

Summary Report

CSM meeting to prepare for regional civil society consultations on CFS issues Rome, 20-22 January 2012

Introduction

During the CSM meeting held in Rome from 20-22 January 2012, 10 CSM Coordination Committee (CC) members from each of the regions (Europe, Near East, Asia, Latin America, Africa, not North America) discussed the following issues:

- I. The role of the CSM in relation to regional civil society consultations during FAO Regional Conferences in 2012
- II. Developing common civil society policy positions and advocacy strategies on issues being discussed in the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
- III. The planning & facilitation of dialogue on CFS policy issues during regional civil society consultations
- IV. Developing the CSM at constituency, regional, sub-regional and national levels in order to support CSOs to undertake policy and advocacy work at these levels as well as to influence the global policy agenda in the context of the CFS.
- V. Role of the CSM Secretariat in relation to the Regional Conferences and CSO Consultations
- VI. The use of CSM funds to support regional civil society consultations in different regions

This report presents the conclusions and recommendations of the participants on the above listed issues for consideration and endorsement by all CSM Coordination Committee members.

For the selection criteria used for the meeting, please refer to Annex 1

Background

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is in the process of finalising the work programme for 2012/13, and in doing so, identifying the key policy priorities. There is general consensus that one of the high-priority issues for 2012 is the further development of policy coherence and coordination through the Global Strategic Framework. Which includes the proposal to conduct broad consultation processes with multi stakeholders during the FAO Regional Conferences throughout 2012.

Based on the paper "CSO views on CFS Priorities", submitted to the Open-Ended Working Group for the Programme of Work and Budget: "The process for the adoption of draft 1 of the **Global Strategic Framework** (GSF) should proceed according to the already agreed process and timetable in order to ensure endorsement during the 38th Session in October. **Space and resources should be made available at each of the FAO Regional Conferences for multi-stakeholder consultations on the GSF.**"

Although the FAO Regional Conferences are an institutional-specific initiative, the CFS has requested that each Conference provide space for a multi-stakeholder session on CFS-specific issues, including the Global Strategic Framework and Mapping. Both processes are aiming to conduct broad

consultations, and the Conferences provide the perfect opportunity to reach CSOs and other stakeholders at the regional/national level. Thus far, the responses from the regions for including these issues in the official agenda have been positive.

For specific dates and venues of the Regional Conferences, please refer to Annex 2.

Just prior to the Regional Conferences, the general custom is to hold **CSO Consultations**, which are supported by the FAO office in each region. Each regional office has autonomy in its organisation and ways of working, including its inclusion, or lack thereof of civil society organisations into the program agenda. Where some regions have been and are quite open to multi-stakeholder sessions in the past, others, have been completely adverse to the idea. Therefore, each regional conference must be dealt with on an individual basis when planning for the CSO consultations and multi-stakeholder sessions.

For the CSO consultations, the new Director General of FAO, Chairperson of the Council and Chair of the CFS have expressed interested in attending and meeting the CSO participants.

It is important that CSOs involved in the CSM are well represented in the preparation processes, and work together with existing networks in relation to the CSO Consultations to ensure that a broad range of CSOs are able to effectively engage in, and provide input to, the CFS issues. It will also provide the CSM with the opportunity to spread awareness and communicate with social movements at the national and regional levels on the linkages between their daily struggles on the ground and how they can influence the global agenda.

I. Role of the CSM

After extensive discussions within the group, the following conclusions were drawn on the role of the CSM, in relation to regional civil society consultations during FAO Regional Conferences:

The CSM only has the mandate to facilitate civil society participation in CFS related events and processes at global, regional and national levels.

The CSM does not have a mandate to facilitate civil society participation in relation to specific institutions such as FAO, the World Bank etc or other inter-governmental forums such as the G8/G20.

The role of the CSM, in relation to regional civil society consultations during FAO Regional Conferences is to:

- **Advocate for multi-stakeholder dialogues and side events** (involving governments, international organisations, civil society etc) during the FAO Regional Conferences to discuss CFS issues, such as the Global Strategic Framework
- **Promote and facilitate space and dialogue on CFS issues** during regional civil society consultations
- **Promote broad civil society participation** in regional civil society consultations, ensuring balanced participation from all constituencies and sub-regions

Therefore, it is necessary for CSM Coordination Committee members to work closely together with representatives from other civil society networks and mechanisms, such as the IPC (whilst recognising they are often the same people).

At least some CSM Coordination Committee members (especially those not belonging to other civil society mechanisms / networks) should be on the organising committees / working groups responsible for facilitating regional civil society consultations.

All CSM Coordination Committee members in each region should be kept informed and involved in the planning of regional civil society consultations. The participants in the CSM meeting in Rome, commit to communicating with and involving other CC members as much as possible.

The CSM Secretariat should facilitate the translation of documents related to the Regional Conferences into the respective languages, to ensure broad participation, awareness and outreach.

II. Developing common civil society policy positions and advocacy work on issues being discussed in the CFS

At the international level, it is proposed that the CSM facilitates the work of CSOs on the following priorities, which will be the focus of policy making in the CFS for the next 2 years:

- Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests through work on the **Voluntary Guidelines**
- Policy coordination and coherence through work on the **Global Strategic Framework**
- **Responsible investment in agriculture**

It will also be important to work on the following issues given that they will be the subject of political consideration in the build up to, and during, CFS 38 in October 2012:

- **Social protection** and food security
- **Climate change**, food security & agriculture
- Food security & nutrition in **protracted crises**, especially conflicts
- **Monitoring & accountability** (i.e. ensuring governments & other stakeholders implement CFS policy decisions and guidance)

In addition, the CSM will help facilitate the work of CSOs on the following issues with a view to promoting further political consideration in the medium to longer-term:

- **Food price volatility**, particularly the issues of food reserves, biofuels and trade
- **Gender**, particularly ensuring that gender issues are mainstreamed into all work and outcomes of the CFS
- **Nutrition**, particularly feeding into the CFS work to clarify terminology on nutrition and food security

It is proposed that the work of CSOs on these issues at the international level, continues to be facilitated through the **CSM working groups**:

Working Groups	Working Group CC Lead	Working Group Resource Person	Regional Focal Points	CSO members of CFS OEWG / Task Team / Organising
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				Committee
Tenure of land, forests & fisheries (Voluntary Guidelines)	To be confirmed	Sofia Monsalve	To be confirmed	N/A
Policy coherence & coordination (Global Strategic Framework)	Natalia Landivar	Flavio Valente, Nico Verhagen	To be confirmed	Natalia Landivar Gisele Henriques Andrea Ferrante Svetlana Boincean
Responsible investment in agriculture (rai)	To be confirmed	Nora McKeon	To be confirmed	Margaret Nakato Mamadou Goita Nico Verhagen Sofia Monsalve
Social protection	Svetlana Boincean	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
Climate change	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
Protracted crisis	Razan Zuayter	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
Monitoring & accountability (including mapping)	“Mani” Stanley	This group will consist of 1 person from the WGs on the VGs, ag investment, GSF, FPV, gender...	To be confirmed	1. Luca Chinotti 2. Alberta Guerra
Food Price Volatility	Ibrahima Coulibaly	Thierry Kesteloot	To be confirmed	1. Thierry Kesteloot 2. Antonio Onorati
Gender	Sarojeni Rengam	Alberta Guerra	To be confirmed	Alberta Guerra Sarojeni Rengam Tanya Roberts
Nutrition	Stineke Oenema	Maria Pizzini	To be confirmed	Stineke Oenema Maria Pizzini

a) The role of CSM working groups, especially in relation to regional civil society consultations

- Develop common policy positions which can be used to inform CSO policy discussions and advocacy work at regional, sub-regional and national levels. It was emphasised that policy positions developed through CSM working groups must be informed by regional consultations.
- Coordinate Rome based advocacy work, i.e. lobbying Rome based government representatives
- Propose priority policy issues for regional advocacy
- Produce awareness raising materials which explain the relevance of CFS policy issues for social movements and other CSOs working at a local or national level

b) Facilitating the participation of people from Social Movements and Peoples Organisations in CSM working groups and policy discussions

It was recognised that people from social movements & peoples’ organisations often find it difficult to participate in global level policy discussions / working groups, particularly by email, telephone etc. It is vital that the CSM finds ways of ensuring meaningful participation from the organisations of the people most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition.

Therefore, the following measures were suggested as means of enabling their participation:

- Ensure that each CSM working group is led by a CSM Coordination Committee member
- Ensure that there are at least 3 or 4 CC members actively in each working group
- Provide the opportunity for all CC members to comment on draft policy positions developed by CSM working groups
- Support regional meetings of CSM CC members prior to the regional civil society consultations (resources permitting)
- Discuss priority CFS policy issues during regional civil society consultations
- Organise a face-to-face meeting of the Coordination Committee in May 2012 to consult on policy issues and prepare in advance for CFS 38

Action points:

- For each of the working groups that are either: a) not yet functional or b) missing a CC lead, resource person or working group members, the Secretariat should support the responsible CC member to circulate a concept note on the context/scope of the work, and open membership of the working group to members of the CC and others.
- At the same time, the draft guidelines for 1) the development of common policy positions; 2) How working groups should work (e.g. the role of facilitator, how processes to decide a number of things should work); 2) CSM decision making, e.g. who decide on what, what are the decisions that should be taken at regional or global level, how the CC can share different tasks, what should be decided by the CC and what by Working Groups, etc. They do not necessarily need to separate guidelines. The Secretariat can be tasked to produce a first draft for comments and agreement.

III. CFS policy issues during regional civil society consultations

In order to plan and facilitate the dialogue of CFS policy issues during regional civil society consultations, the CC members who participated during the meeting committed to the following:

- **Communicate with other CSM Coordination Committee members** from their regions in order to share the outcomes of the Rome meeting and discuss with them how to plan for, and facilitate civil society dialogue on CFS policy issues during regional civil society consultations
- **Offer to be on the Organising Committees / working groups** responsible for organising regional civil society consultations (if they are not already)
- **Raise the awareness** of members of the Organising Committees of the regional civil society consultations regarding CFS policy issues (e.g. sharing CSM policy papers etc) and promote space in the agenda of the consultations for discussion of these issues
- **Feedback to the CSM Secretariat** regarding the resource needs for regional civil society consultations and
- **Identify a focal point for each region** for each of the policy issues being worked on by the CSM, especially the GSF, the VGs, agricultural investment, social protection, climate change.

More detailed info on the next steps for each region will be made available on the CSM website

IV. Developing the CSM at constituency, regional and sub-regional levels

Coordination Committee members in attendance agreed that the 2012 FAO Regional Conferences and CSO Consultations are the perfect opportunity to spread awareness and discuss possibilities to build up the CSM from the national and regional levels. The focus should be on building the CSM

from the bottom-up, to ensure that the CSM and therefore, the CFS is driven by the local, national and regional priorities of social movements and other CSOs. To initiate dialogue, the following questions were presented and discussed:

1. How do we build the CSM from the bottom up?

- The Mechanism should play a facilitation and supportive role for existing networks, so that social movements and CSOs are driving the global policy agenda.
- Coordination Committee members need to work with existing networks, since many of the regions are already organised.
- Provide a service to the social platforms by making their work on food security issues more effective by relating the issues on the ground to the policy issues at the global level and vice-versa.
- Strong focus on building from the national level since many of the CFS policy issues relate directly to national policies (Voluntary Guidelines, Global Strategic Framework, Investment in Agriculture, all at the national levels.)
- Sub-regional and constituency workshops are needed within the regions.
- Documents must be translated in order to reach the social movements.
- Need to pave way for the new CC members by maximizing the number of people involved in the CSM.

2. How do we ensure effective communication amongst CSM CC members at regional level?

- Face to face meetings are needed at the national/regional level.
- Make better use of existing databases and lists.
- Awareness-raise within the constituencies and sub-regions.

3. What decisions need to be made at regional level? How do those decisions get made?

- Transparent, open consultation with different stakeholders
- Need to define what decisions the Working Groups or Coordination Committee members should take. While maintaining the flexibility to fit into different processes.

4. What activities are foreseen at regional and sub-regional levels?

- National level meetings will not only be more cost effective, but provide the opportunity for broader participation
- National/sub-regional level seminars for policy issues
- National/sub-regional level workshops for awareness raising and outreach

5. What funds and resources are needed at these levels and how do we mobilise them?

- Fundraising can be done at the regional level, with guidance from the Secretariat
- Clarity is needed on where the funds will be housed, who will be responsible for what?

V. The role of the Secretariat

- Mobilising funds for regional consultations and for the work of the CSM in general
- Facilitating linkages and communication between CSM Coordination Committee, policy working groups and organising committees of regional consultations

- Providing information on the work of the CFS at global level
- Facilitating the translation of CFS & CSM documents
- Providing communication support for outreach/awareness raising

VI. Funding for regional civil society consultations

The table below is meant to build a picture of the funding requirements for the regional civil society consultations, resources currently available from the region and the FAO Secretariat in Rome. It builds upon information made available during our recent meeting but is currently still incomplete.

	Cost	Existing resources from within region	Comments	FAO HQ EC funds	Swiss/FIAN	CSM allocations (from EC funds)	Remaining funding gap
Latin America	\$70,000	\$70,000	Host gov covering accomm & food				\$0
Africa	\$70,000	\$0		\$25,000	\$2,700		\$42,300
Asia & Pacific	\$70,000	\$0		\$25,000	\$2,700		\$42,300
Europe & Central Asia	\$70,000	\$20,000	Host govt providing venue etc	\$25,000	\$2,700		\$22,300
Near East	\$70,000	\$0		\$25,000	\$2,700		\$42,300
TOTAL	\$350,000			\$100,000		\$0	\$149,200

The table assumes a cost per regional consultation of \$70,000, including in-kind donations from host governments etc, such as venue, interpretation booths etc.

There are some financial / in-kind resources available for Latin America and European/Central Asia. However, more accurate estimates on the foreseen costs from the respective Organising Committees is needed.

\$100,000 has also been made available by the CFS Secretariat to support civil society consultations from the EC funds allocated to FAO for regional work on food security.

In addition, the CSM does have extra funds from the EC, which could contribute to the costs of the consultations. However, to make decisions about how much of these CSM funds to allocate to different regions we need a clearer picture from the Organising Committees and from FAO Regional Office / Headquarters of the foreseen costs and resources currently available from FAO at regional and global levels.

On the basis of the information received thus far, the CSM Secretariat was requested to make a proposal to the CSM CC for their consideration regarding the total amount of CSM funds, which could be made available to support regional consultations and how this could be allocated between regions.

Action Points:

- Confirm with Thomas Price's office and CFS Secretariat on the potential \$100,000 EC contribution [complete – confirmed]
- Seek more information from FAO regional offices, organising committees, and FAO headquarters on the foreseen costs and funding gaps per region
- CSM Secretariat to make proposal on percentage of CSM funds to be allocated per region, for approval.

Annex 1: Selection Criteria for Participants

It is the responsibility of the Coordination Committee to jointly propose which 2 participants per region will participate in the meeting and take forward the responsibility for the work ahead. The Advisory Group members have proposed the following identification criteria:

- There should be a balance among the regions (2 participants per region)
- At least 1 of the 2 participants should have already been involved in CSM discussions on the Global Strategic Framework, i.e. an active member of the CSM working group on the GSF (NB. The GSF will be a major focus of regional consultations)
- At least 1 of the 2 participants should be a member of the CFS Advisory Group (NB. There is a CFS Bureau / Advisory Group meeting on 19th January).
- Participants should be committed to play an active role in planning and facilitating regional civil society consultations on CFS issues at the time of the FAO Regional Conferences

Annex 2: FAO Regional Conferences

Regional Conference	Date	Place	CSM Contact
Asia	12 – 16 March, 2012	Hanoi, Vietnam	1. Sarojeni Rengam Sarojeni.Rengam@panap.net 2. George Dixon Fernandez Georgedixon72@yahoo.co.in
Latin America	26 – 30 March, 2012	Buenos Aires, Argentina	1. Jorge Stanley Manigueuigdinapi@yahoo.es 2. Natalia Landivar landivar@fian.org
Europe	17 – 20 April, 2012	Baku, Azerbaijan	1. Svetlana Boincean svetlana.boincean@gmail.com 2. Stineke Oenema Stineke.Oenema@ICCOenKerkinActie.nl
Africa	23 – 27 April, 2012	Brazzaville, Congo	1. Elisabeth Atangana cnopcameroun@yahoo.fr 2. Margaret Nakato
Near East	TBC	TBC	Razan Zuayter razan.zuayter@gmail.com