



## Guidelines for Participation in CFS Open Ended Working Groups

The reform of the CFS highlighted the importance of expanding participation in CFS to ensure that the voices of all relevant stakeholders are heard in the policy debate on food security and nutrition and that there should be a balance between inclusiveness and effectiveness. This also applies to intersessional activities. The following guidelines apply to Bureau-led Open-Ended Working Groups (OEWG).

Membership of the OEWG is open to all **Members** of FAO, WFP, IFAD or non-member States of FAO that are member States of the UN. Members take part fully in the work of the OEWG. Decision taking is the exclusive prerogative of Members.

As an outcome of the reform, CFS includes five different categories of **Participants**:

- i. UN agencies and other UN bodies;
- ii. Civil society and non-governmental organizations particularly organizations representing smallholder family farmers, fisherfolks, herders, landless, urban poor, agricultural and food workers, women, youth, consumers and indigenous people;
- iii. International agricultural research institutions;
- iv. International and regional financial institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, regional development banks and the World Trade Organization;
- v. Private sector associations and philanthropic foundations.

**Participants** take part in the work of the OEWG with the right to intervene on the same basis as Members, but are not involved in taking decisions.

The OEWG may invite other interested organizations relevant to its work to **observe** entire sessions or specific agenda items. **Observers** may be invited by the Chair to intervene during discussions.

There is no limit to participation by Members. The OEWG will determine the allocation of seats for Participants and Observers in consultation with the Advisory Group.

With a view to encourage active participation by a wide range of stakeholders while at the same time ensuring that the OEWG arrives at concrete conclusions/recommendations in a timely and orderly manner, it is recommended that:

- All interventions be as concise as possible (4 minutes) preferably with a concrete text proposal.
- In order to encourage brevity and avoid repetition, member states are encouraged to the extent possible to intervene through their respective Regional Groups. Each Regional Group is invited to intervene through a maximum of four spokespersons who can be rotated in time
- Participants under category ii) are invited to appoint, through the *International Food Security and Nutrition Civil Society Mechanism for relations with CFS*, five spokespersons who can be rotated in time

- The names of spokespersons should be communicated to the Chair
- In the case of Members, and of Participants from category ii), priority will be given to spokespersons
- Due to their manageable numbers, Participants under categories i, iii, iv and v need not appoint spokespersons.