

**Chairman's Summary of the WG meeting on
Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition
7 February 2012, 9.30-12.30, FAO Philippines room**

1. The CFS Working Group on the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition met on 7 February 2012 in order to review the calendar of preparation of the GSF; review draft guidelines and orientation for the consultations on the GSF during the FAO Regional Conferences; and provide comments on the working version of the GSF First Draft, in light of the 'Guidelines for the Preparation of the GSF First Draft', as approved by the Bureau.
2. As an introduction, the WG coordinator explained that the calendar for the preparation of the GSF reflected the process that had been approved by the WG and Bureau, with some adjustments to dates. It was noted that the dates of the Near East FAO Regional Conference had not been confirmed but were likely to change to September 2012. With regard to Draft One of the GSF, it was stressed that it was not the intention for the group to enter into a detailed discussion of the GSF text but rather to focus on the conformity of the text with the agreed guidelines for preparation of the GSF.
3. The Secretariat made a brief presentation of the calendar for the preparation of the GSF. Clarifications were requested on a number of the steps in the calendar. It was explained that a separate briefing session on the GSF is planned for 27 February 2012 for CFS members and participants to call attention to the GSF Draft One, to advise on the open web consultation and role of the FAO regional conferences on the GSF; the importance of this briefing was stressed by the WG. It was observed that the open web consultation would take place in parallel with the FAO regional conferences, with the Secretariat compiling feedback from both exercises, based on the agreed guidelines for the preparation of the GSF. Consideration would need to be given to alternative consultative arrangements for the Near East region in the event that this regional conference is rescheduled to September 2012. The meeting was advised that the North America region will also be holding a regional meeting in early April which will also include the GSF as an agenda item. The Coordinator asked that this meeting be included in the GSF calendar once the dates are confirmed (planned for 3-5 April in Canada).
4. With regard to the presentation of the GSF at the regional conferences, the Secretariat confirmed that a 2-3 hour multi-stakeholder event was planned for each regional conference, usually in conjunction with the Senior officer's Segment. The Secretariat will facilitate the GSF session, which will be guided by the key questions contained in the draft guidance note for the regional conferences. Some feedback from this session may also be conveyed to the ministerial segment of the conference in the CFS Chair's statement. It was stressed that reporting from the regional conferences should be in a standardised format to ensure consistency. Since the multi-stakeholder format was being used for the first time, it was also important to mobilise all relevant actors to begin dialogue on the GSF in advance of the regional conferences. CFS discussion at the conferences should also take into consideration regional priorities.

5. The Secretariat clarified that, in addition to the guidance note on the GSF and Draft One GSF document, there would also be a general introductory note on CFS agenda items and an update on recent CFS activities for regional conferences. A short video clip is being prepared by the Secretariat to raise awareness on the GSF.
6. The meeting reviewed the draft guidance note on the GSF to be presented to the regional conferences. A number of suggestions were made to revise the text: mention of the target audience of the GSF, a reference to the authorship of the document; more explicit reference to the multiple stakeholders of the CFS; merging of bullets four and five on the specific points to be considered by regional conference participants when examining the GSF; and revision on next steps indicating that the document would be submitted to the CFS Plenary.
7. With regard to Draft One of the GSF, the Coordinator recalled that the document had been prepared by the Secretariat and the Task Team and was therefore not the direct work of the WG. It was noted that the document would need to be submitted for translation within a short timeframe in order to be available for the GSF briefing session scheduled for 27 February 2012, and for the regional conferences.
8. The WG agreed that the GSF Draft One was a good working document that provided a sound basis for further consultation. Specific suggestions were made on the document, bearing in mind that the main focus of comments related to adherence of the document to the GSF guidelines:
 - In order to facilitate reading and further consultations on the First Draft, it was considered very important to indicate, by means of footnotes or endnotes, the sources (agreed in the CFS, in other fora, present in existing international instruments/frameworks, or other sources) for each one of the recommendations.
 - In section IV, which includes a large number of policy recommendations, prioritisation or streamlining could be further considered; highlighting priorities or strategic recommendations by means of formatting could also be useful.
 - Some items under the policy recommendations, such as climate change and social protection, are currently being examined by the HLPE and are to be discussed in the CFS, whereas recommendations had already been provided in the text. The text should avoid anticipating the CFS's outcomes on those issues;
 - Including concrete examples and case studies would be useful; visual aspects such as the planned highlighting of text are also important although these would be done at a later stage; attention should also be given to the eventual web presentation of the text.
 - The text should be reviewed to ensure that the GSF is not presented as an actor in itself, but rather as an instrument of the CFS;
 - The reference to the users and purpose of the GSF should feature earlier in the text; footnotes or annexes could also be further considered with regard to presentation of relevant frameworks;

- The importance of having a short, streamlined, and easily readable text was stressed. However, it was acknowledged that agreed text should be used wherever possible. Policy as well as practical operational guidance should be provided, together with identification of relevant actors;
- Inclusion of a reference to the CSM and other mechanisms that featured in an earlier draft of the text, should be considered.
- Further comments related to the content of the recommendations, such as on gender aspects, were provided in writing to the Secretariat by some Working Group participants; the WG nevertheless acknowledged that discussions on content would be addressed during the upcoming online and regional consultations, and in further steps of the process.

NEXT STEPS:

As a result of the WG meeting, the Secretariat will revise the documents and submit them for translation. According to the process for the elaboration of the GSF, the next step in the process will be the GSF briefing session for stakeholders to be held on 27 February 2012 in Rome. This will be followed by the Regional Conferences and the open web consultation.