

**CFS Joint Advisory Group and Bureau Meeting
Monday 22 November 2010**

IPC comments on the Workplan for the working group on the VG on Responsible Land Tenure

We appreciate that the Bureau and the Secretariat are committed to start the process as soon as possible. We would like to commend the USA as chair of the open-ended Working Group (WG) and look forward to a fruitful cooperation.

We would like to comment on the following issues:

1. Lack of clarity on how the CFS will start an inclusive process of consideration of the Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI).

It is important to recall that the CFS did not endorse the ongoing process for developing RAI nor the existing drafted principles. That is precisely the reason why the CFS decided to start an inclusive process of consideration of the principles within the CFS (see CFS 2010, para 26, ii).

In the documents presented (CHAIR'S SUMMARY, BUREAU MEETING – 37th SESSION – No 1, 4 November 2010 and the Proposal by FAO NR on 21 October 2010) no proposal regarding an inclusive process of consideration of RAI has been made. Nevertheless, both documents refer to the need to ensure consistency and complementarity between the FAO guidelines and RAI without clarifying how this will be done. It is not acceptable to assume that the existing RAI text can be taken as reference for drafting the FAO guidelines as the proposal by the Secretariat seems to suggest.

Since the CFS did not mandate the WG to review RAI and merge both process into one, we urge the Bureau to prepare a proposal to start an inclusive process of consideration of the principles within the CFS.

2. WG should start its involvement in the process earlier.

According to the plan presented by the Secretariat, the WG would start reviewing the first draft first in June. In our view it is crucial that the WG starts getting familiar with the draft text as soon as possible. We would therefore like to propose that the WG starts its work in May incorporating the comments received on the zero draft.

3. Methodology of the Working Group

As the participation of civil society is concerned in the open-ended WG, we would like to propose that the WG applies the methodology of setting up a contact group as it was done during the CFS reform process.

4. We welcome the proposal to involve the HLPE in the preparation process of the FAO guidelines.

Since only few members of the HLPE's SC are experts on land and natural resources, it would be good to involve the writing teams who will be preparing the land related studies in this process as well. This would also ensure that the insights of the HLPE studies would be fed into the process as soon as possible in the light of the tight timelines.