

# **SUMMARY OF THE CONSULTATION MEETING ON THE GLOBAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION**

**SEPTEMBER 5-6, 2011  
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## **INTRODUCTION**

One of the main tasks of the reformed Committee on World Food Security (CFS) has been to launch a consultative process with the aim of developing a Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF) by October 2012. The GSF is meant to be the framework that coordinates and guides synchronized action by a wide range of actors regarding food policies at the global, regional and national level, under the intergovernmental coordination of the CFS.

For this reason, the Civil Society Mechanism Working Group on the GSF - established at the meeting of the Civil Society Mechanism to the CFS (CSM) - in Córdoba, in June 2011 organized a consultation meeting on the 5th and 6th of September, 2011 to discuss and develop a joint civil society position regarding the GSF. The intention is to share this position at the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the CFS in October and to the online consultation process on the GSF annotated outline that has just started in late July by the Secretary of the CFS.

The meeting was attended by members of the Working Group on the GSF as well as representatives of food-producer and provider organizations, and other organizations with specialized knowledge in food security and nutrition governance<sup>1</sup>. The following lines systematize the main elements discussed during the meeting.<sup>2</sup>

## **THE GLOBAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CFS REFORM AND THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY**

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS), established as a result of the food crisis of the 1970s upon recommendation from the 1974 World Food Conference, serves as the forum in the United Nations System for review and follow-up of policies concerning world food security, including food production and physical and economic access to food. It also examines issues which affect the world food situation, such as investment in agriculture and price volatility. At the 35th Session of the CFS, held in Rome in October 2009, members of the CFS agreed on a wide-ranging reform with the aim of making the CFS the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform dealing with food security and

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<sup>1</sup> See list of participants below.

<sup>2</sup> The facilitators of the working group would like to thank all participants, especially Jessica Duncan and Ashley von Anrep and members of the methodological group who contributed to this Summary.

nutrition. The reform process of the Committee on World Food Security is an important achievement of civil society and social movements, particularly the organizations of small food producers and those supporting food sovereignty, human rights and democratization, who engaged strongly in the year-long process of negotiations over the CFS reform, influencing its character and rules in important ways.

The renewed CFS is made up of 192 Member Governments, participants (including International Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, NGOs and the Private Sector) and observers which make up the Plenary.<sup>3</sup> The Committee on World Food Security also includes the civil society organizations (social movements and NGOs) autonomously participation by establishing the Civil Society Mechanism to facilitate their joint participation in the CFS. The governing body of the CSM is the Coordination Committee (CC), comprised of 41 members (Focal Points) from 11 constituencies and 17 sub-regions, with membership rotating on a bi-annual basis.

One of the most important tasks to enhance the roles of the reformed CFS is the elaboration of a Global Strategic Framework (GSF), which is intended to be an important framework to guide food security and nutrition policies and action at all levels. Civil Society Organizations have consistently maintained that the Global Strategic Framework is at the heart of the CFS reform and demand support for a Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition as a much-needed global reference for policy-makers. For civil society organizations, the GSF is above all about ensuring policy coherence that is people-centred while articulating a specific vision of what the CFS should do and how it will do it.

The CFS agreed to launch a consultative and inclusive process to be conducted by the CFS Bureau with the assistance of the Joint Secretariat and in close collaboration with the Advisory Group and involvement of other actors to develop the first version of the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF), by October 2012. The CFS has developed an Annotated Outline of the Global Strategic Framework<sup>4</sup>. The content is intended to be indicative and stimulate discussion around the priority issues and policy options. An online consultation process was launched by the CFS Secretariat.

The civil society members of the AG expressed concern to the Bureau that the role of the CSM was not explicitly recognized in the online GSF consultation process. They also expressed concerns that many CSOs, particularly those most affected by hunger and malnutrition, would be unable to participate meaningfully in proposed electronic consultations and that therefore the consultation was inadequate. As a result, it was decided that the CSM needed to coordinate an autonomous consultation, to be coordinated by the CSM Working Group on the GSF established in the face to face Meeting of the Coordination Committee in Cordoba last May, which would feed into the CFS consultation process. The CSM has requested to the Bureau the opportunity to present the outcomes of the civil society consultation to the CFS plenary in October 2011.

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<sup>3</sup> The CFS is supported by several key bodies. The **Bureau** is the executive arm of the CFS, is responsible for the administration of the CFS, and is made up of a chairperson and 12 member countries: two from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Near East, and one from both North America and South-West Pacific. The **Advisory Group** (AG) aides the Bureau particularly ensuring linkages with stakeholders at all levels to support two-way exchange of information. The Advisory Group is made from representatives from UN bodies as well civil society representatives and representatives from international agricultural research bodies, the private sector and philanthropic bodies.

<sup>4</sup> [http://km.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/CFS\\_consultation/doc/GSF\\_outline\\_en.pdf](http://km.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/CFS_consultation/doc/GSF_outline_en.pdf)

## THE ONLINE CONSULTATION OF THE GSF ANNOTATED OUTLINE

The meeting on the GSF began with a consideration of the Annotated Outline. Participants reviewed the outcomes of previous consultations, identified weaknesses and strengths in the document and then sought to articulate the main political concerns and priorities of for civil society organizations.

The autonomous civil society consultation highlighted the following concerns:

- The Annotated Outline lacks a human rights perspective;
- A clear definition of the role of states and the public sector is missing, as is the role of the private sector;
- A description of the causes of hunger and malnutrition is missing;
- While the Annotated Outline lists the lack of investment in agriculture as part of the problem, there is no discussion of investment for who and what. The CSM maintains the position that investment must be targeted towards peasant-based forms of production and other models that conform to the principles of agro-ecology;
- The text talks about the trade systems but the current neoliberal model of world trade is not mentioned as a cause of hunger;
- The CSM positions would like to see an emphasis on bringing all relevant ministries into the process, not simply the ministries of agriculture;
- A main issue remains that the lack of monitoring and the need to find efficient indicators to monitor and assess policies implemented at the national level (process indicators).

During the discussion, it was noted that the Annotated Outline highlights key challenges but that these challenges are not reflected in the proposed policy options. It also fails to address labor and job security or gender in a meaningful way. Access to territory and indigenous rights are missing from the document, resulting in a serious gap that must be addressed in the CSM position paper. The Annotated Outline talks about country ownership but makes no mention of how this will be secured. It also mentions things in the terms of the “short term” and “long term” but no definition is provided for these timelines. Foreign trade agreements are not mentioned in the section on trade despite their impact on food security. There is also no discussion of GM crops or agrofuels. There is a discussion of investment in agriculture and a discussion of the role of the private sector, but no discussion of safeguards. There is also a large focus on safety nets which is cause for concern: akin to giving someone a fish and not teaching them to fish. Finally, moving forward, it is important to start to think about how to translate the GFS to the national level. The CSM needs to clarify its own vision for how this might take place with focus on rights holders.

Overall, the Annotated Outline of the Global Strategic Framework lacks a vision: there is no vision nor for agriculture nor for other dimensions relating to food security and nutrition. There is a purpose, but it is the purpose of the GSF as such. On this point there was general agreement and a call to articulate our vision and to go beyond agriculture by including other dimensions such as the consumers’ perspective, nutrition and participation.

The process of developing the Zero Draft of the Global Strategic Framework will start soon and the CSM has an important role to play in these negotiations. The CSM vision needs to be clear and developed into a position paper that articulates what we want from the GSF. We need to get creative and find ways of producing a document and other media (e.g., videos, pictures) that will motivate CSO and Governments' engagement.

## **TOWARDS A JOINT STATEMENT ON THE GLOBAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK**

In order to start work on a joint statement on the Global Strategic Framework, participants broke into working groups. Each working group was expected to make concrete contributions on the following points:

1. Analysis, vision, objectives and challenges;
2. Role of different actors: government, civil society, social movements, private sectors, international institutions;
3. Policy proposals and priority issues: short and long term; and,
4. Accountability and monitoring of priority issues.

The result of these discussions were compiled and included in the first draft of the joint statement on the Global Strategic Framework by a drafting team. In the Statement, Civil society organizations and social movements affirm that the Global Strategic Framework is the heart of the Committee on Food Security for its reform they have been engaging strongly in the last years. The construction of the GSF is an important step towards the achievement of a new paradigm in the governance of food, agriculture and nutrition policies, based on more democratically States, coherent policies with human rights instruments that respect people's sovereignty and promote participation of civil society and social movements, especially of small-scale food producers.

The statement contains the vision of civil society that people who produce, distribute and need food must be in the center of policies and that States must promote the democracy, strengthen Food Sovereignty of people and guarantee an appropriate environment for the realization of Human Right. It gathers the analysis on the causes of hunger and, within this, establishes expectations and challenges from a civil society and social movements perspective on how can GSF turn into the most important instrument for States, financial institutes, UN, civil society and other actors, to improve the food security and implement the right to food, especially for those people most affected by hunger and malnutrition.

The statement ratifies the role of the State - as duty bearers – in the use of the CFS as the most important intergovernmental and international platform for the promotion of the food and nutritional security in line with their human rights obligations and of the intergovernmental institutions to support these objectives. States are bound under international human rights law to regulate the private sector, transnational companies and agribusiness, which also have responsibilities of not committing abuses against human rights. The most important role of food providers and consumers was highlighted, especially social actors such as social movements and smallholder organizations of fisher folks, peasants, pastoralist, indigenous people and other sectors.

Civil society organizations call upon the GSF to ensure that the IAASTD is the basis along all policies proposals. Specific issues for policy are based on this report and on the declaration

and synthesis document (Nyeleni) - signed by more than five hundred civil society organisations - and which are included in the document on “Policies and Actions to Eradicate Hunger”. The Statement establishes that the GSF should give a special attention to current challenges faced worldwide as the need to stabilize markets at national and international level to confront the price volatility of food prices, stop immediately the process of land grabbing, questioning the kind of investment we need for small-holder production, the need of social security for those that have not (yet) access to food production, and the need for a human rights based accountability and monitoring for a meaningful GSF.

Finally, the Civil Society Statement stresses the need of defining accountability and monitoring as a priority issue in the GSF and not relegated to a separate chapter. Coherence in all food, agricultural and nutrition policies should be evaluated, including those that impact food security as trade and investment policies, economic policies, and agro fuel, speculation, and so on. Right based approach is seen as a central part of the national and international accountability and monitoring mechanism, recognizing the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food and the General Comment 12.<sup>5</sup>

## CIVIL SOCIETY STRATEGY ON THE GSF

During its meeting on the 5-6th of September the CSM Working Group on GSF (WG/GSF) developed a basic strategy on the GSF process from now on, including the CFS 37<sup>th</sup> meeting until October 2012 when the GSF is to be adopted by the CFS 38<sup>th</sup> meeting. This proposal is being circulated to the CSM Working Group and to the Coordinating Committee of the CSM.

### As main strategic steps were defined:

- A) **The CSM is the core body to coordinate and articulate civil society efforts on the GSF.** In this sense the participation of CSM constituencies will be encouraged, by sharing information and involving especially those organizations such as consumer groups that have not been active in the process
- B) **The Civil Society political statement will be presented to the CFS** and all interested actors and accompanied by other explanatory documents that give relevance and publicity to the CFS and GSF debate (inter alia using visual mechanisms to improve outreach (including YouTube, interviews, etc.).
- C) **A broad and strong debate in Civil Society at national and international level on the CFS** as the best place for a new global governance paradigm alternative to WTO, IFI, G20, HLTF etc.)
- D) **The WG/GSF will be in charge to follow up the strategy and the advocacy work.**

The Working Group on GSF:

- prepares the discussion among members of the CSM
- maps actions and initiatives at national, regional and international level relevant for this process
- monitors and further elaborates strategies
- is open to all interested members of the CSM. Information will be shared among the CC Working Group on GSF established in Cordoba, participants of the consultation meeting and other interested civil society actors.
- The current 2 facilitators of the working group propose that 2-3 persons from different constituencies, including consumer organizations to support the

<sup>5</sup> The full draft of the Civil Society Statement is sent out together with this summary.

coordination of the work.

E) **Information, consultation and mobilization activities on the GSF** and the role the CFS will be held from local, national, regional to international level throughout the GSF consultations process in 2012:

1. lobby national governments to get their support for a strong and coherent CFS and GFS;
2. influence local, national, regional and global policy makers;
3. scale up knowledge about best practices (such as participative political processes as CONSEA in Brazil and food sovereignty practices) from local to global level;
4. raise key political issues (such as land grabbing,) in public opinion to provoke reaction of governments
5. reinforce capacity building of the organisations on CFS related issues (including pro active human rights learning activities)
6. bring the national work as input to the Regional FAO Conferences (involving the same people at national and international level)

F) Within the context of the GSF process, **an alternative Civil Society GSF** will be produced:

7. Based on the first political statement drafted at this consultation meeting, other documents already produced, further inputs that will come out from national consultations and the civil society meetings linked to the FAO regional conferences in 2012, the open facilitation group will draft our own CSM GSF.
8. This means that the process to give input to the official GSF elaboration process, which includes the daily advocacy work of facilitators to integrate our main demands into the GSF drafting process, is accompanied by a broader political process towards an own Civil Society GSF to be finalised before the final round of negotiations of the official GSF.

## G) Timeline

### Before CFS 2011:

- Finalize CSM political statement on GSF
  - Circulate the political statement to all CFS member states (and in particular to the Bureau members) and the other advisory group participants
  - Negotiate with the Bureau a time slot to present the political document during the 37<sup>th</sup> session of CFS
  - Negotiate with the Bureau the funds to permit full CSO involvement on the consultation process and in particular to the FAO Regional conference (funds need to be approved in the 2012 budget of the CFS)
- Prepare the discussion on GSF in the Civil Society Forum

### Before CFS 2012:

- Advocacy work to include main considerations of the political statement into the GSF first draft /end of December 2011
- From January 2012: launching national consultation and mobilization on the basis of 1) CSM political statement on GSF and 2) the GSF first draft
- January to April 2012: participation in the FAO Regional Conferences/Consultations (including 2 days preparatory CSM Autonomous

Meetings to 1) finalize the contribution of CSM on GSF at regional level, 2) comment the GSF first draft, and 3) mapping actions

- From March: Advocacy with CFS secretariat to ensure that main considerations of civil society are integrated in GSF draft 2 (based on political statement, the results from national and regional consultations)
- May 15: produce the CSM GSF on the basis of the documents and inputs produced by national and regional consultations
- June: feed in our documents and comments on GSF draft 2 into the OEWG on GSF
- June 20 (*to be defined*) International mobilization day on GSF, related to national or international issues (land grabbing, fisheries, nutrition, etc), possibly linking this to Rio +20 mobilizations. Decision about this mobilization should be taken at the CSM meeting in October 2011. (Also the links to other forthcoming events and processes such as Durban, Marseille, CAADP need to be explored).
- June – October 2012: advocacy and mobilization at national level based on our own CSM GSF and key political demands for the finalization of the official GSF.

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