

CFS Task Team on the Global Strategic Framework

Dear colleagues,

First of all, allow me to thank you all for having accepted to serve on the Task Team to prepare the first draft of the Global Strategic Framework (GSF). Please note that the work of the Task Team on the GSF will be coordinated by Ram Saravanamuttu of the CFS Secretariat, who can be contacted at ram.saravanamuttu@fao.org, or on mobile number 3472608615.

Background

You will recall that the GSF process started with a decision by the CFS36 session in 2010 to launch a process to define and agree upon the scope and purpose of the GSF; the intention was to lead to the production of a First Version of the GSF for approval at CFS38 in October 2012.

Since then, 2011 was largely devoted to preparing a draft Annotated Outline for the GSF (reviewed at CFS 37 in October 2011), which was followed accompanied by an extensive online consultation with stakeholder groups and individuals. The online consultations proved to be an enormously valuable exercise, with contributions feeding into the preparation of a GSF Zero Draft attached to this note. This Zero Draft also responds to the guidance provided by the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) meeting on the GSF of 25 November 2011, in particular, the Guidelines for the Preparation of the GSF First Draft with a Table of Contents, also attached for your information.

Process

The initial timetable for preparation of the GSF, approved a year ago, envisaged completion of the first draft by the end of 2011, for distribution in language versions by mid-January 2012, in time for discussion at the FAO regional conferences. However, postponement of the Africa Regional Conference, initially planned for late January 2011, has now given us more time, and the Bureau agreed last week to extend the working period of the Task Team in order to complete its work on the First Draft by mid-January 2012. The First Draft will then be shared with the OEWG in late January 2012 before being distributed globally in mid-February 2012.

Principles for drafting of the GSF

It is important to draw your attention to a few key elements of the guidelines agreed by the OEWG on 25 January 2011 that should guide the Task Team in its overall approach to the preparation of the First Draft of the GSF. Please note in particular that:

- The GSF constitutes a dynamic document that will be updated at regular intervals;
- The First Draft of the GSF should avoid any material requiring an exhaustive negotiation of text;
- The main focus of the GSF would be to present issues on which there is a broad existing consensus, taking into account (i) directly relevant policy/other frameworks, and (ii) CFS's own work;

- The GSF would limit itself to highlighting other issues of importance where there is no consensus and where further work is required to achieve convergence.

Tasks

The Task Team is invited to work initially electronically, sending comments and suggestions by e-mail to the following e-mail account at your earliest convenience but not later than **6 January, 2012**: gsf.cfs@gmail.com. The comments received will be incorporated into the draft text by the CFS Secretariat to be presented at a first meeting of the Task Team, tentatively set for **Friday 13 January 2012**.

Specific tasks to be undertaken by the Task Team include:

- To consider whether the Zero Draft, as presented, conforms to the OEWG guidelines;
- To consider if the zero draft of the GSF presents key issues of food security and nutrition on which there is broad international consensus;
- To consider if the viewpoints and perspectives of the range of CFS stakeholder groups are reflected;
- To consider how cross cutting issues, such as gender, nutrition and rights-based approaches are presented in the text and whether separate sections are also required in Part IV, *Policy and Programme Recommendations*, or whether cross-cutting issues have been sufficiently mainstreamed throughout the document so as to render separate sections redundant;
- To consider whether the document has sufficient practical country-level relevance;
- To consider whether the length of the document is appropriate and to propose any other editorial, organizational and substantive changes.

Next steps

Once the First Draft has been endorsed by the Task Team, it will be submitted to the OEWG for review prior to electronic distribution to all CFS members, stakeholders and observers, who will be invited, over a three-month consultation period, to provide detailed feedback on any proposed changes. Members of the HLPE are also being asked to provide their input, and discussion sessions are being arranged at the FAO Regional Conferences to encourage dialogue between members and to ensure that a regional perspective is incorporated into the GSF.

At the end of the consultation period, in early May 2012, the inputs received will be consolidated in a Second Draft of the GSF, which will be examined by the Task Team/OEWG as required, and then discussed and finalized at a CFS consultation in Rome, provisionally scheduled for early July 2012. The resulting First Version of the GSF will be submitted to CFS38 for approval.

We look forward to receiving your comments and meeting with you in the New Year.

Kostas Stamoulis,

CFS Secretary.