CFS OEWG-Nutrition Meeting #1

Date: 14 January 2016

Time: 2:30-5:30pm

Location: German Room

Webcast link: http://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/4021/icode/

**Outcomes**

**First meeting of the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Nutrition**

The meeting was webcast and can be viewed on: <http://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/4021/icode/>

IISD reported on the meeting, available at: <http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/sd/enbplus184num9e.pdf>

# Agenda

1. **Overview of the role of OEWG on nutrition as per MYPoW**
2. **Discussion of the proposal prepared by the TTT on the area of focus of the HLPE report on Nutrition and Food Systems**
3. **Discussion of the proposal prepared by the TTT on potential areas for CFS further involvement in nutrition**
4. **Discussion of the workplan of the OEWG on nutrition**

# Outcomes

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming all OEWG participants and giving his wishes for a happy new year 2016. An announcement was made, encouraging participants who desire to be included in the OEWG mailing list, to share their business cards with the CFS secretariat.

1. **Overview of the role of OEWG on nutrition as per MYPoW**

The CFS Secretariat summarized the events and the process which led the Committee to decide at its last Plenary meeting in October 2015, to step up its work and focus on nutrition and to create an OEWG to submit a proposal with this objective to the next Plenary; and to convey through the CFS Bureau a request to the CFS high Level Panel of Experts for a report on Nutrition and Food Systems to be launched in 2017.

1. **Discussion of the proposal prepared by the TTT on the area of focus of the HLPE report on Nutrition and Food Systems**

A draft request from the CFS Bureau to the HLPE for a report on nutrition and food systems, prepared in consultation with the Technical Task Team on Nutrition (TTT) and circulated in advance of the meeting, was presented by the CFS Secretariat. Comments were received from many OEWG participants.

The main recurring themes related to:

* The process of a request by the CFS Bureau to the HLPE; timing of the HLPE electronic consultation launched in December; respecting the independence of the HLPE Steering Committee while elaborating the focus of the request; and the articulation between the work of the OEWG and the work of the HLPE project team on nutrition and food systems this year.
* The context justifying CFS work on nutrition, with a reminder of the synergies between the ICN2 outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development approaches, and support for sustainable development in all three dimensions to be considered as the overarching frame of CFS work on nutrition; and the need for more solid knowledge on the relation between nutrition and food systems, taking a multistakeholder and multisectorial approach, from a food security lens.
* Areas of focus: a number of comments were received, pertaining to areas where OEWG members and participants saw the need for greater evidence (including case studies when possible), around the relation between nutrition and food systems and the value of partnerships. These included the evolving nature of food systems, the nexus between climate and nutrition, cultural aspects of food systems, nutrition education, specific references to urban contexts, the three dimensions of sustainable development, women and gender, ICN2 outcomes and SDGs, a focus on the most vulnerable, the influence of non-State actors and public-private partnerships, North-South and South-South cooperation, and a rights basis.

The Chair summarized the comments received, which will be incorporated into a revised document by the CFS Secretariat posted on the CFS website, and sent out to OEWG participants and members on 18 January for any final comment on possible misinterpretations of the comments made during the meeting, by Friday 22 January 2016 COB, after which the draft request for a report will be considered finalized by the OEWG, and transmitted to the Bureau and Advisory Group for final decision.

1. **Discussion of the proposal prepared by the TTT on potential areas for CFS’ further involvement in nutrition**

Both general and specific comments were received on the draft proposal circulated by the CFS Secretariat for future involvement of CFS on nutrition, prepared with support from the TTT. The Chair encouraged a focus of discussions on the functions of a workstream on nutrition, and the activities which could be undertaken by the Committee.

The TTT proposal was well received by members and participants. General comments focused on the context calling for CFS to step up its work on nutrition: operationalizing ICN2 and linking to the SDG framework CFS’ comparative advantage as an inclusive rights-based platform, links with other bodies, and timing on CFS policy convergence work on nutrition in the next biennium. Specific comments were made primarily around the proposed functions for a CFS workstream on nutrition. Participants stressed CFS’ important role on policy convergence and suggested more specific areas of normative work on sustainable food systems, food value chains, the “triple burden of malnutrition”, or advancing a rights based approach. Comments welcomed CFS’ function to support sharing of good practices, particularly in light of its multistakeholder approach, and were open to the idea of using CFS’ convening power to provide space to FAO and WHO, if they wished to use it as part of theirprogress reporting on the implementation of the ICN2 outcomes. Proposed activities were welcomed and will require further discussion and refinement. Participants stressed the importance, before reflecting of a proposal on CFS work on nutrition, of clarifying the articulation of CFS with UNSCN, and in general mapping the different players in nutrition to ensure CFS, considering its mandate and capacities, adds value to existing work without creating duplication; the interest of developing a conceptual framework for mainstreaming nutrition into CFS workstreams this year; and the link between this work and other CFS workstreams such as MYPoW.

Next steps: The TTT will meet to discuss comments received on the proposal and incorporate them into the draft proposal, to submit to OEWG in advance of their next meeting on 25 February 2016.

1. **Discussion of the workplan of the OEWG on nutrition**

Participants agreed on minor updates of the workplan to reflect the current timing of OEWG work, and decided that the workplan should be considered by the Bureau a “living document”, to be updated if required.