

Dear Noel,

We are writing to express concern that no funding has yet been committed by donors for the International Food Security & Nutrition Civil Society Mechanism for relations with the CFS (CSM). In this email, we also make proposals for how funding could be channeled and administered so as to ensure efficiency and transparency.

Clearly, the lack of funding is hindering our ability to establish the CSM and to facilitate civil society participation in the on-going work of the CFS. It is, therefore, threatening the credibility of the CFS as a truly inclusive, multi-stakeholder platform for food security and nutrition. Resources are urgently needed for activities including: sharing of information, translation of documents, facilitation of virtual discussions, participation in CFS meetings and consultations.

We would appreciate your assistance in sharing this information with potential donors, encouraging them to make firm commitments of funding and ensuring that any Fund established by the CFS or members of the Secretariat meets the proposed guiding principles outlined below.

In order to increase efficiency and reduce administration costs, we call on donors to channel funds directly to the CSM rather than through FAO or any other multilateral institution.

However, if there are donors who would prefer to channel funding for the CSM through a multi-donor trust fund hosted by the CFS Secretariat or one of its member institutions, then we believe that the following principles should guide the establishment and administration of such a fund:

- Representatives from all members of the CFS Secretariat and the Civil Society Mechanism should be actively involved in the design and oversight of the Fund. Pending the establishment of the CSM Coordination Committee (in process) the four interim civil society members of the Advisory Group should be actively involved in all decision-making about the Fund.
- Funds for the CSM should be clearly earmarked by donors to support civil society participation in the CFS and administered separately from funds for civil society participation in any other committees or governing bodies of multilateral institutions. Whilst of course, we fully support and encourage donors to provide funding for civil society participation in the full range of governance mechanisms relating to food security and nutrition at country, regional and global levels, we believe it is essential that funds for the CSM are kept separate from funds for other purposes.
- Responsibility for decision making on the allocation and utilisation of funds should lie with the CSM Coordination Committee according to the

framework agreed in the design of the Trust Fund, the work plan and structure of the CSM and in accordance with agreements with donors

We are very concerned that the process, which has been underway within FAO for the establishment of a Fund to channel resources to the CSM, has stalled and, in any case, was failing to be consistent with these guiding principles.

On behalf of the Coordination Committee of the CSM, Oxfam will initially be the recipient and administrator of funds, whether they are received directly from donors or via a trust fund hosted by a UN agency. Oxfam's role will be administrative including accountability to donors and members of the CSM. Responsibility for making decisions about the use of funding received will lie with the CSM Coordination Committee in accordance with agreements signed with donors. If potential donors would like further information or to discuss administrative arrangements then they should contact Chris Leather at [cso4cfs@gmail.com](mailto:cso4cfs@gmail.com)

We look forward to hearing your views on the concerns raised in this email and advice on how to move forward quickly to ensure that resources can start to flow to enable meaningful civil society participation in the work of the CFS.

Best regards

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Chris Leather  
George Fernandez Dixon  
Mamadou Cissokho

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