



CSM Guidelines for CSOs facilitating CFS side events

The International Food Security & Nutrition Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) (<http://cso4cfs.org>) was established in order to facilitate civil society participation in agriculture, food security and nutrition policy processes at national, regional and global levels in the context of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

One of its responsibilities is to facilitate civil society participation in side events during the annual CFS Plenary Sessions. The CSM helps to ensure that CSO side events at the CFS are organised in accordance with the organising principles and ways of working agreed between CSOs during the establishment of the CSM - see the endorsed CSM document here: <http://cso4cfs.files.wordpress.com/2010/10/csm-en.pdf>. Most importantly, the CSM aims to ensure that as many CSOs as possible are able to be involved in side events, with priority being given to peoples' organisations and social movements.

The civil society members of the Advisory Group and the CSM Coordination Committee, supported by the CSM Secretariat, are responsible for coordinating and facilitating CSO side events. The CSM Secretariat liaises with the CFS Secretariat. CSOs are requested to submit their side event proposals and "planning sheets" to the CSM Secretariat cso4cfs@gmail.com.

The CSM Secretariat identifies overlaps between proposals, advises on how CSOs proposing similar side events might combine together, identifies gaps on key policy issues and ensures that proposals are in line with agreed CSM organising principles and ways of working. **The CSM Coordination Committee and civil society CFS Advisory Group members are ultimately responsible for submitting the proposals for CSO side events to the CFS Secretariat.**

The endorsed CSM organising principles imply that all side events organised by CSOs should:-

- Enable a wide range of CSOs to communicate their analysis and views with priority being given to peoples' organisations and social movements (i.e. self organised groups of smallholder family farmers, artisanal fisherfolk, herders/pastoralists, landless, urban poor, agricultural and food workers, women, youth, consumers, indigenous peoples), especially small farmers.
- Ensure that there is a balance of gender, regions, constituencies and sectors amongst presenters, panellists, speakers etc
- Be a means of communicating common CSO positions, developed through the CSM, where they exist and the range of different positions where there is no consensus
- Not be "branded" with the name of any one CSO or network of CSOs. The CSO side events are organized under the responsibility of the CSM.
- Provide a space for all CSOs to disseminate their papers, reports and other materials
- Acknowledge the support provided by the CSOs responsible for organising the event

- Be organised by task teams involving representatives from different CSM constituencies and sub-regions