



CHAIR'S SUMMARY

CFS BUREAU MEETING

18 March 2011 – 10.00 – 13.00 – WFP Auditorium

Agenda (see list of attendees below)

The following agenda was agreed:

1. Price volatility
2. Updates on:
 - a) Global Strategic Framework
 - b) Proposed Process for the RAI Principles
 - c) Rules of Procedure including legal implications of proposals
 - d) Programme of Work and Budget
 - e) G20 Process
 - f) Voluntary Guidelines
3. CFS 37th Session Draft Timetable and Agenda
4. Other matters arising from the joint meeting of the Bureau and the Advisory Group

1. Price volatility

The Secretariat will prepare the web portal and the briefing on tools to combat food price volatility that is tentatively scheduled for the 9th of May. Selection criteria for the links to be posted on the portal will be established by the Chair with the Secretariat. The Bureau, assisted by the Secretariat, will monitor the situation and, in consultation with the Advisory Group, prepare policy recommendations (boxes) on price volatility to be considered for approval by CFS37 based on the HLPE Report on Price Volatility.

2. Updates on:

a) Global Strategic Framework

The WG Coordinator, Mr Renato Godinho (Brazil) presented the “Proposal for agreement on GSF purposes, basic principles, structure and process” which takes into account the results of the electronic survey and the comments received during the last WG meeting. The deadline for its approval has been extended to 31 March and will be done electronically.

The Bureau’s oversight role in the process by means of the WG was reaffirmed. Consultation will be conducted electronically unless trust funds are made available for this. The possibility of conducting consultations during the FAO sub-regional policy seminars will be explored. CFS37 will be informed on the state of GSF elaboration at that stage, in anticipation of a final draft being approved by CFS38.

b) Proposed Process for the RAI Principles

Hugo Verbist explained that he is still reviewing comments on the proposal he made for the consultation process on the RAI Principles, and indicated that he will submit his final proposal by end March taking into account inputs received before then. He undertook to clarify that the CFS would only deal with track 1 (the consultation process), while the country-based piloting of the RAI Principles was a separate exercise under the responsibility of the four agencies who prepared the Principles. He will suggest possible linkages between the CFS led consultation and this latter exercise, as well as linkages with related work being done by other organizations. The nature of the possible outcomes of the CFS led consultation and of other related work being done will also be clarified.

c) Rules of Procedure including legal implications of proposals

The WG Coordinator, Mr Ibrahim Abu Atileh (Jordan) presented a matrix showing comments received so far on the Zero Draft of the revised Rules of Procedure. It was agreed to separate the issue of rotating the CFS Secretary among the Rome based agencies from other proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure, and to develop a facts-based options paper reflecting the advantages and constraints, for the CFS, of rotating the CFS Secretary. To this end, the Chair will contact the heads of the three Rome based agencies requesting their views on the legal, financial, operational, and administrative implications of rotating the CFS Secretary. Comments should also be sought from countries. The Coordinator of the Working Group, will use these inputs, and comments received from countries, to prepare the facts-based options paper before the next Bureau meeting (29 April).

In the interest of a smooth transition, procedures for the election/re-election of the Chair and the members of the Bureau, should be clarified.

d) Programme of Work and Budget

The Secretariat presented a draft PWB for 2012-13 that responded to questions raised at the last WG meeting on this topic (Coordinator, Mr Hugo Verbist). This document was presented for information only and will be discussed at the next WG meeting during the weeks of 28 March or 4 April. Preliminary comments regarding the distribution of funds between Core Staff and Technical Support and Activities to support key roles of CFS will be incorporated in a revised version.

e) G20 Process

The CFS Chair presented the report on CFS role and activities to be submitted to the G20 Development Working Group (19-22 March 2011, Paris). Changes proposed by the Bureau will be taken into account.

f) Voluntary Guidelines

The CFS led process to develop Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and Other Natural Resources, as previously approved by the Bureau, is on track. The launch of the Zero Draft of the VG is scheduled for 15 April and is meant to render the document public without discussing its contents. The Bureau's approval for this to take place during FAO Council will be conveyed by the CFS Chair to FAO-CSCD. As required, Greg Myers (chair of the Working Group, USA), in liaison with the CFS Chair and Bureau, will facilitate meetings of the open-ended Working Group to consider the Zero Draft, and to plan the CFS led plenary review and finalization of the First Draft of the VG (25-27/28 July 2011).

3. CFS 37th Session Draft Timetable and Agenda

Parallel sessions for policy round tables and country case studies should be considered providing there is time for consultation between such sessions and when they are wrapped up in plenary. The value of having special events on the Friday afternoon should be considered. This will be taken into account when preparing a revised version of the agenda that will be submitted to the Advisory Group and discussed during the next Joint meeting.

List of attendees:

CFS Bureau

CFS Chair: Mr Noel De Luna; Mr Riache Azzedine (Algeria); Ms Emily Collins (Australia); Mr Hugo Verbist (Belgium); Mr Renato Godinho (Brazil); Ms Fatma Saber (Egypt); Mr Katsumasa Miyauchi (Japan); Mr Ibrahim Abu Atileh (Jordan); Mr Azhar Mohd Isa (Malaysia); Mr Vladimir Kuznetsov (Russian Federation); Mr Michael Michener (USA).

Silent observers

Ms Natalie Feistritzer (Austria); Mr Mark Heirman (Belgium); Ms Berengere Quincy (France); Mr Thomas Haussmann (Germany); Ms Carolin Puetz (Germany); Mr Claudio Miscia (Italy); Ms Giorgia Spada (Italy); Ms Gemma Betsema (Netherlands); Ms Magdalena Kropiwnicka (Poland); Mr Elias Guia (Spain); Ms Jacqueline Birrer (Switzerland).

CFS Secretariat

Mr Kostas Stamoulis; Mr Mark McGuire; Mr Ram Saravanamuttu; Ms Chiara Cirulli; Ms Cordelia Salter; Mr Julian Thomas; Ms Rossella Fanelli; Ms Amira Muammar; Mr Emilio Colonnelli; Mr Pascal Liu; Mr Mika Torhonen.