



International Food Security & Nutrition Civil Society Mechanism (CSM)

<http://cso4cfs.org>

Urgent Funding Appeal

Introduction

The International Food Security & Nutrition Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) urgently requires funding to facilitate civil society preparation in CFS events and processes during the remainder of 2011. The CSM has received generous support from some NGOs and from the Spanish government for these events. We have also received pledges of funding from the German and Norwegian governments. However, this will provide less than 40% of the funding needed to ensure broad and meaningful civil society participation. We urgently require an additional **Euro 184,105 / US\$ 266,957**.

Funding is required now in order to ensure that participants receive background information, are able to consult with their colleagues at national and regional levels, to ensure that flights, accommodation and venues can be booked and visas acquired in good time.

You are invited to read the following information and to send a commitment to fund a specific number of civil society participants to the CSM Secretariat at cso4cfs@gmail.com.

Background

The CSM is the largest international mechanism of civil society organisations (CSOs) seeking to influence agriculture, food security and nutrition policies and actions - nationally, regionally and globally.

In the CFS reform, Member States recognised the right of CSOs to “autonomously establish a global mechanism for food security and nutrition which will function as a facilitating body for CSO/NGOs consultation and participation in the CFS”¹. A proposal for the establishment of the CSM was endorsed by CSOs at the Civil Society Consultation held in Rome in October 2010² and acknowledged by CFS Member States during the 36th Session of the CFS in the same month³.

The CSM is already reaching out to over 900 CSOs in all continents, sharing information with them on global policy debates and processes, promoting civil society consultations and dialogue, supporting national and regional advocacy and facilitating the participation of a diverse range of CSOs at the global level, in the context of the CFS.

¹ CFS: 2009/2 Rev.2, para.16, http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/Docs0910/ReformDoc/CFS_2009_2_Rev_2_E_K7197.pdf

² CSM proposal, <http://cso4cfs.org/civil-society-mechanism/>

³ CFS: 2010/Final Report, para 32, http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/Docs0910/CFS36Docs/Final_Report/CFS36_Final_Report_K9551_E.pdf

Purpose

The purpose of the CSM is *to facilitate civil society participation in agriculture, food security and nutrition policy development at national, regional and global levels in the context of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).*

Functions and activities

The CSM aims to support CSOs to influence policy processes and outcomes at the global level by facilitating civil society participation in CFS Plenary Sessions, Open Ended Working Groups, Task Teams, the CFS Advisory Group and other CFS mechanisms.

The CSM seeks to enable CSOs to influence policy processes at regional and national levels by facilitating civil society participation in regional inter-governmental events and processes, e.g. FAO regional conferences, and facilitating participation in national, multi-stakeholder food security governance structures and processes.

The CSM facilitates the broad and regular exchange of information, analysis and experience between CSOs from around the world. It also enables the development of common CSO positions where possible and helps communicate divergent positions where there is no consensus. These functions are performed through the facilitation of face to face and virtual meetings, trainings, consultations, reports and papers, the CSM website⁴, CSM working groups and an annual CSM Forum.

Organising principles and ways of working

The CSM is an inclusive space open to all civil society organizations, with priority given to the organisations and movements of the people most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition, i.e. smallholder producers, fisherfolk, pastoralists, indigenous, urban poor, migrants, agricultural workers etc. The CSM is founded on the belief that the people most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition must be the agents of their own development, are best placed to represent their own interests and views and are not only victims but also bearers of solutions.

The CSM seeks to involve the full range of CSOs concerned about, and affected by, food insecurity and malnutrition, and to ensure that a wide range of views can be heard by policy makers on how to address these issues. The CSM respects pluralism, autonomy and self-organization and tries to ensure a balance of gender, regions, constituencies and sectors. The CSM presents common positions to policy makers where they emerge and the range of different positions where there is no consensus.

The CSM aims to be a decentralised, grassroots based mechanism with many of its activities, such as analysis, trainings and consultations, taking place at national and regional levels. As much as possible, resources will be de-centralised and the CSM will avoid creating bureaucratic structures at global level. However, in the initial stages of the CSM it may be necessary to maintain significant global level

⁴ <http://cso4cfs.org>

resources in order to facilitate the development of capacities and processes at regional, sub-regional and national levels, with resources being increasingly de-centralised over time.

CSM Structures

Members of the CSM can participate in activities through the 11 constituencies and the 17 sub-regional groups⁵. Through participation in the CSM, members are able to participate in political processes relating to the CFS, have access to information, dialogue with other CSOs and develop common positions and complementary strategies and ways of working.

The work of the CSM members is facilitated by its [Coordination Committee](#) which consists of 41 focal points for different constituencies and sub-regions. The first face-to-face meeting of the Committee was held in Cordoba from 30th May – 1st June with generous support from the Spanish Government. The role of Coordination Committee members is to facilitate the work of CSOs within their constituencies and sub-regional groups. They perform this role by sharing information, facilitating dialogue and consultations, supporting analysis and advocacy at national and regional levels, and feeding analysis and positions into global level policy processes. The Coordination Committee also oversees the work of the civil society CFS Advisory Group members and the international Secretariat.

The CSM has established international [Working Groups](#) as a means of consulting with CSM members on policy issues under discussion within the CFS and feeding the diverse views of CSOs into the work of the CFS. The CSM also has four *members of the CFS Advisory Group*⁶, who have the role of ensuring that decisions made by the CFS Bureau are informed by a wide range of CSOs from around the world. The work of the CSM is facilitated by a small, neutral *Secretariat*.

Objectives up to end 2011

1. To facilitate the participation of 10 civil society participants in **the CFS inter-governmental negotiations on the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests**, 10-14th October
2. To facilitate the participation of 60 civil society participants in the **Civil Society Mechanism Forum**, 15-17th October, and in the **37th Session of the CFS**, 17th-22nd October.
3. To facilitate civil society participation in the **inter-sessional work of the CFS** via CFS Open Ended Working Groups, Task Teams, the Advisory Group and other CFS mechanisms.
4. To facilitate the broad and regular **exchange of information, analysis and experience** between CSOs from around the world, through the CSM website⁷, CSM working groups and other means of communication.

⁵ See endorsed CSM proposal, paras 14 & 20 <http://cso4cfs.files.wordpress.com/2010/10/csm-en.pdf>

⁶ <http://cso4cfs.org/who-we-are/>

⁷ <http://cso4cfs.org>

Activities: up to end of 2011

1. Participation in the CFS inter-governmental negotiations on the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests, 10-14th October

The second meeting for the Inter-Governmental Negotiation of the Voluntary Guidelines will take place prior to the 37th CFS Plenary in October. CSOs are able to participate in the negotiations on an equal footing with governments and other stakeholders, up to the point of decision making. The CSM aims to have a delegation of 10 civil society experts participating in the meeting. The CSM Secretariat will organise flights, accommodation, visas, interpretation and translation services etc. The process of selecting the civil society representatives will be coordinated by the CSM's working group on the Voluntary Guidelines, which is dedicated to facilitating the participation of CSOs. Civil Society has been actively involved in the development of the Voluntary Guidelines. CSOs have provided inputs for both the zero Funding Proposal and first draft of the VGs via electronic consultations and have actively participated during the OEWG meetings, held in June 2011 and the CFS Plenary held in July.

2. The Civil Society Mechanism Annual Forum, 15th-17th October and the 37th Session of the CFS, 17th-22nd October.

The 2011 Civil Society Mechanism Forum will be organized immediately prior to the 37th Session of the CFS. The meeting will be open to all interested civil society participants that have registered for the CSM. The primary purpose of the Forum is: to provide a space for civil society to work together and prepare to participate in, and influence effectively, the 37th Session and the on-going work programme of the CFS, in 2011/12. The meeting will provide an important occasion for exchanging information, discussing priority policy issues, identifying priorities for civil society advocacy and, deliberating common positions to be taken to the annual CFS Plenary. It is expected that the Forum will also select new civil society participants in the CFS Advisory Group for the coming 2 years, identify civil society spokespersons in the 37th Session and review the functioning of the CSM during its first year. Participants in the CSM Forum will participate in the 37th Sessions of the CFS on an equal footing with governments and communicate the common and divergent views of CSOs arising from the CSM Working Groups and the CSM Forum. During September and early October the CSM Secretariat will facilitate the agenda and methodology of the Forum, mobilise funding, organise invitation letters, visas, travel, accommodation and subsistence for delegates from developing countries and organise the Forum venue, including translators and translation equipment.

3. Participation in the inter-sessional work of the CFS

As indicated in the CFS reform document, all participants, including CSOs are not only invited but encouraged to contribute to inter-sessional activities of the CFS at various levels, from national to regional to global⁸, and the CSM is the body that is expected to facilitate and coordinate this process. This includes participation from all levels in open-ended working groups, regional conferences, training seminars etc. For example, at the global level, the CSM will facilitate a civil society consultation on the Global Strategic Framework and civil society participation in the CFS OEWG on the GSF and principles for responsible agricultural investment.

⁸ CFS: 2009/2 Rev.2, para 16

It is a priority of the CSM to interconnect the ongoing work of CSOs at the national and regional levels to the global political processes, and it will be imperative to identify opportunities whereby these connections can be made. Engaging in capacity building and outreach programs at the regional levels will be critical to the effectiveness of the CSM.

It is the role of the civil society representatives to the Advisory Group to ensure that the views of civil society are brought to the attention of the Bureau and CFS, and *"to provide input to the Bureau regarding the range of tasks which the CFS Plenary has instructed it to perform"*⁹. With such an important role, the four representatives must be able to engage with the Bureau and its members during the joint Bureau/Advisory group meetings, and communicate the wide range of views and common positions of civil society on specific policy related issues. During the Cordoba meeting, it was decided that the current ad interim civil society representatives to the Advisory Group would continue their mandate until October 2011, when a democratic election process will take place to elect the new representatives.

4. Sharing information and promoting civil society dialogue

The CSM Secretariat works with the four civil society Advisory Group members to ensure that the full range of CSOs are able to access information on the work of the CFS and are able to feed their views in to CSM Working Groups and consultations, thereby ultimately influencing the outcomes of CFS decision making processes.

The Secretariat administers a website, <http://cso4cfs.org> and during 2011 aims to make this more interactive for use by Coordination Committee and CSM members in general. Regular updates are produced on the work of both the CFS and the CSM (AG members, Coordination Committee, Working Groups and Secretariat) and share with CSM members via the webspaces, emails etc. Given that English is not spoken by many civil society people around the world, written translation and oral interpretation services for CSM meetings and telecons. The Secretariat also organises CSM meetings, prepares background documents, agenda, takes minutes & follow up on action points, draft work plans etc, assists in producing briefing materials, policy papers etc for AG members, Coordination Committee members, WG members and other CSM members

To ensure the most efficient and effective contributions, CSM Working Groups have been created to share information amongst CSOs on CFS discussions, promote dialogue and facilitate civil society input to CFS processes. The Working Groups address the main policy issues which the CFS is currently working on:

- the governance of land tenure and other natural resources
- agricultural investment
- food price volatility
- gender, food security & nutrition
- the Global Strategic Framework

The CSM Working Groups aim to:

- enhance circulation of relevant documentation and information on the issue and on the related process in the CFS

⁹ CFS:2009/2 Rev.2, para.32

- provide a space for dialogue and the exchange of views amongst CSOs on the issues under consideration by the CFS
- enable CSOs to develop strong and well-articulated civil society positions
- provide inputs to the civil society members of the CFS Open Ended Working Groups and Task Teams
- identify and support civil society participants in CFS OEWDs and Task Teams and Round Table panels.

Urgent funding requirements: up to end 2011

Activity	Number of units	Number of meetings	Unit cost (euros)	Unit cost (USD)	Total (euros)	Total (USD)
1. CSO participation in the 2nd CFS inter-governmental negotiations on the Voluntary Guidelines on Governance of Land, Fisheries and Forests 14th October (flights, accom., visa, interpretation, briefing documents..)	10 participants	1	3,714 €	\$5,385	37,135 €	\$53,84
2. CSO participation in the Annual CSM Forum 17th-18th October & participation in the 22nd Session of the CFS-22nd October (flights, accom., venue, visa, interpretation, briefing documents..)	50 participants	1	3,907 €	\$5,665	195,350 €	\$283,25
3. CSO participation in CFS inter-sessional work, CFS Open Ended Working Groups, Task Team Advisory Group and other CFS mechanisms (accom., visa, briefing documents, teleconfa)	4 participants	4	2,167 €	\$3,142	34,672 €	\$50,27
4. Communications and information flow to CS members (website, CFS email updates, telec responding to enquiries..)	4 months		3,950 €	\$5,723	15,800 €	\$22,91
Sub-total					282,957 €	\$410,29
Admin fee 5%					14,148 €	\$20,51
TOTAL funding requirement					297,105 €	\$430,80
Funding committed as at end August					113,000 €	\$163,85
Funding deficit					184,105 €	\$266,95

For details of how unit costs are calculated please see detailed budget in Annex.

Administration of funding

Donors are encouraged to provide funding directly to the Civil Society Mechanism rather than through FAO or other International Organisations, in order to maximize cost-efficiency. For example, FAO will utilize 13% of funds donated to the Civil Society Mechanism.

The Civil Society Mechanism is exploring the possibility of establishing itself as a legal entity in order that it can receive funds directly from donors and they can be managed and accounted for centrally. In the meantime, different CSO members of the CSM with strong financial accountability capacities and procedures, have volunteered to administer funds received from donors, on behalf of the CSM as a whole. Decision making regarding the utilization of funds will lie with the CSM Coordination Committee but the CSOs administering the funds will be responsible for ensuring that funding is used appropriately and efficiently.

The CSM Secretariat can provide interested donors with the names and contact details of CSOs which are able to manage funds on behalf of the CFS. The donor would therefore enter into a contract with the relevant CSO.

Funding commitment

If you are able to make a contribution to these costs, please send an email to the CSM Secretariat at cso4cfs@gmail.com indicating the total grant that you would like to provide. We kindly request that you make the funds as flexible as possible. As mentioned above, contributions will go into a pooled fund administered by a CSO member of the CSM on behalf of the Mechanism as a whole. Further details can be provided by the Secretariat on receipt of a funding commitment.

If donors choose to do so, then funds can be channelled through a Multi Donor Trust Fund, which has been established by FAO Partnerships with Civil Society and Private Sector Branch (OCEP) on behalf of the CFS Secretariat. FAO will then sign an agreement with one of the CSOs responsible for administering funds on behalf of the CSM. Further information on the Trust Fund can be provided by Thomas Price: thomas.price@fao.org

Thank you!

The CSM Secretariat on behalf of the CSM Coordination Committee

For more information on the CSM, please consult the CSM website <http://cso4cfs.org> or write to the CSM Secretariat at cso4cfs@gmail.com.

Annex: detailed budget September – December 2011

BUDGET FOR THE CSM Aug 2011 - Dec 2011									
Item	Nr.	Unit cost in		Nr. days/ times	Nr.	Total (Euros)	Total (USD)	Unit cost (euros)	Unit cost (USD)
		Euros	USD						
1. Participation in negotiations on Voluntary Guidelines on Land 10-14 October									
Flights delegates	10 people	1,000 €	\$1,450	1 meetings		10,000 €	\$14,500		
Flights interpreters	3 people	400 €	\$580	1 return trip		1,200 €	\$1,740		
Interpreters fees	3 people	600 €	\$870	6 days		10,800 €	\$15,660		
Accommodation and food	13 people	120 €	\$174	6 days		9,360 €	\$13,572		
Visas, insurances and local transport	13 people	150 €	\$218	1 meetings		1,950 €	\$2,828		
Technical support & preparation (briefing documents, telecoms, translation, reporting)	1 lump sum	4,250 €	\$6,163	0.5 months		2,125 €	\$3,081		
Logistics / admin support (flights, visa accommodation booking / organisation)	1 lump sum	3,400 €	\$4,930	0.5 months		1,700 €	\$2,465		
<i>sub-tota</i>						37,135 €	\$53,846	3,714 €	\$5,385
2. CS Forum 15-17 October & participation in 37th Session of CFS 17-22 October									
Flights delegates	50 people	1,000 €	\$1,450	1 return trip		50,000 €	\$72,500		
Flights interpreters	9 people	400 €	\$580	1 return trip		3,600 €	\$5,220		
Interpreters	9 people	600 €	\$870	8 days		43,200 €	\$62,640		
Accommodation and food	60 people	120 €	\$174	8 days		57,600 €	\$83,520		
Visas, insurances and local transport	60 people	150 €	\$218	1 meetings		9,000 €	\$13,050		
Interpretation for CSM Forum (booths, equipment and technicians)	3 booths	1,850 €	\$2,683	3 days		16,650 €	\$24,143		
Technical support & preparation (briefing documents, telecomms, translation, reporting)	1 lump sum	4,250 €	\$6,163	2 months		8,500 €	\$12,325		
Logistics / admin support (flights, visa accommodation booking / organisation)	1 lump sum	3,400 €	\$4,930	2 months		6,800 €	\$9,860		
<i>sub-tota</i>						195,350 €	\$283,256	3,907 €	\$5,665
3. Participation in CFS inter-sessional work, CFS Advisory Group, Open Ended Working Groups, Task Teams etc									
Flights	4 people	1,000 €	\$1,450	4 meetings		16,000 €	\$23,200		
Accommodation and food	4 people	120 €	\$174	10 days		4,800 €	\$6,960		
Visas, insurances and local transport	4 people	150 €	\$218	4 meetings		2,400 €	\$3,480		
Technical support & preparation (briefing documents, telecomms, translation, reporting)	1 lump sum	4,250 €	\$6,163	1.5 months		6,375 €	\$9,244		
Logistics / admin support (flights, visa accommodation booking / organisation)	1 lump sum	3,400 €	\$4,930	1.5 months		5,100 €	\$7,395		
<i>sub-tota</i>						34,675 €	\$50,279	2,167 €	\$3,142
4. Communications and information flow									
Administration of CSM website	1 lump sum	3,400 €	\$4,930	4 months		13,600 €	\$19,720		
Facilitation of CSM Working Groups (telecomms, preparation documents, telephone, photocopies)	1 lump sum	150 €	\$218	4 months		600 €	\$870		
Translation of documents for website	1 lump sum	400 €	\$580	4 months		1,600 €	\$2,320		
<i>sub-tota</i>						15,800 €	\$22,910	3,950 €	\$5,728
PARTIAL						282,960 €	\$410,292		
Administration fee 5%						14,148 €	\$20,515		
TOTAL						297,108 €	\$430,807		