-signed a letter with the HLPE Steering Committee Chair to be sent to prospective donors to seek additional funds for the HLPE.

It was also agreed that all budgetary matters will be addressed by the Working Group on PWB-MYPOW, that will start working by the end of the year.

4. Work plan for Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Land Tenure

The main link between the “Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and other Natural Resources” (VG) and the “Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment that Respects Rights, Livelihoods and Resources” (RAI) is on acquisition of land by investors and therefore on the governance of tenure of such land. This theme is addressed by Principle 1 (Respecting land and resource rights) of the RAI. The material for this principle is being developed under the VG initiative. Beyond this the two initiatives each address different objectives and themes and they are at different stages of development.

Development of the VG is an inclusive, FAO-led process which aims to submit such guidelines for the consideration of the 37th Session of the CFS. The Joint Bureau/Advisory Group meeting agreed to a work plan proposed by FAO NR to prepare a final draft of the VG by July 2011. An open ended Working Group (WG), led by the USA has been established to review the first draft of the VG. The work plan should be revised taking into account:

- issues raised during the Bureau meeting of 4 November 2010 (see Chair’s Summary);
- postponement of the Member country briefing in Rome until after December;
- a presentation to Member countries (and possibly other stakeholders) in Rome of the zero draft (Rome reading)-in addition to an e-consultation of this draft;
- important meetings in Rome to be attended by country Representatives particularly during June 2011; and
- linkages between the VG process and tasks being conducted by the HLPE.

The RAI is a draft set of principles prepared by FAO, IFAD, UNCTAD and the World Bank on the request of some governments. The RAI have not been consulted widely and so the current draft does not represent consensus on internationally recognized guidance for agricultural investment. Bearing in mind that investment in agriculture is a key topic internationally particularly in relation to its impact on food security, and that CFS decided to start an inclusive process to consider such principles, the Bureau and Advisory Group agreed to consider how they could contribute to such an exercise. They requested that a proposal on how to do this be prepared by the Secretariat and WG Coordinators taking into account related comments made during the meeting such as:

- given the importance of the topic and the need to maintain momentum, urgent action is needed;
- further develop the RAI through an inclusive and consultative process thereby giving wide ownership, noting this would have time and cost implications;
- all stakeholders including CSOs should be involved in preparing the proposal and in the elaboration process; and

- while the current draft of RAI could be an input into such a process, other inputs would also be considered.

However, the point of departure for the Bureau to decide on whether and how to proceed with such an exercise should be a presentation on the scope, status and intention of the RAI initiative. This could be done at the same time as the member country briefing on the VG.

Exactly how the studies regarding the land tenure issues requested from the HLPE, would feed into the VG and the development of an inclusive process of consideration of the RAI principles would have to be considered with respect to both content and timing.

5. Any other business

- **CFS response to G20 Final Declaration.** The Chair will consult with the Secretariat to suggest how the CFS could respond to the CFS-related requests in the recent G20 Declaration. The Bureau and Advisory Group Members will be updated on this.
- **Farewell party for Maria del Carmen Squeff.** Proposal was made to have a party for Maria del Carmen Squeff. Further information on the time and the venue will be communicated in due course.

List of attendees:

CFS Bureau

Chair: Mr Noel De Luna; Ms Karima Boubekour (Algeria); Mr Travis Power (Australia); Mr Hugo Verbist (Belgium); Mr Olyntho Viera (Brazil); Ms Fatma Hussein Saber (Egypt); Ms Ileana Rivera (Guatemala); Mr Katsumasa Miyauchi (Japan); Mr Azman Mohd Saad (Malaysia); Mr Vladimir Kuznetsov (Russian Federation); Mr Franklin Moore (USA)

Advisory Group

Mr Kwesi Atta-Krah (Biodiversity); Mr Hafez Ghanem (FAO); Jean-Philippe Audinet (IFAD); Mr Antonio Onorati (IPC); Mr George Dixon Fernandez (MIJARC); Mr Chris Leather (OXFAM); Mr Mamadou Cissokho (ROPPA); Mr Giuseppe Fantozzi (The World Bank); Ms Denise Coitinho (SCN); Ms Florence Lasberres (HLTF Coordination Team); Mr Keith Jones (International Agri-Food Network) – Via teleconference

Silent observers

Ms Emily Collins (Australia); Mr Renato Godinho (Brazil); Ms Marie-Caroline Dodí (France); Ms Swantje Nilsson (Germany); Elías José Guía López (Spain); Ms Jacqueline Birrer (Switzerland)

CFS Secretariat

Mr Kostas Stamoulis; Mr Mark McGuire; Ms Chiara Cirulli; Mr Ram Saravanamuttu (WFP); Ms Rossella Fanelli; Ms Cordelia Salter; Mr Emilio Colonnelli; Mr Vincent Gitz; Mr Thomas Price; Ms Amira Muammar; Mr Julian Thomas; Ms Nora McKeon; Mr David Palmer; Mr Yon Fernandez de Larrinoa;