



CHAIR'S SUMMARY

JOINT CFS BUREAU AND ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

24 February 2011 - 09.00-13.00 – German Room

Agenda (see list of attendees below)

The following agenda items were agreed to:

- 1) Price volatility – update, latest assessments and recommendations for CFS
- 2) Updates
 - a) Global Strategic Framework
 - b) Voluntary Guidelines: Land Tenure
 - c) Proposal on RAI Principles
 - d) HLPE
- 3) Financial support to the Civil Society Mechanism
- 4) CFS Communication Strategy
- 5) Any other business
 - a) Update on mapping food security actions exercise
 - b) Update on Round Table to examine methodology used to estimate the number of hungry
 - c) Presentation by UN SCN on Climate Change and Nutrition Security

1) Price volatility-updates, latest assessments and recommendations for CFS

FAO, WFP, UN HLTF, IFAD, Oxfam (representing the four CSO Members of the WG) and the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food made presentations on the current status of food price volatility, what these organizations are doing about this, and possible roles for CFS in this regard. Copies of these presentations will be posted on the CFS working space.

It was agreed that while food prices and their volatility are not at crisis levels, the situation is precarious and deserves urgent attention from the CFS and its Bureau assisted by the advisory Group (AG). There is a need for Governments and other stakeholders to be regularly apprised of the evolving situation by principal agencies/bodies (such as FAO, WFP, IFAD, HLPE, CSOs, Special Rapporteur on Right to

Food, G20/G8) who analyse price volatility and recommend measures to address its affects on food security and nutrition. Information and advice on short and longer term (structural) measures are required at the global, but especially the regional and country levels. Some felt that this type of information alone would not suffice, and that there is also a need to promote international agreement and support for sound policies to address price volatility.

Some felt that these tasks could be performed by regular joint Bureau/AG meetings including representatives of wide ranging stakeholders who would then communicate the outcome of such meetings to those they represent. Others considered that a Bureau Working Group would be a more suitable mechanism to do this as it may enable broader participation from appropriate organizations/bodies to focus on central issues independently of the Bureau/AG schedule.

However, there is a need for further information sharing, for example by means of a CFS web portal to provide information on price volatility made available by agencies such as FAO, WFP, IFAD, HLTF, WB through appropriate links. Such information sharing could also take the form of a seminar/panel/open dialogue/ discussion among Permanent Representations along the lines of what was presented to the Bureau and Advisory Group.

A decision on this matter will be taken by the Bureau on 25 February.

2) Updates

a) Global Strategic Framework

37 responses to the questionnaire on the GSF were received. The analysis of these responses will be discussed at the GSF WG meeting on 24 February afternoon. IPC pointed out that they were prevented from submitting a response from their members as the questionnaire was in English only and they do not have funds for translation. The Secretariat is unfortunately also constrained in this regard.

b) Voluntary Guidelines: Land Tenure

Greg Myers, Coordinator of this WG, met with stakeholders in January and will continue these consultations in Rome from 11-14 April. He is proposing a Friends of the Chair Group to help with the meeting on the Voluntary Guidelines scheduled for 25-28 July 2011.

c) Proposal on RAI Principles

Hugo Verbist outlined the main points of his proposal on the way forward for the RAI Principles. It was agreed that a decision on this matter will be postponed until the Bureau meeting of 18 March 2011 so that member countries can consult with their capitals and regional groups can also consolidate their positions. NGOs CSOs, can also likewise, consult their constituencies. In the mean time all interested parties are invited to provide the Secretariat with written comments on Hugo's proposal.

d) HLPE

As requested by CFS 36 and agreed by the Bureau, the HLPE is busy preparing the reports on Price Volatility and on Land Tenure and International Investments which will be made available to CFS 37,

together with a presentation of progress made with the two other studies on Climate Change and on Social Protection.

The HLPE Steering Committee (StC) held a consultation to get views on the Terms of Reference of the Project Teams tasked to prepare the drafts of the HLPE reports on Price Volatility and on Land Tenure and International Investments. Proceedings of the consultations are publicly available on-line on the FSN Forum. The HLPE StC is busy finalizing the ToR of the Project Teams, and composing these. Project Team composition will be made public after members have been appointed officially.

Project Teams will within three months of starting their work, prepare preliminary reports to be submitted for further expert input through an expert workshop, and an expert e-consultation conducted via the FSN forum. The final report will be reviewed external before going to the HLPE StC at a meeting in the Netherlands (12-13 July 2011) for approval according to the provisions of the HLPE Rules and Procedures, article 32.

As requested by the CFS, the HLPE will build on existing research and studies of different origins (academic, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, research institutions, etc), where possible including those currently being undertaken. The HLPE reports will strive to be comprehensive, and will include long term perspectives and policies as well as policies to cope with short term issues and recurring problems.

Comments made during the joint Bureau/AG meeting will be conveyed to the HLPE StC by the Secretariat. The HLPE StC Chair and Vice Chair are scheduled to meet with the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group on 25 May.

3) Financial support to the Civil Society Mechanism

A Multi-Donor Trust Fund document to provide support to the Civil Society Mechanism has been completed. FAO will manage the fund on behalf of the CFS Secretariat with most resources going directly as contracts to CSOs designated by the Mechanism. Civil Society will determine the activities and organize use of resources, providing periodic financial and other reporting. Based on a discussion with the CSO members of the Advisory Group, some final amendments will be made to the document regarding the fund, which will become operational in the immediate future. FAO will ensure that administrative and financial costs are kept to an absolute minimum.

4) CFS Communication Strategy

The CFS Secretariat is empowered to implement the Communication Strategy focusing on Group 1 activities. A Focus Group will not be required but views will be sought from all stakeholders.

5) Any other business

a) Update on mapping food security actions exercise

The Task Team for this exercise has established a roadmap to deliver the outputs requested by CFS 36. This plan includes a Technical Consultative Workshop scheduled for 23-25 May whose purpose will be to examine the elements of a system to map food security and nutrition actions and to identify countries

to present their experience in this regard to CFS 37. The possibility of using such presentations to also address the national initiatives item on the CFS agenda, was suggested. The Bureau and Advisory Group will be briefed on the outcomes of the workshop.

b) Update on Round Table to examine methodology used to estimate the number of hungry

A concept note outlining the purpose, structure and dates of a Round Table is being prepared. Funding for the workshop still has to be found.

c) Presentation by UN SCN on Climate Change and Nutrition Security

This presentation will be made at the next joint Bureau/Advisory Group meeting scheduled for 28 April 2011 (see calendar of provisional dates for Bureau and related meetings).

List of attendees

CFS Bureau

CFS Chair: Mr Noel De Luna; Mr Riache Azzedine (Algeria) ; Mr Travis Power (Australia) ; Mr Hugo Verbist (Belgium) ; Mr Olintho Vieira (Brazil) ; Mr Renato Godinho (Brazil); Ms Fatma Saber (Egypt) ; Ms Ilean Rivera (Guatemala) ; Mr Kazumasa Shioya (Japan) ; Mr Ibrahim Abu Atileh (Jordan) ; Mr Azman Mohd Saad (Malaysia) ; Ms Ertharin Cousin (USA); Mr Michael Michener (USA).

CFS Advisory Group

Mr Hafez Ghanem (FAO); Ms Bettina Prado (IFAD); Mr Mouhamed El-Kouhene (WFP); Ms Sheila Sisulu (WFP); Mr Gaetan van Loqueren (Special Rapporteur RtF); Mr David Nabarro (UN HLTFC Coordination); Ms Florence Lasbennes (UN HLTFC Coordination); Ms Beatriz Gasco (IPC); Mr Chris Leather (Oxfam); Mr Keith Jones (IAFN); Ms Lina Mahy (SCN).

Silent Observers

Ms Karima Boubekeur (Algeria); Mr Agustin Zimmermann (Argentina); Mr Marc Heirman (Belgium); Mr Claudio R. Poles (Brazil); Ms Adair Heuchan (Canada); Ms Maria Larrea Oriente (European Union); Ms Berengere Quincy (France); Ms Carolin Püta (Germany); Ms Agnes Dus (Hungary); Mr Claudio Miscia (Italy); Mr Marco Ricci (Italy); Mr Flavio Lovisolo (Italy); Ms Giorgia Spada (Italy); Mr Katsumasa Miyauchi (Japan); Mr Ronald Helkhuizen (Netherlands); Ms Magdalena Kropiwnicka (Poland); Ms Jinal Shah (United Kingdom); Mr Franklin Moore (USA).

CFS Secretariat

Mr Kostas Stamoulis; Mr Mark McGuire; Mr Ram Saravanamuttu; Mr Vincent Gitz; Ms Cordelia Salter; Ms Chiara Cirulli; Mr Julian Thomas; Ms Amira Muammar; Ms Rossella Fanelli; Mr Thomas Price; Ms Cristina Zuccaroli; Ms Roberta Piferi; Mr Emilio Colonnelli.