

FAO Guidelines on Land, Fisheries and Forests Tenure

Lobby strategy note for CSO

In this note information is provided and recommendations are made in order to assist CSO in their lobby activities related to the FAO Guidelines.

Timeline for finalising VGs (already agreed)

- **18 April – 16 May:** review of the zero draft. FAO will organize briefing for the regions available upon request.
- **17 – 30 May:** production of first draft
- **2 June:** submission of the first draft to the Open Ended Working Group of CFS(OEWG)
- **2 June – 23 July:** regional and stakeholder reviews of the first draft
- **25-28 July:** review of the first draft in CFS led negotiations
- **12 August:** Submission of the final draft
- **18-22 October:** Consideration of VGs by CFS

Proposed changes for this timeline (support for it was expressed with the exception of China. Next CFS Bureau meeting will decide about this)

15-17 June, OEWG Meeting (Rome)

The additional meeting will help members and participants to focus discussion and prepare for the July negotiations. Key points for the meeting:

1. Meant to highlight issues, will not include negotiations
2. Secretariat technical experts should be available for clarification
3. Translation available in all 6 languages
4. CFS will make funds available to the CSM for civil society participation

5. Follow the rules of the CFS

21-22 July, OEWG's status report to submit to the CFS Bureau before the plenary session of 25-28 July

Recommendations for action

Encourage your government to participate in the e-consultation. African govts expressed concerns about this type of consultation while Brazil urged the govts to take responsibility and provide inputs asap.

Share with your government the CSO consolidated comments and your comments on the zero draft.

Influence the draft review of the regional groups and get in touch with the regional chairs. (We still don't have exact information when the regional groups will be meeting and how they are planning to work. As soon as we find out more about this, we'll share it with you.)

Canada and USA highlighted that there was no consultation for the North America region and that they have a lot to share, particularly when it comes to indigenous peoples tenure issues.

China: reiterated its concern about the timeline and stressed that it is a complex issue which requires consultation with several ministries. No other Asian country has been active in the discussions so far.

WESCANNA: Egypt expressed last October concerns about the time line.

Africa: Tanzania, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and Nigeria joined China in its concern about the time line and about the e-consultation as a limited form of review. The African

group will have a meeting in May 18 at FAO and might include the VG on the agenda of this meeting. It would be important to elaborate on the complementarity of the FAO Guidelines and the AU Land Policy Guidelines. African comments on the FAO Guidelines can propose incorporation of relevant aspects of the AU guidelines.

EU: supportive for the process.

GRULAC: supportive of the process, with the exception of Mexico's concerns about the timeline.

Friends of the Chair

CSO volunteered to be part of the Friends of the Chair. The upcoming meeting of the Coordination Committee of the Civil Society Mechanism will decide about appointing CSO spokespersons for the OEWG session in June, the CFS-led negotiation session in July as well as for the Friends of the Chair.

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