CSM
Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism
for relations with the UN Committee on World Food Security

A Guide to Facilitation

in the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism for Relations with the UN Committee on World Food Security



Prepared by the CSM Working Group on Facilitation

A Guide to Facilitation in the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSM) for Relations with the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

August 2020

Drafting Team

Josh Brem-Wilson (coordinator) - Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience, Coventry University

Anisah Madden - Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University and Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance

Joana Dias – ACTUAR and REDSAN-CPLP (Food Security and Nutrition Network in the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries)

Elene Shatberashvili – Biological Farming Association Elkana/ECVC

With invaluable contributions from

Martin Wolpold-Bosien - Coordinator, CSM Secretariat

Teresa Maisano - Programme and Communication Officer, CSM Secretariat

Luca Bianchi - Financial and Administrative Officer: CSM Secretariat

Audrey Mouysset Translation into French

Rodrigo Gines Translation into Spanish

Piers Aitman and Richard Scarborough Graphic Design and Layout

With financial support from

Coventry University

The European Union

The Swiss Confederation, represented by the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs, acting through Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

Coventry University
Research Centre
Agroecology, Water and Resilience

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Direction du développement et de la coopération DDC

Contents

A Warm Welcome to the Guide to Facilitation **5**

1 Facilitation in Principle **7**

a. Facilitation is Part of a Historic Struggle to Overcome Exclusion: 'Nothing About Us, Without Us!' 9

b. Facilitation, Representation and Power Sharing 13

2 The United Nations Committee on World Food Security **19**

a. CFS Composition: Who are the key actors in the CFS? 26

b. CFS Structure and Work 31

c. The CFS from a facilitation perspective 34

3 The Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism **39**

a. Clear Categories of Participation 44

b. Facilitation Organs 48

c. The CSM from a Facilitation Perspective 57

Special Section: Spotlight on Youth **59**

Appendix 1: Additional Resources **65**

List of text boxes, diagrammes and tables

Diagramme:	Facilitation Overcoming Dynamics of Exclusion Within Global Food Governance	12
Diagramme:	Facilitation Overcoming Dynamics of Exclusion Within the CSM	12
Text box:	Key Principles of Facilitation in the CSM	14
Diagramme:	The 8: Human Rights / Food Security Regime	16
Diagramme:	The 8: Bringing Home to Rome and Rome to Home	17
Text Box:	The CFS: Inspiring Multi-Actor Food Governance	23
Timeline:	CFS Policy Outcomes and CSM and other Guides	24
Text Box:	MYPoW: The Multi-Year Programme of Work	29
Diagramme:	The CFS Policy Process, Bodies, and CSM Entry Points	30
Text Box:	COVID-19 Disruptions to the CFS	37
Diagramme:	Constituency and Subregional Composition of the CSM's Coordination Committee	46
Table:	Coordination Committee Constituency Facilitators	50
Text Box:	CC Capacity Challenges	52
Diagramme:	Facilitation Roles In The CSM	54
Timeline:	History of CSM Youth Constituency and Working Groups	62
Timeline:	CFS Youth Policy Process	62
Timeline:	Key Moments in Our International Efforts	65

Acronyms

CFS	United Nations Committee on World Food Security
CSM	Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism for Relations with the United Nations Committee on World Food Security
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
IPC	International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty
MYPOW	Multi-Year Program of Work
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
HLPE	High Level Panel of Experts
RBAs	Rome-Based Agencies
FSN	Food Security and Nutrition
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
WFP	World Food Programme



A Warm Welcome to the Guide to Facilitation

On behalf of the Facilitation Working Group of the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism for Relations with the UN Committee on World Food Security (CSM), we would like to welcome you to this introductory guide to facilitation in the CSM!

In the CSM, facilitation is defined as support to enable the effective and authentic participation and political protagonism of non-elite, rights-holding, affected constituencies committed to food sovereignty and agroecological approaches in the work of the Committee on World Food Security (CSM, 2020).

Facilitation is fundamental to the identity and purpose of the CSM. Since its creation in 2010, the CSM has facilitated the participation of civil society, Indigenous Peoples and social movements in the work of the Committee on World Food Security on thousands of occasions.

However, this is the first time that a guide like this – putting the CSM's facilitation role at its centre – has been produced. Our aim in producing it was to provide a tool that could help both CSM facilitators and participants better understand the principles that underpin facilitation in the CSM (Section 1); the context in which it is practiced (Section 2); and the tools and practices through which it is undertaken (Section 3).

In preparing this introductory guide, we have drawn from:

- A 2018 assessment of CSM facilitation practices, involving 20 in-depth interviews with CSM facilitators;
- The 2018 Independent Evaluation of the CSM;
- A process, facilitated by the Working Group on Facilitation, to establish a common understanding of facilitation in the CSM (see pages 14 and 15) and clarify the tasks of constituency and subregional facilitators, involving consultation with the CSM's Coordination Committee (CC) and a discussion with CC members on the difference between facilitation and representation;
- An assessment, conducted by the Working Group on Facilitation, of the capacities, strengths and needs of members of the CSM's

Coordination Committee, drawing from approximately 20 in-depth interviews with CC members, past and present, 2019-2020;

- The CSM website;
- Innumerable discussions and reflections amongst members of the Facilitation Working Group, and the wider CSM facilitation community.

We are aware that this is an ambitious document, and that we probably haven't got everything right. We might have missed key information, provided too much detail on some areas, and not enough on others!

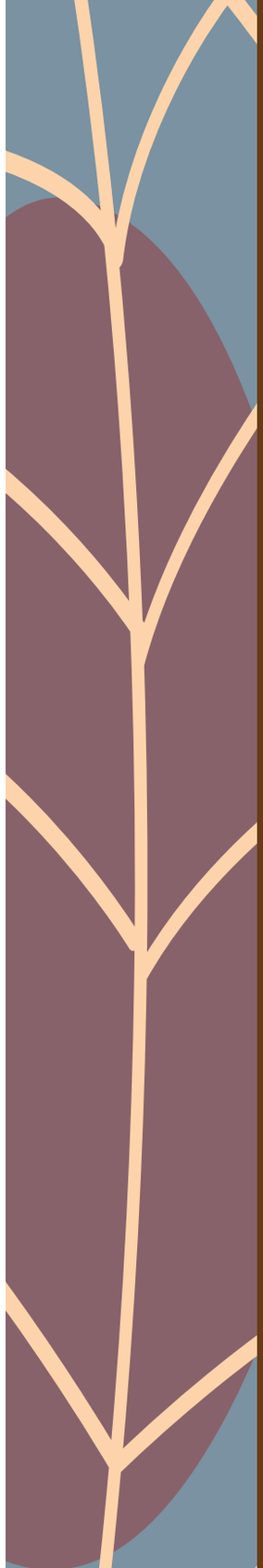
However, we see this as a living document. It is a platform; to be used by CSM facilitators and participants as they see fit, and hopefully improved in the future, as is deemed necessary.

We dedicate this introductory guide to our colleagues and friends in the CSM. May it support and respect your work.

Joana Dias (Coordinator, Facilitation Working Group)
Josh Brem-Wilson (Technical support, Facilitation Working Group)
Anisah Madden
Elene Shatberashvili

Project Team of the Facilitation Working Group of the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism for Relations with the UN Committee on World Food Security, August 2020.

For more information about the Facilitation Working Group, or to get involved with our work, contact: csmfacilitationwg@googlegroups.com.



1

Facilitation in Principle

IN THIS SECTION, WE:

Locate facilitation as part of a historic struggle to overcome exclusion.

Differentiate facilitation from other political roles.

Identify the core principles of facilitation in the CSM.



Isa Álvarez,
URGENCI

Why Participate in the CSM and CFS?

I am Isa Álvarez, I am part of URGENCI, the International Network of Community Supported Agriculture. I have been taking part within the CSM as a facilitator for Consumers Constituency from 2015 to 2019.

In this global world, the threats are global and public policies have crucial influence in our life so they have to be important in our work. Access to land, climate change, biodiversity, women´s rights, popular knowledge and power unbalance are some of the issues we are facing every day and they are totally influenced by public policies.

CFS is an important space at global level to work on the changes that we need for these issues. It tries to be an inclusive space where civil society can be heard and we know that the issues we are working on in Rome today, will be arriving to our houses in a few years. So CSM in Rome is important for two reasons, one is the advocacy work at the global level within the CFS, and second that we have access to information about what is happening in the different political processes and we can work with our networks at local level for advocacy on different issues.

a. Facilitation is Part of a Historic Struggle to Overcome Exclusion: 'Nothing About Us, Without Us!'

People's organisations, peasant and social movements, and Indigenous Peoples have long been excluded from political decision-making spaces. With the globalisation of food and agriculture governance, and the rise of Transnational Agribusiness Corporations, these movements realised they needed to internationalise their struggles, voice and participation in global policy-making spaces. Their message was clear: Nothing About Us, Without Us!

Ignored or marginalised by their own governments, people's organisations from across the world began to bring their struggles for the realisation of Human Rights, the Right to Food, and Food Sovereignty into United Nations fora, to hold governments accountable to their commitments. For many, the starting point for the facilitation effort is that smallscale food producers, Indigenous Peoples, and other groups that participate in the CSM have a right to define their own food and agricultural systems.

The global 'food price crisis' of 2007-2008 was an important moment for these movements. Bringing the number of globally hungry up to one billion people, it communicated an urgent need for decisive action at a global level.



Facilitation is about... giving voice specifically to the most important actor when you speak about food security and food sovereignty, so family farmers need to be in the centre.

Elene Shatberashvili, Biological Farming Association Elkana/ECVC, CC focal point for Eastern Europe 2015-2019.

The United Nations Committee on World Food Security (CFS) was reformed in this context. Organisations and individuals who would go on to form the CSM (from the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) working in alliance with international Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) ActionAid and Oxfam International) were able to participate in the reform process. This enabled them to take advantage of this moment, to ensure the reformed CFS included rights-holding smallscale food producers, Indigenous People and others, at the heart of its work (see Section 2).

In 2009, people's movements won their right to participate in the reformed CFS. However, small-scale food producers and other constituencies needed support to be able to participate in its work without 'professionalising' their participation. For people's organisations, professionalisation is neither possible nor desirable. This is where facilitation comes in. It provides support to enable the effective and authentic participation of the rights-holding constituencies in the CFS, enabling them to overcome barriers that would otherwise make their participation impossible.

In that respect, we can say that facilitation is part of a political struggle to overcome the historical patterns of people's organisations' exclusion from global food governance, to make sure they are 'seen' and 'heard' by political decision-makers.

By definition, the facilitator is someone who is standing in a position of power. If they weren't, they couldn't support another's participation! That power could be understanding something, when someone else doesn't. Or having time, when someone else hasn't. Or being present somewhere, when someone else isn't. Facilitation therefore requires understanding what power you have access to, and how to use it to support another's participation. This requires self-reflection, and often, self-limitation!





Only if you recognize this link of what you're doing at global level and what you can do at national or regional level, you can understand specifically the relevance of these spaces and of this process.

Joana Dias, ACTUAR and REDSAN-CPLP, CC focal point for the NGO Constituency 2017 – present.

It is also important to recognise that the project of overcoming systematic exclusion from political decision-making spaces, brings power dynamics *within* the constituencies and subregions that participate in the CSM into focus. Indeed, for some constituencies seeking to participate in global food governance processes, their first struggle was against other civil society actors, who resisted recognising their right to speak in their own voice, on the issues by which they were directly affected.

Additionally, systems of oppression such as patriarchy and racism are present everywhere. This is widely recognised by many of the movements that participate in the CSM, for whom overcoming internal contradictions is at least as important as their external struggle with other food system actors!

The work of facilitation then proceeds along two fronts: it seeks to support the effective and authentic participation of historically excluded constituencies (with people's organisations at the fore) *in the work of the CFS*; And at the same time, it seeks to rebalance power relations *within the CSM*.

FACILITATION: OVERCOMING DYNAMICS OF EXCLUSION WITHIN GLOBAL FOOD GOVERNANCE



FACILITATION: OVERCOMING DYNAMICS OF EXCLUSION WITHIN THE CSM



b. Facilitation, Representation and Power Sharing

When people come into the CSM to take up facilitation roles, particularly in the Coordination Committee (see Section 3), because they are themselves small-scale food producers, or Indigenous Peoples, or work directly with food producers, food and agricultural workers, and other marginalised groups, they often bring with them a deep understanding of the issues and struggles faced by these constituencies. In this respect, we can say that they can, or do *represent* those constituencies.

However, facilitation is more than just representation (although at different moments representation may be a necessary role for the facilitator!). The goal of facilitation is not simply to represent, in a policy discussion, what people experience or think is important, but to enable their direct participation *in the discussion*. This requires specific roles and tasks (see Section 3), and a specific mindset.



The project of facilitation is rooted in a fundamental respect for people who have been historically marginalised by global food governance, and other systems of discrimination and oppression. It is rooted, in other words, in an ethic of care.

A key requirement of facilitation is sharing power: Over decision-making, access to information, resources, and even 'space'. In this respect, facilitation is also very different from the logic of territoriality, which seeks to claim, close down, or protect access to decision-making, space, resources, or information.

This is not to say that the territorial logic is wrong, or 'worse' than facilitation. For social movements and other groups and individuals contesting historic marginalisation, the logic of territoriality is often fundamentally necessary! It protects them by providing them with space, or resources that they are historically denied.

Key Principles of Facilitation in the CSM*

Facilitation is political. It seeks to transform power relations and overcome historical patterns of asymmetry, marginalisation and exclusion by privileging and supporting the participation and political protagonism of non-elite, rights-holding, affected constituencies committed to food sovereignty and agroecological approaches in the work of the CFS. It seeks to overcome barriers to participation that would otherwise prevent the effective and authentic participation of these actors, particularly the most vulnerable.

Facilitation is an act of solidarity, between facilitators and those whose active and authentic participation they are seeking to support; and between facilitators and other facilitators.

Facilitation requires a particular attitude, in which the facilitator (or even non-affected participant) subordinates their individual or organisational identity and agenda to prioritise the voice and protagonism of affected constituencies in the work of the CFS. It involves self-limitation, self-reflection and self-critique and can be distinguished from more 'territorial' mindsets that seek to control and limit, rather than open and facilitate spaces and processes.

Facilitation is a concept, an attitude, and a practice.

Facilitation involves multiple roles and tasks, from sharing information to helping to create and manage the infrastructure of participation.

Facilitation seeks to articulate different levels (building mutually reinforcing linkages from the grassroots, national, regional and global, and back again); sectors; and agendas (linking the work of different CSM facilitation organs).

The CSM seeks to provide global and subregional facilitation to support efforts to link the grassroots and global levels. It is therefore dependent on participating organisations to provide facilitation between the grassroots and subregional levels.

Facilitation is not alone responsible for securing the effective and authentic participation of CSM constituencies in the work of the CFS. This responsibility is also shared with participating organisations, and the CFS itself.

Facilitation seeks to ensure the care and safety of the collective space and process; of the individual actors participating within them; and of facilitators themselves.

Facilitation is about communication and clarity and requires transparency. It is about a constant and dynamic bi-directional flow of information and practices.

Facilitation builds trust, mutual accountability, and collective responsibility and participation. It aims at promoting and ensuring that protagonism is always collective, and never individual. It makes no one indispensable and everyone needed.

Key facilitation organs in the CSM include the Coordination Committee (including relations among constituencies and sub-regions); Working Groups; the CSM Secretariat; and interpretation and translation.

*Endorsed by the CSM's Coordination Committee in 2020.

For groups and individuals coming into the CSM then, shifting from the logic of territoriality to the logic of facilitation can be a major challenge, and requires a lot of trust and mutual understanding.

In this first section we have provided an overview of facilitation in principle. In the following section, we will introduce the context in which it is practiced: The United Nations Committee on World Food Security (CFS).



Facilitation is an act of solidarity, between the facilitator and those whose participation they are facilitating, and between other facilitators!

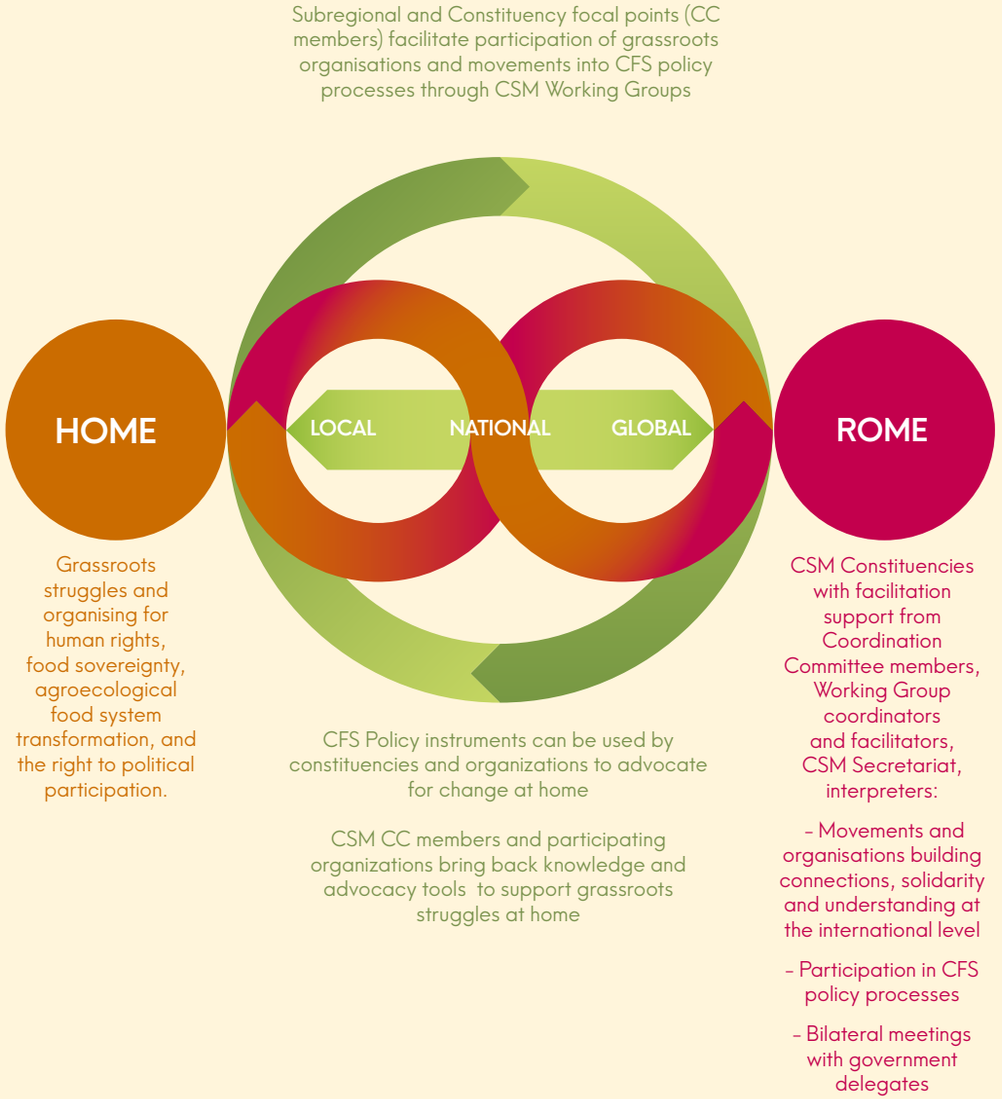
The 8s

CSM constituency participation in global food governance can be thought of as articulating different levels of activity. On the one hand it involves the articulation of social movements and communities with the national and international level to inform the development of international hard and soft law instruments, and back down again to implement those instruments in support of grassroots struggles. On the other, it informs an articulation of struggles, with participation in the global no more important than the national or local struggle. Both of these different types of articulation can be represented by the Figure of 8, as indicated in the diagrammes below and opposite.

THE 8: HUMAN RIGHTS / FOOD SECURITY REGIME



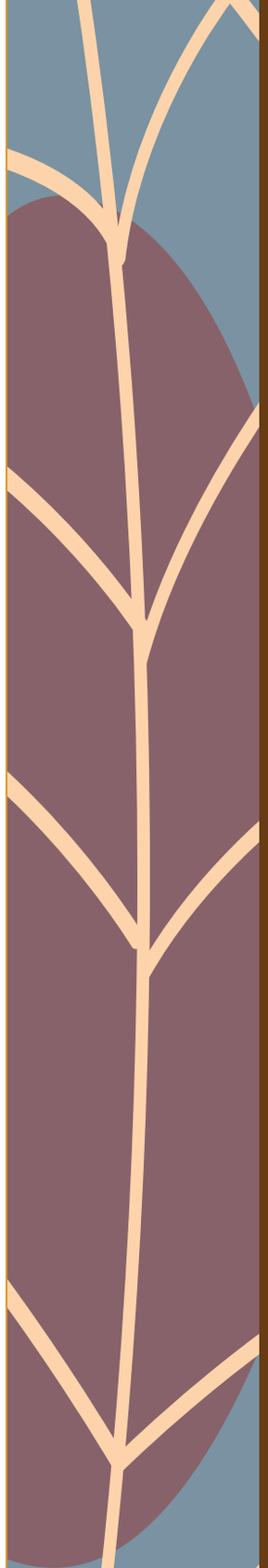
THE 8: BRINGING HOME TO ROME AND ROME TO HOME



Through facilitation, you can make a great change, and much better than implementing so many projects and distributing assistance.

Ahmed Sourani, Gaza Urban Agriculture Platform (GUPAP), CC focal point for the West Asia Region, 2017 – present.





2

The United Nations Committee on World Food Security

IN THIS SECTION, WE:

Introduce the role of the CFS.

Introduce the actors who participate in the CFS.

Introduce the bodies and processes of the CFS.

Identify some key features of the CFS from a facilitation perspective.



Ramona Duminicioiu,
LA VÍA CAMPESINA

Why Participate in the CSM and CFS?

My name is Ramona Duminicioiu, I am a peasant from Romania, in Eastern Europe. I participate in the CSM on behalf of La Vía Campesina. The main issues we face as a peasant movement refers to economic marginalization and discrimination against our traditional local food systems associated with deprivation of natural resources on which we depend as primary means of production.

Being the most progressive and inclusive platform of the UN, the CFS allows us – social movements – to have direct access to negotiation processes, it facilitates our dialogue with governments and with other UN agencies, it encourages us to build political strategies and to articulate our voice at a very high level.

CFS is a means to influence change back home and also a political school where we learn the flaws and benefits of politics – being seated directly at the table with governments, not in limited spaces as voiceless observers. I hope this model can be reproduced in other UN spaces, but most importantly back home in our governments.

The United Nations Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is a global food governance body based in the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), that provides opportunities for civil society and Indigenous Peoples to participate in every stage of its work.

The primary role of the CFS is to generate policy guidance on issues of relevance to the struggle to improve global food security and nutrition (sometimes referred to FSN). Since its reform in 2009, the CFS has produced approximately 17 different sets of policy guidelines (see 'Timeline of CSM Policy Outcomes and CSM Guides' on pages 24 & 25). Some of these, such as the landmark 2012 *Tenure Guidelines*,[1] are comprehensive in focus, whilst others, such as the 2015 policy recommendations on *Water for Food Security and Nutrition*, are narrower.

The CFS's policy guidance is voluntary, meaning that member states are not legally obligated to implement it. This differentiates the CFS from other global governance bodies, like the World Trade Organization, whose agreements are binding on its members. The CFS is still a UN body though, and its policy outcomes are negotiated and approved by governments. This means they will always have a degree of weight!

For example, the Tenure Guidelines, adopted in 2012, have already been used in 47 countries across four regions (UN, 2020), and CSM participants have identified other instances where CFS policy outcomes have proved influential in national policy processes (CSM, 2019).



Online facilitation is a challenge because we have connection problems, we have internet problems. It is always very difficult to do that to bring people together. It's very common in Africa.

Ali Aii Shatu, Indigenous Peoples of Africa Co-ordinating Committee (IPACC) CC focal point for the Indigenous Peoples Constituency, 2017 – present.

1 Officially known as the *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security*.

Whilst member states are primarily responsible for ensuring the use and application of CFS policy outcomes, it is important to remember that the CSM, along with other CFS 'Participants', has a crucial role to play here too.

An important feature of the CFS for many of the groups that participate in the CSM, is the CFS commitment to work towards 'the progressive realization of the right to food' (CFS, 2019). This is important is because it reaffirms that the constituencies that participate in the CSM are 'rights holders', and that member states, as "duty bearers" have the primary responsibility to secure their right to food, as indivisible from all other human rights.

This contrasts with an idea that has been historically very dominant in global food security debates, that *markets* are primarily responsible for ensuring food security, and that access to food should be secured not via rights but by *purchasing power*.

During the CFS reform in 2009, the mood amongst the civil society and Indigenous participants who participated in the reform process, and who would go on to establish the CSM the following year, was one of positivity and excitement. Many of them believed that that the CFS was going to fill an important gap in global food governance, giving them the opportunity to negotiate directly with states in a UN body with real political status.

Since the reform, the CFS has gone through different stages, and the morale of CSM members has dipped and risen with it! Although significant challenges remain, including the COVID-19 pandemic, this present phase could be regarded with positivity. For a period of time the CFS seemed to have suspended its policy work, partly as it worked out how to negotiate the results of an external evaluation.

More recently however the CFS has recommitted to its core work: generating policy guidance. This gives the CFS continuing relevance for the CSM effort to secure the meaningful participation of historically marginalised constituencies in its work.

The timeline on the next page lists CFS policy outcomes since its reform in 2009 (excluding the Right to Food Guidelines, which were adopted in 2004). It also includes the manuals and guides produced by the CSM, and other platforms and organisations, to support the use and application of CFS outcomes. Not every CFS outcome has a CSM guide. This reflects the fact CSM constituencies consider some CFS policy instruments much more useful than others to support their advocacy work at home.

The CFS: Inspiring Multi-Actor Food Governance.

In 2012 the Heads of State and Government of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) approved the creation of the CPLP Council on Food Security and Nutrition (CONSAN-CPLP). The architecture of CONSAN-CPLP is closely modelled on the reformed CFS. Like the CFS, it is a multi-actor body, including both state and non-state participants. The Civil Society Mechanism of the CONSAN-CPLP articulates around 500 Civil Society Organisations including 17 million family farmers, who participate actively in the formulation, monitoring and implementation of CPLP policies and recommendations on food security and nutrition.

The CSM-CONSAN-CPLP and the CSM-CFS have been consolidating a dialogue and learning process, in terms of facilitation, participation and political advocacy.

For more information about the Civil Society Mechanism of CONSAN-CPLP see: https://www.msc-consan.org .

TIMELINE OF CFS POLICY OUTCOMES AND CSM AND CSO GUIDES AND MANUALS

CSM and civil society guides and manuals on the use of CFS outcomes

Independent Civil Society Report on the use and implementation of the Right to Food Guidelines 2018

IPC. People's Manual on the Guidelines on Governance of Land, Fisheries and Forests 2016

Synthesis Report on Civil Society Experiences Regarding Use and Application of the Tenure Guidelines and the Challenge of Monitoring CFS Decisions 2016

Towards Smallholder-oriented Public Policies: Monitoring the use and implementation of CFS policy recommendations on smallholders* 2019

Using the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition to Promote and Defend the People's Right to Adequate Food: A Manual for Social Movements and Civil Society Organisations 2017

Connecting Smallholders to Markets: An Analytical Guide 2016

*This relates more to CFS policy recommendations overall and is not tied to a particular instrument.

CFS more narrow policy recommendations or 'minor' outcomes

CFS Reform

How to increase food security and smallholder-sensitive investment in agriculture

Gender, food security and nutrition

Food price volatility

Land tenure and international investments in agriculture

Social Protection for Food Security and Nutrition

Food Security and Climate Change

Biofuels and Food Security

Investing in Smallholder Agriculture for Food Security and Nutrition

Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition

Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems

Water for Food Security and Nutrition

Connecting Smallholders to Markets

Sustainable Agricultural Development for Food Security and Nutrition: What Role for Livestock?

Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition

CFS comprehensive or 'major' outcomes

Voluntary guidelines on progressive realisation of right to food food in the context of national food security

Voluntary Guidelines on the responsible Governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the Context of national food security

Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems

Framework For Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises

Global Strategic Framework For Food Security and Nutrition

2004 2009 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019

a. CFS Composition: Who are the key actors in the CFS?

The CFS differentiates between three categories of actor who participate in its work.

The first category is 'Members'.

i. Members

Members are states: national governments and their representatives. Member states participate in the CFS predominantly via their 'Permanent Representatives'. These are diplomats, charged with representing their countries in the work of the Rome-Based Agencies (RBAs): The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); and the World Food Programme (WFP).

The richer countries may have multiple members of their Rome-based Permanent Representation, allowing specific individuals to focus on different streams of work across the RBAs. In contrast, poorer countries are often limited to just one person, having to participate in the work of all three bodies. All UN Member Nations are invited to be members of the CFS. Currently CFS has 134 Member States.

During key negotiations or CFS events (such as the annual 'Plenary' meeting, see below) country delegations may also be joined by senior politicians (e.g. Ministers) and/or national officials.

In Brazil, we have 270 different indigenous languages; we have many ethnicities, ethnic groups. We have peoples who are descendants from the slaves who came to Brazil. We have people who live in forest areas. We have people who live by the water. In order to have an inclusive process, we have to understand all of the different dynamics.

André Luzzi de Campos, HIC, CC focal point for the Urban Food Insecure Constituency 2017 – present.



The second category of actor who participates in the CFS is 'Participants'.

ii. Participants

There are five separate sub-categories of Participant:

i. Representatives of UN agencies and bodies with a specific mandate in the field of food security and nutrition (e.g. FAO, the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, the World Food Programme)
ii. Civil society and non-governmental organizations and their networks with strong relevance to issues of food security and nutrition *with particular attention to organizations representing smallholder family farmers, artisanal fisherfolk, herders/pastoralists, landless, urban food insecure, agricultural and food workers, women, youth, consumers, Indigenous Peoples*, and International NGOs whose mandates and activities are concentrated in the areas of concern to the CFS. These organisations and networks participate in the CFS through the CSM.
iii. International agricultural research systems (e.g. CGIAR)
iv. International and regional Financial Institutions (e.g. the World Bank, the African Development Bank) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO).
v. Representatives of private sector associations (which participate in the CFS through the Private Sector Mechanism (PSM) and private philanthropic foundations (including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation).



Working effectively in the CFS requires building good relationships with diplomats, especially those that are sympathetic to CSM positions. Individual diplomats are important, because the relationship between a diplomat and their government is not always straightforward. They don't simply 'reflect' their government's positions, but have room to interpret them also....

The final category of actor who can participate in the CFS is 'Observers'.

iii. Observers

Observers can attend CFS Plenaries, OEWG meetings and other CFS events and can be invited by the Chair to take the floor. Formally, Observers can only speak at the end of the debate, if there is time.

In terms of its composition then, it is evident that the CFS recognises the formal rights of a number of different types of actor to participate in its work. In the rules of the CFS, whilst Participants can contribute to the preparation of CFS workstreams and participate in CFS discussions (more or less on par with Members), it is only Members who can vote. However, in practice, the line between 'decision-making' and 'discussion' can be a blurred one!

It is also important to note that although different Participants are given the same status in the work of the CFS, CSM constituencies emphasise the primacy of their status as "rights holders" who are the majority food and agricultural producers and workers, and who are also the most affected by hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.



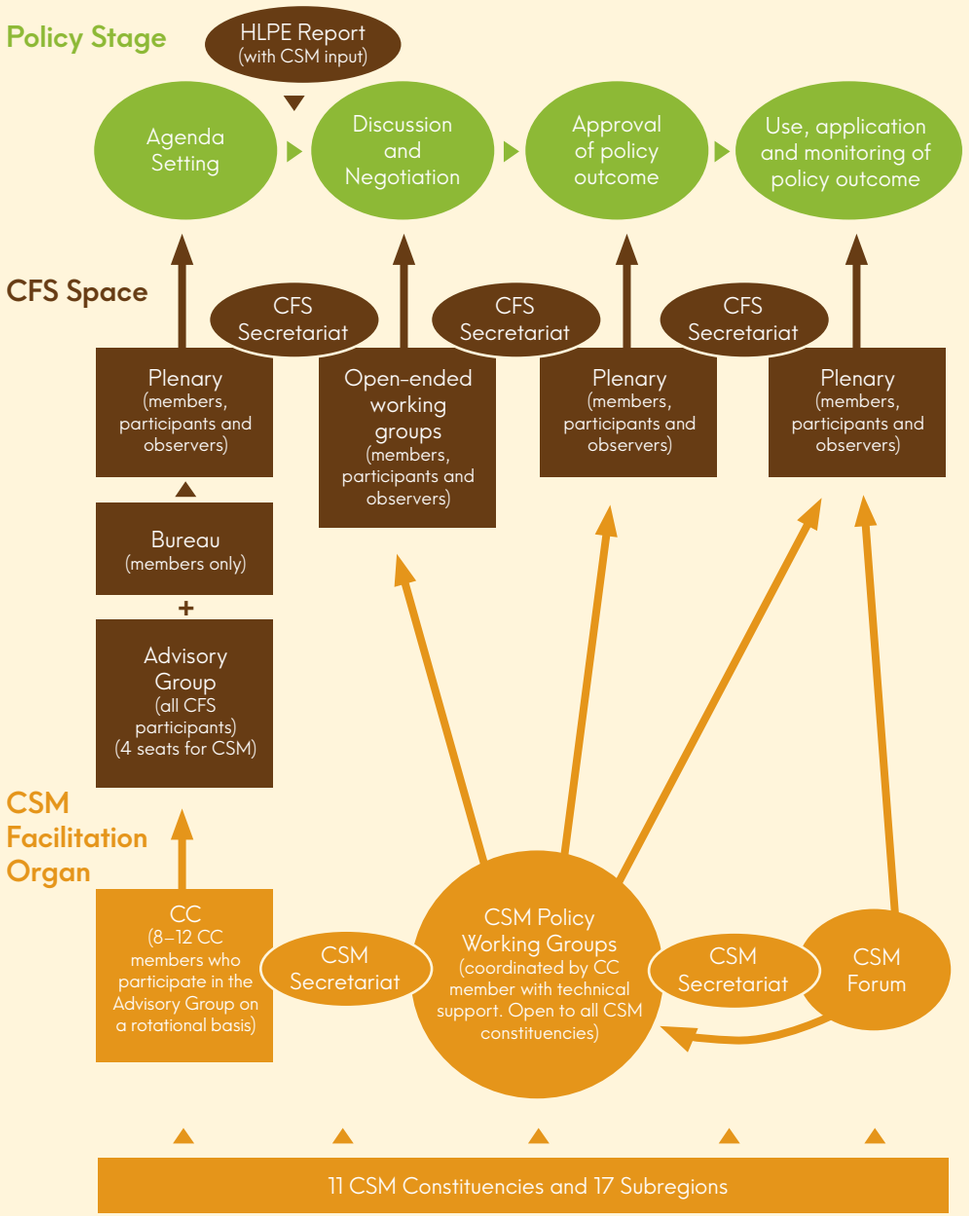
Plenary Meeting of the Committee on World Food Security ©FAO/ Pier Paolo Cito

MYPoW: The Multi-Year Programme of Work

The four-year agenda for the CFS's work is set within its Multi-Year Programme of Work. This outlines the different policy workstreams that CFS members agree to undertake; gives direction on which topics should be addressed by the Committee; and identifies the activities to be undertaken and the expected outcomes. It directs the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) to provide scientific and knowledge-based reports on specific issues from the food security and nutrition perspective. It also considers the financial implications of the proposed work.

CFS Member states and Participants contribute to setting the MYPoW agenda and scope. This is often a politically contentious process, as different actors push to frame relevant issues and define the priority areas of CFS work. The MYPoW 2020-23 was approved in October 2019 at the CFS Plenary, although it has not yet been officially updated in light of the disruptions to CFS work caused by COVID-19.

THE CFS POLICY PROCESS, BODIES, AND CSM ENTRY POINTS



b. CFS Structure and Work

The CFS (2019) has identified three key roles that it plays as a policy convergence body.

The first role is being a global *platform* for discussing food security and nutrition issues and coordinating action at all levels.

The second role is to support the development of (voluntary) *policy guidance* to ensure coordinated and coherent government efforts to achieve food security and nutrition and promote the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.

The third role is ensuring the *uptake* of CFS policy outcomes, by following up and reviewing their usage, and identifying so called 'best practices' of CFS policy implementation and use.

As well as being engaged in this outward facing, policy work, the CFS also undertakes 'self-governance' – meaning that assesses its own work, manages its budget, and so on.

CFS work is conducted through a number of different processes and bodies, each of which historically has its meetings at the Rome-based headquarters of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

i. The Plenary

The Plenary is the largest event on the CFS calendar. It meets annually, normally in October, for about four days. It is open to all CFS Members, Participants and Observers, meaning that it is attended by many hundreds of people.

Officially, the Plenary is considered the CFS's 'central body', taking key decisions and coordinating efforts to improve global food security and nutrition. However, the work that the CFS does outside of the annual Plenaries – the 'intersessional period' – is at least if not possibly even more important.

ii. The Bureau

The Bureau is the executive arm of the CFS. It is a small committee of CFS members (country representatives), headed by a CFS Chairperson. It

includes twelve member countries: two each from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Near East and Latin America and one each from North America and South West Pacific. The Bureau is a coordination mechanism, it implements Plenary decisions, takes some key decisions during the intersessional period in the framework of its mandate and prepares the agenda for the annual Plenary. The Bureau is a very important space for the CFS's 'self-governance' activities.

The Bureau meets alone approximately five to six times a year, usually after a joint meeting with its Advisory Group.

iii. The Advisory Group (AG)

The Advisory Group is composed by representatives from all five categories of Participant in the CFS, and contributes to all substantial matters dealt with by the CFS and its Bureau. The AG provides an entry-point therefore for the CSM to feed into the Bureau's work. The CSM have four seats on the Advisory Group, which are occupied on a rotational basis by 12 members of the CSM's Coordination Committee (see following section).

iv. Open-Ended Working Groups (OEWGs)

OEWGs are where the CFS's substantive policy work is conducted. They are open to all CFS Members and Participants, and – at the Chair's discretion – Observers. This is where key policy negotiations take place. Through OEWGs the CSM can shape CFS policy outcomes. The CSM forms its own autonomous policy working groups that follow the work of and articulate into the CFS OEWGs.

v. The CFS Secretariat

The CFS has a permanent Secretariat that includes staff from FAO, IFAD and WFP. Its role is to support the Plenary, the CFS Chair, Bureau and Advisory Group and the OEWG in their work. It is hosted at FAO in Rome and operates under the political guidance of the CFS Bureau and Chair.

vi. The High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE)

The HLPE is known as the CFS's 'science-policy' interface. This means that its role is to provide – at the request of the Plenary – an assessment of the knowledge(s) available on different food security and nutrition issues being addressed by the CFS. HLPE reports precede and inform some CFS policy negotiations, so they can play an important role in shaping political discussions. Participants in the CSM have various entry points into the HLPE's work, including opportunities to contribute to the scope and content of HLPE reports, including via online consultations.

These are the main processes and bodies through which CFS work is conducted. The diagramme on page 30 provides a representation of how these contribute to the different stages of the CFS's policy work, and where the CSM 'entry points' (via CSM facilitation organs) into that work are (See section 3). Although in practice, for each area of the CFS's work the processes are a little different.

Typically, CFS meetings take place at the headquarters of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), Rome, Italy. However, at present, COVID-19 has meant that the work of the CFS has moved online (See Text Box: COVID-19 Disruptions on page 37).

The CFS's 'Information Market', in the Foyer of FAO ©FAO/ Giuseppe Carotenuto



c. The CFS from a facilitation perspective

The goal of facilitation is to enable the effective and authentic participation of rights-holding constituencies affected by food insecurity in the work of the CFS. From that perspective, there are a number of observations we can make about the context – the CFS – in which that happens.

The composition and structure of the CFS provides opportunities for the constituencies that participate in the CSM to participate in virtually all area of the CFS's work.

In fact, since its creation in 2010, the CSM has consistently been one of the 'strongest' contributors to the CFS's work, able to generate proposals for all areas of CFS activity, and mobilise 'grassroots expertise' into CFS policy processes.

However, the CSM is not the only participant in the space.

Private sector associations – including Agribusiness Transnational Corporations - were virtually absent during the CFS reform. Since then, however, they have entered the CFS space en masse through the Private Sector Mechanism. Their participation has been enthusiastically encouraged by many member states and officials. This has had a big impact on the culture of the CFS (see below). Whilst the CSM has consistently raised concerns about the presence and influence of profit-driven actors in a public policy body working to eliminate global hunger, the CFS has been resistant to those concerns.



Plenary Meeting of the CFS, 2016, credit ©FAO / Riccardo De Luca

The culture of the CFS is highly formal.

Whether in the structure of meetings, the style of speech, the styles of dress, the way that members address each other, the presentation of documents, the physical layout of meeting spaces, it is evident that the culture of the CFS is highly formal. With many private sector participants, and member states and UN officials responsive to and sharing their ideas, it can also sometimes be very 'corporate'.

For many of the constituencies and organisations that participate in the CFS, this culture is a long way away from their own and can be alienating. Of all the actors who participate in the CFS, it is only the CSM that brings in cultures that deviate from the CFS's highly formal, professionalised, and corporate atmosphere!

The work of the CFS is dense.

CFS policy processes often – though not always - begin with a report from the High-Level Panel of Experts. These reports can run to over 150 pages! This is illustrative of the fact that CFS policy processes are fairly heavy, or dense. They focus on the production of a particular text, the content of which is negotiated electronically and – in a pre-COVID world at least - over several face-to-face sessions, some of which continue late into the night.

Through trial and error, the CSM has learnt how to channel its contributions into these text-based formats, while keeping the spirit of its political voice alive. The role of technical support, provided by the CSM Secretariat and trusted INGOs, is crucial in helping to "translate" grassroots struggles and aspirations into the technical policy language of the CFS.

The CFS faces many challenges.

Member states not taking the CFS seriously; the CFS being side-lined by other arenas of global food governance; the emergence of populist, right-wing, xenophobic governments attacking and undermining multilateral institutions; the encroachment of corporate culture and the shrinking of space for civil society, Indigenous Peoples, and social

movements – all of these are pressing challenges that confront the CFS! They not only impact the space that is available for civil society, Indigenous Peoples, and social movements, but also the *political significance* of their participation.

The CSM has successfully facilitated the participation of its constituencies on hundreds of occasions.

There is no doubt that the CSM has successfully been able to support and enable the effective participation of civil society, social movements and Indigenous Peoples into innumerable CFS meetings and processes. Understanding how the CSM achieves this is the focus of our next Section.

What we are working towards is trying to amplify the hidden voices, the voices of these players in the fisheries sector, and particularly for women based on the historical non-visibility and lack of appreciation of the work that they do in the sector.

Editrudith Lukanga, World Fisher Forum, CC focal point for the Fisherfolk Constituency, 2015 – 2019



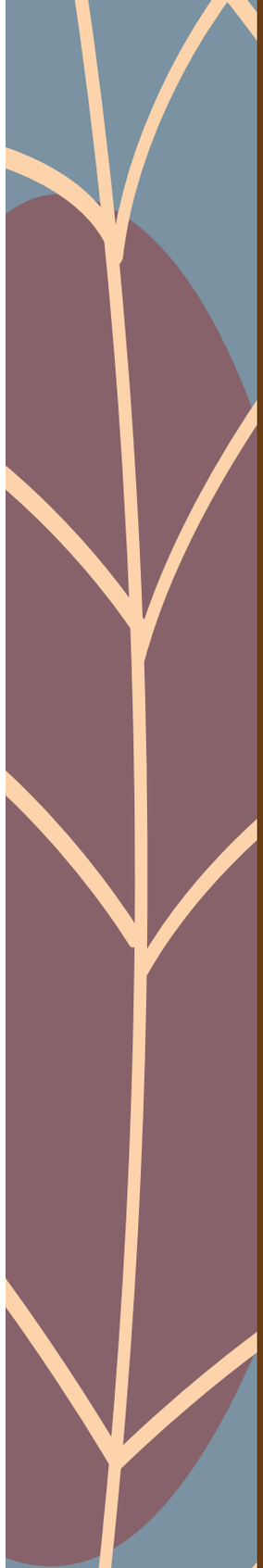
COVID-19 Disruptions to the CFS.

Government-imposed restrictions in the first half of 2020 on citizen movement and cross-border travel in response to COVID-19 have caused major disruptions to the CFS's work. Italy (where the CFS's host institution, the FAO is located) was amongst the earliest European countries to be impacted by the outbreak. In response, from early March the Italian government imposed a very strict national 'lock down', and in common with most other countries in August 2020, is still continuing to introduce measures (e.g. mask-wearing in public and restrictions on certain social activities) to control ongoing spikes in COVID-19 cases.

The FAO – where the CFS is located - was essentially closed from March, and although plans are in place to reopen its offices, in August 2020 there is uncertainty about whether this is going to be possible or not. For the CFS, the impact has been the cancellation or rescheduling of meetings, and an attempt to transfer meetings and political negotiations online. The annual Plenary has been postponed from October 2020 to February 2021.

From a facilitation perspective, the attempt to shift policy negotiations into virtual spaces is very concerning. Many CSM constituencies are facing even greater human rights violations and political challenges in their territories. Many face severe travel restrictions and do not have access to stable internet, making their participation in online meetings extremely difficult. The lost opportunity to have face-to-face meetings greatly undermines the effective and authentic participation of CSM constituencies in the work of the CFS.

Despite these serious challenges, the CSM, along with a number of CFS member governments have been vocal in demanding that political negotiations not be moved fully online, and that special efforts must be made to ensure the full and participation of affected constituencies in CFS work. These struggles are ongoing, but the CSM is committed to defend its right to participate in CFS work, and to elevate the crucial role of the CFS in advancing the progressive realisation of the Right to Food.



3

The Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism

IN THIS SECTION, WE:

Introduce the role of the CSM.

Identify who participates in the CSM.

Explain how the CSM works from a facilitation perspective.



Naseegh Jaffer,
WORLD FORUM OF
FISHER PEOPLE

Why Participate in the CSM and CFS?

My name is Naseegh Jaffer. I am from the Cape Town, South Africa and part of Masifundise which is a community based Non-Governmental Organisation. Masifundise is a member of the World Forum of Fisher People (WFFP). The WFFP nominated me to serve on the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) of the UN Committee on Food Security (CFS) to voice the interests and concerns of fisherfolk internationally.

Smallscale fishing communities are under severe strain of marginalisation and food insecurity. This is exacerbated by increased market driven approaches in the political economy and the strict conservation practices as is applied in many terrestrial and marine park areas. Pressures of climate change has a further negative impact on these communities.

My organisation, and I, recognise that participation in the CFS, through the CSM, is crucial in obtaining equity and fairness to access and use of natural resources for food – especially for marginalised fishing communities. We have key allies in the CSM and can use this platform to gain access to spaces to inform and influence global food policies.

As we have seen, during the CFS's reform process in 2009, social movements and their allies secured for themselves a formal right to participate across all areas of the CFS's work. For many, if not most of the constituencies that participate through the CSM, this was unprecedented.

Since the CFS reform, food and agricultural workers, Indigenous Peoples, pastoralists, smallholder family farmers, women, youth, the urban food insecure and other constituencies historically excluded from global food governance, have been able to participate in the CFS on hundreds of occasions.

In doing so, they have been able to embed their ideas into CFS policy outcomes; reaffirm their status as rights-holders and the importance of the rights-based framework; challenge narrow 'economistic' thinking and shape key debates on food and agriculture; as well as gain a unique 'political training' and strengthen their ties and connections with like-minded organisations and allies!

None of this would've been possible without the existence of the CSM.

The CSM was established in 2010 as an autonomous, self-organized platform. It was created as a result of the advocacy of the civil society, social movement and Indigenous Peoples who participated in the CFS reform process. Indeed, following the adoption of the CFS's reform blueprint, these actors (individuals and organisations from the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) working in alliance with international Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)



The CSM is...

... a facilitating platform, not an organisation!

... an autonomous, open and inclusive space!

... an articulation of the local, national, regional and global struggles you are already engaged in!

... a collective learning process!



CSM Forum 2016

ActionAid and Oxfam were instrumental in the design and launch of the CSM.

These founding actors have since been joined in the CSM by hundreds of other individuals participating through their organisations, movements, and platforms, also bringing their accumulated experiences and insights from struggles to overcome the political exclusion of CSM constituencies, at all levels, across a diverse range of arenas.

Over time, through trial and error, facing and responding to different challenges, participating organisations in the CSM have helped to clarify, strengthen and refine its practices, emphasising the fact that the CSM is a *collective learning process*.

The CSM reflects a coming together between a diversity of organisations and movements from civil society, social movements and Indigenous Peoples around a number of key ideas:

- That certain historically excluded constituencies have a right to *participate directly* in food and agricultural governance processes;
- That these actors and their allies should *autonomously organise* their own participation in these processes; and
- That to participate effectively and authentically in global food governance they will need *support* from their allies (e.g. NGOs, social movement staff people, academics).

This last point is integral to the identity of the CSM. Its founding document states that:

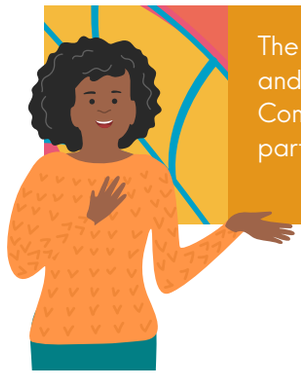
> *'The essential role of the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) is to **facilitate the participation** of CSOs in the work of the CFS.'*
>
> (ActionAid International, the Governance Working Group of the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty and Oxfam, 2010: 3, emphasis added).

In 2018 the CSM officially recognised that Indigenous Peoples were more than just a subcategory of Civil Society Organisations, amending its name to:

The Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism for Relations with the United Nations Committee on World Food Security.

The CSM is not an organisation with members, but a *space* with *participating organisations*. Any civil society, social movement and Indigenous Peoples' organisation working on food security and nutrition can participate in its work. The CSM seeks to build common positions, whilst respecting and valuing the diversity and autonomy of its participating organisations.

The CSM utilises a number of different tools and practices to undertake its essential facilitation role.



The CSM's role is to facilitate civil society, social movement and Indigenous Peoples' participation in the work of the United Committee on World Food Security. It does not facilitate their participation into the work of the FAO, or other UN spaces!

a. Clear Categories of Participation

Firstly, the CSM was founded with a clear sense of the people whose participation it is designed to facilitate. The CSM differentiates between 11 constituencies whose participation in the CFS is its priority. Crucially, these constituencies (which were included in the CFS's reform blueprint) were defined by civil society and Indigenous Peoples *themselves*. This self-definition stands in contrast to other UN processes where people's organisations and movements are organised into categories defined by the institutions in which they are participating. These constituencies are at the heart of the CFS mandate because they are the *most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition.*

The CSM makes it very clear moreover that they are not only the most affected by food insecurity, but are *rights-holders and also the most important* contributors to food security and nutrition worldwide. They are, and should be, subjects of their own development.

The CSM's 11 Constituencies:

Smallholders Farmers

Fisherfolks

Consumers

Agricultural and Food Workers

Youth

NGOs

Pastoralists/Herders

Indigenous Peoples

Urban Food Insecure

Women

Landless

Recently, CSM also has started a process to build a new constituency of organizations of people living in protracted crises, refugees and internally displaced people.

In addition, to capture important differences across geographical areas, the CSM strives to ensure balanced participation across 17 subregions:

North America

Andean Region

West Europe

North Africa

East Africa

South Africa

Southeast Asia

West Asia

Pacific

Central America and Caribbean

Southern Cone

East Europe

Central Africa

West Africa

South Asia

Central Asia

Australasia

These constituencies and subregions underpin the CSM's work. They provide a framework for identifying whose participation should be prioritised; who should exercise political leadership in the CSM; and who should receive financial support. The CSM will strengthen weak constituencies, or even explore the creation of new constituencies in response to perceived gaps amongst those participating in its work.

To support and enable the active participation of these constituencies in the CFS's work, the CSM has a number of different mechanisms or 'facilitation organs'. In the following section we provide overviews of four:

The Coordination Committee

Working Groups

Interpretation and translation

The CSM Secretariat

CONSTITUENCY AND SUBREGIONAL COMPOSITION OF THE CSM'S COORDINATION COMMITTEE

11 Global Units known as **Constituencies**

Made of: Global and continental organizations and networks of each sector, with 24 CC members



○ = 1 CC member



17 Sub-Regional Units known as **Sub-Regions**

Made of: Sub-Regional CSOs that bring together more than one sector

We make sure that before all these activities, there're plenty of preparation, discussions of issues and then bringing out the questions also.

Sylvia Mallari, People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty, CC focal point for South East Asia Region, 2019 – present.

Facilitators on Facilitation

The CSM Website



Facilitators on Facilitation

[In some countries] coordinators [of activist movements] have been the same forever. They keep participating in these spaces, they never bring new people to the stage... But if they don't move, no one else can come. How are you going to strengthen the movement like this?'

Nzira de Deus, World March of Women, CC focal point for the Youth Constituency, 2017 – present.

b. Facilitation Organs

i. The CSM Coordination Committee

The Coordination Committee (CC) has a dual function. On the one hand, it seeks to facilitate the active participation of the CSM's constituencies and subregions in the work of the CFS through the CSM. On the other, the CC is the main decision-making body of the CSM and governs CSM functioning. The CC also provides the CSM's participants in the CFS's Advisory Group. It elects 8-12 members, who take up the four CSM seats in the Advisory Group on a rotational basis.

With 41 members, the composition of the CC reflects the constituency and subregional structure (see Diagramme on page 46). Each CSM Constituency has two CC members, with the exception of the smallholder farmers constituency which has four members, because they are both the constituency that produces the largest quantity of food, and most affected by food insecurity. Subregions have one CC member each.

CSM constituencies and subregions autonomously appoint their CC members, based on the principle that CC members should be a leader within a civil society or Indigenous Peoples' organisation, movement or network relating to food security and nutrition; with a commitment to human rights and the organizing principles of the Mechanism, especially inclusiveness; and prioritizing input from those most affected by hunger and malnutrition.

In addition to ensuring constituency and geographic balance, the CSM seeks to ensure gender balance, by requiring that women make up at least half of the CC members. CC members are appointed for a two-year term at a time and may be appointed for a second two-year term (for a maximum of 4 years in total).

In March 2020, in response to a recommendation by the CSM's 2018 Independent Evaluation (Claeys and Duncan, 2018) and following a process of collective reflection facilitated by the Facilitation Working Group, the CC adopted a definition of the exact tasks that Constituency and Subregional facilitators were expected to undertake (Please see 'Additional Resources' at the end of this Guide).

Their primary role was defined as:

> *[P]romoting the active participation of interested organizations[2] from their subregions or constituency in CSM and CFS processes and activities, through an effective facilitation of a two-way communication and consultation between participating organizations and the CSM as a global space.*
>
> (CSM. 2020. 'Tasks for CSM Sub-regional or Constituency Facilitators, being CC members').

CC members face a lot of different challenges seeking to undertake their facilitation tasks, some of which we describe below. To better understand the challenges CC members face, it is important to recognise there are some key differences in the way that global constituencies and subregions are supported to participate in the CSM's work.

Constituency participation into CFS policy discussions through the CSM is facilitated by the global organisation or movement for each constituency, or by multiple organisations where more than one exists (see Table on page 50). This means that when the constituency CC member has finished their two-year term, they are replaced by *someone within their constituency organisation*.

In contrast, Subregional participation can be facilitated by an organisation located at any level (national, regional, or global), and from any of the CSM's 11 constituencies. For example, the participation of organisations and movements from the South East Asian subregion is currently facilitated by a CC member from the People's Food Sovereignty Coalition, a network of various grassroots groups of small food producers and their supporting NGOs. Whereas the participation of organisations and networks from the North American subregion is currently facilitated through a CC member from the National Farmers Union of Canada, a national farm organization committed to family and collective farms.

2 [E]specially those from developing countries, those affected by hunger and those committed to the realization of the right to food and food sovereignty.' CSM. (Undated). 'Guidelines on Internal Functioning.' http://www.csm4cfs.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/csm_guidelines_internal_functioning.pdf

Coordination Committee Constituencies and Facilitating Organisations, 2020

CONSTITUENCY	ORGANISATION
Smallholders Farmers	LVC LVC COPROFAM FIMARC
Pastoralists Herders	WAMIP WAMIP
Fisherfolks	WFFP WFF
Indigenous Peoples	IPACC IITC
Consumers	Urgenci Consumers International
Agricultural and Food Workers	IUF IUF
Urban Food Insecure	HIC HIC
Landless	ARWC LVC
Youth	LVC WMW
Women	LVC International Women's Alliance
NGO	REDSAN-CPLP Actuar Friends of the Earth

Whilst global constituency organisations face the challenge of facilitating the participation of their constituency *across all subregions of the world*, subregional facilitators face the challenge of facilitating the participation of *all the constituencies* in their subregion. In both cases, CC members face very real constraints.

To find the CC member for your constituency or subregion go to the CSM website: www.csm4cfs.org/the-csm/

The second facilitation organ within the CSM supporting the participation of Indigenous Peoples, civil society and social movement organisations in the CFS, are *Working Groups*.

ii. Working Groups

CSM Working Groups serve two purposes.

Policy Working Groups are the *central and most important route* for CSM participants to participate in CFS policy work. They are created when the CFS adopts a policy issue in its Multi-Year Programme of Work. Since its launch in 2010, the CSM has created approximately 24 Policy Working Groups, with 8-10 Working Groups still actively engaged in CFS processes.



This is a facilitation and catalyst role to take a policy from that level [national or international] to the community level...to say this is a successful process, it means the community would adopt...the policy and turn it in their favour, ensuring their rights. The actual process then begins when we organise meetings, we organise consultations and workshops on these policies. It is a continuous process of internalisation within the community, because there is a lot that needs to be done in terms of materialising the whole effort of policy formulation and any government orders or any law into practice'

Nasmin Choudhury, Action Aid India, CC focal point for the Youth Constituency 2017 – 2018.

CC Capacity Challenges

In early 2020, the CSM Facilitation Working Group invited CC members to participate in a 'strengths and needs assessment' of the capacities available to them to fulfil their role as Constituency or Subregional facilitators. This assessment can be regarded as part of an ongoing process by the CSM to understand and strengthen its working, including via two independent evaluations in 2014 and 2018.

The assessment revealed that most CC members are extensively embedded in facilitation processes at the local, national and regional level, bringing a wealth of skills, knowledge and commitment to their role as CC members.

At the same time, of the 14 CC members who participated in the assessment, nine of them spontaneously expressed anxiety or uncertainty about their ability to meet the expectations of their CC role.

This is because CC members face many capacity constraints, at the *individual, organisational and environmental* levels. At the individual level, this can include an absence of technology skills, or time (as those who take on the CC role do so voluntarily, often in addition to their "day jobs"). At the organisational level, it could include the absence of colleagues to support or even take over the facilitation role. And at the environmental level, challenges can include unstable internet, or underdeveloped, absent, or unresponsive networks.

It is important to recognise that facilitation is not simply a "technical" exercise, but a *political process*. As such, constituency and subregional facilitators must navigate complex dynamics that have cultural, economic, social, and historical dimensions.

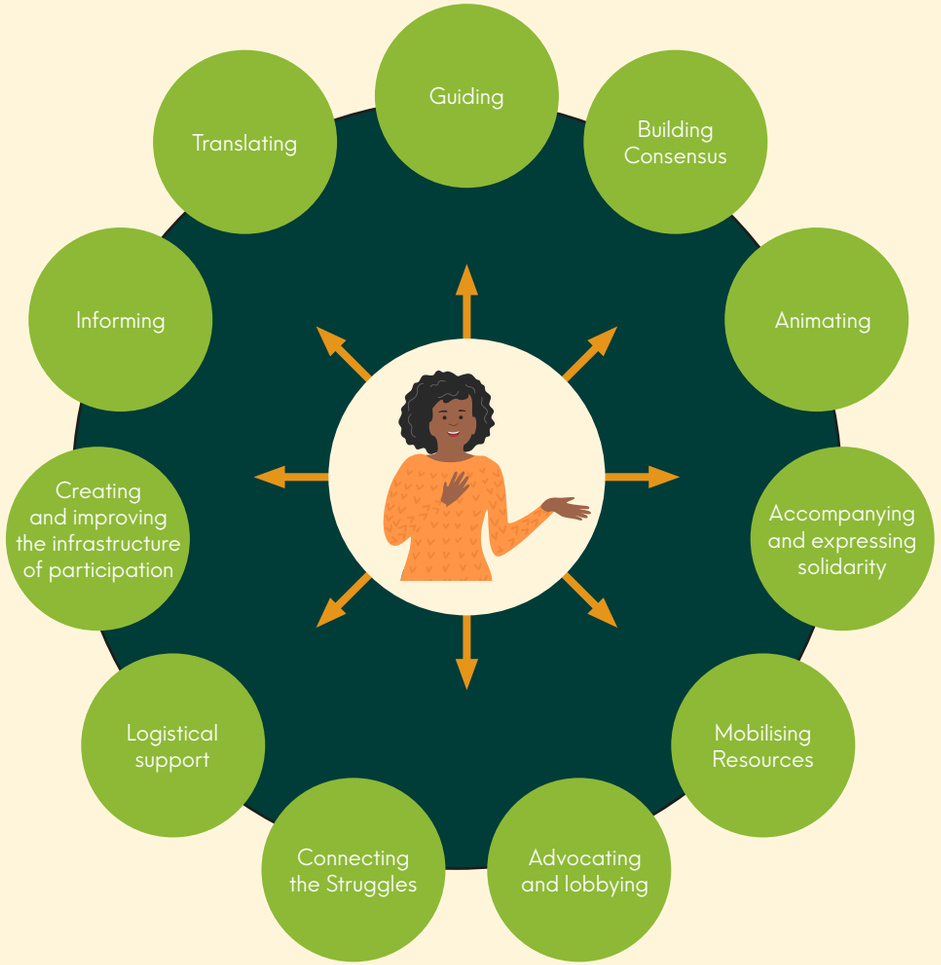
Whilst it is too early and perhaps even undesirable to identify a 'best' way of approaching the CC role, some CC members have found it useful to:

- Collectivise the role, by dividing up and sharing key tasks with colleagues within their organisations, or colleagues from other organisations;
- Strengthen networks by outreaching to CSM constituencies to identify and connect with organisations to include in the subregion, or by even joining constituency groups;
- Personalise or individualise communication, so as to better improve responses;
- Utilise different tools (beyond email), like online translation (DeepL), or different communication formats (e.g. videos) or platforms (e.g. Whattsapp, Zoom) in order to overcome communication barriers.

Face-to-face meetings, gatherings, and forums have historically been important moments for constituencies and subregions to share their struggles and build understanding and political strategies. However, COVID-19 has resulted in significant restrictions on large gatherings, making it necessary for grassroots movements to adapt and find creative ways to maintain and strengthen their networks.



FACILITATION ROLES IN THE CSM*



*For a discussion on the facilitation roles being performed in the CSM, please follow the link for 'Discussion on CSM Facilitation' under 'Additional Resources' at the end of this Guide.

We make sure that before all these activities, there're plenty of preparation, discussions of issues and then bringing out the questions also.

Sylvia Mallari, People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty, CC focal point for South East Asia Region, 2019 – present.



Policy Working Groups are coordinated by one or more CC members, who provide political leadership. They are supported by one or more Technical Facilitators, normally from NGOs, but also from social movements, academia, and even sometimes the CSM Secretariat. Facilitation of Policy Working Groups can involve everything from fund raising, to briefing and advising CSM participants on the policy process and offering proposals, to building consensus and common understanding amongst CSM participants, to coordinating CSM participation in the policy negotiations, and more. Their work normally consists of a mix of online and face-to-face activity.



Some Policy Working Groups have produced a 'Vision' statement at the beginning of the process, to ensure that they have a clear and shared understanding of what they want to achieve.

Facilitators of Policy Working Groups have become adept at finding ways of securing the active participation of social movements in their work. Partly, this involves outreaching, creating opportunities for social movements to speak 'in their own words' on the issue under discussion, and then 'translating' that back into the formal policy process.

Generally, Policy Working Groups are regarded as being highly effective in terms of facilitating CSM participation into CFS policy processes. However, CSM participants recognise the need to strengthen their efforts to find ways to use and apply CFS policy instruments in their work back home! Although it is the primary responsibility of member states to implement CFS policy outcomes (in line with national frameworks), CSM participants have a crucial role to play in advocating for the use and implementation of CFS policies, and in monitoring their application. To support the use and application of CFS policy instruments, the CSM has produced a number of People's Guides and other resources (see 'Timeline of CFS Policy Outcomes and CSM and other Guides' on pages 24 and 25).

Along with Policy Working Groups, the CSM also has other Working Groups addressing various different dimensions of its work. This includes the group that prepared this Introduction: the Facilitation Working

Group. The Youth Working Group and the Women's Working Group are important autonomous spaces for youth and women in the CSM.

The CSM works mostly in three languages: Spanish, French and English. This means that interpretation and translation – the third facilitation organ – are indispensable to its work.

For CC members more generally, and especially those participating in the Advisory Group, a detailed and comprehensive understanding of the CSM and CFS is required to do their work. To obtain this, there is no substitute to joining a Working Group!



iii. Interpretation and Translation

The CSM has been fortunate since its creation to be able to work with a stable group of dedicated interpreters and translators, many of whom are activists themselves, and who also work with the CSM's participating organisations. This consistency means that not only do CSM interpreters and translators understand the institutional environment (which is quite complex) but also the sensitivities and positions of the CSM's participating organisations. This politically-committed base understanding is crucial to ensuring that when organisations and movements participate in the CSM and CFS, they can trust that what they are saying is accurately communicated.

And the final of the CSM's facilitation organs that we discuss here is the CSM Secretariat.

iv. The CSM Secretariat

Like interpretation and translation, the CSM Secretariat is a CSM facilitation organ that articulates with and supports every other facilitation organ and area of the CSM's work.

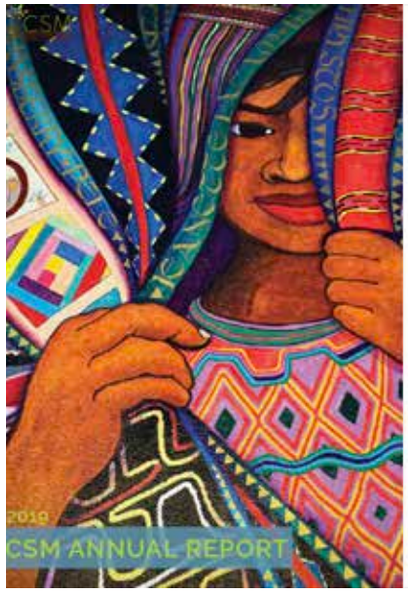
The work of the CSM Secretariat covers *every different type of facilitation activity in the CSM* (see Diagramme: Facilitation Roles in the CSM), including overseeing logistical arrangements for CSM participants; fundraising; supporting the CC members of the Advisory Group; preparing the CSM update and Annual Report; maintaining and updating the website; and many many other activities. It works continuously throughout the year.

Though indispensable to its functioning, the CSM Secretariat is very small, comprising a Coordinator, a Financial/Administrative Officer and a Programme/Communication Officer. The Secretariat is based in Rome.

c. Additional Facilitation Tools

Beyond the above, the CSM also utilises a number of other tools to support its facilitation activities, including:

- An annual CSM Forum, normally held the weekend before the CFS's annual plenary;
- A CSM Update, prepared and distributed by the CSM Secretariat, and covering key developments in the CSM and CFS over a two- to three-month period;
- An annual summary of CSM activity in a CSM Annual Report, also facilitated and prepared by the CSM Secretariat;
- The CSM Website, maintained and updated by the CSM Secretariat, and providing an extensive repository of information covering every aspect of the CFS's and CSM's functioning; and
- Various manuals and guides produced by the CSM and its participating organizations and other platforms such as the IPC, to support the use and application of CFS outcomes by CSM constituencies (please see Timeline on pages 24 and 25).




Chapter 1: CSM key messages for the CFS 46th Plenary Session

The results of the SOFI Report 2019 are shocking: Hunger is on the rise. Today, almost as many people are undernourished as ten years ago, when the CFS was reformed. Since 2015, the number of people going hungry is growing. The SOFI report confirms what we witness every day in our communities and countries: millions of people are left behind, struggling for their rights and livelihoods, and battling against discrimination, exclusion, land and natural resources-grabbing, market concentration and widening inequalities within and among countries.

The recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) showed that land is under increasing pressure, and the current food system is a key driver of the climate crisis, severely impacting food security. We see unprecedented losses of biodiversity, persistent conflicts and food crises, increasing criminalization of human rights defenders, and violence against women, as poignantly portrayed out in other reports, the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are heading straight for failure, especially SDG2. Accelerate is not the answer – we need to change track. If a train is going the wrong way, speeding up is no solution. Policies need to take a new direction. They need to be people-centered and human rights-based, and they need to respond to today's needs – that is, a profound agroecological transformation of food systems toward food sovereignty and the full realization of the right to adequate food.

The 2021 Food Systems Summit preparations are currently underway. The CSM believes that the CFS must play a central role in preparing this summit, by fully assuming its role as intergovernmental and international political platform in the global architecture of food security and nutrition governance. The CFS vision must be at the core of this summit, as well as the participation of all relevant actors, paying particular attention to the voice of the most affected by hunger and malnutrition. This upcoming CFS Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition must become a cornerstone of the summit. The Guidelines can be promoted through a strong commitment to their implementation.

The CFS Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition present a unique opportunity for member states and other CFS participants to engage in a frank discussion on the various challenges that exist across food systems. Through a holistic approach, linkages can be made with nutrition and other key dimensions of food security and nutrition in the context of the progressive realization of the right to food. The CSM hopes that the Guidelines – once adopted in October 2020 – will provide a clear roadmap toward a systemic transformation of food systems, to make them truly healthy, sustainable, just and responsive to the multiple public objectives and dimensions.

The CFS has developed and adopted policy instruments that can and should drive a shift toward more people- and community-centered public policies. Member states and UN agencies should take greater measures to use and apply CFS policy instruments, and ensure policy coherence and accountability in close cooperation with peasant and smallholder family farmers, agricultural and food workers, Indigenous Peoples, pastoralists, fisherfolks, landless, consumers, women, youth, and the urban food insecure.

The CFS 46th Plenary Session on the International Day of Rural Women was central in promoting women's rights, women's autonomy and gender equality as a transversal priority for the CFS. It reaffirmed the goal to mainstream

CSM Annual Report 2019

Special Section: Spotlight on youth

Facilitation in Practice: Youth Participation and Leadership in the CSM and CFS

Youth from all CSM constituencies and sub-regions are crucial actors in collective struggles to build healthy, sustainable, just, equitable, and dignified food systems. The CSM offers a unique space for youth from participating organisations to engage in food and agriculture policy discussions that affect their lives.

The first timeline on the following page offers a brief history of the CSM Youth Constituency and Working Group. Youth have been present and active in the CSM since its formation in 2010, playing a key role in CFS policy negotiations through the CSM Working Groups, Coordination Committee and the Advisory Group to the CFS. In 2017, the CSM Youth Working Group was formed to create an autonomous space for youth, emphasising their plurality as political subjects with the right to determine their own food and agriculture systems. At the urging of the CSM, in 2018 the CFS agreed to convene a policy process on *"Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems"*. The second timeline below highlights opportunities for youth participation in this process going forward.

During 2019, the Youth Working Group drafted an autonomous Youth Vision Statement to guide their work. In line with the spirit of the CSM mandate to facilitate the participation of the most affected into the work of the CFS, in 2020, the Youth Working Group began reaching out to CSM constituencies and sub-regions to increase participation and representation in the group. As part of this process, CSM youth from social movements, Indigenous Peoples and people's organisations designed and delivered a webinar for new Youth Working Group participants. The webinar provided an important orientation to the CFS and CSM, highlighting the principle of facilitation, and offered critical reflections on the current political climate and opportunities for strategic engagement. As the pandemic led to lockdowns around the globe, the CSM Youth Working Group discussed the devastating impacts of COVID-19, and how young people were responding. Through a participatory process of sharing their struggles, actions, visions and solutions, CSM Youth developed a Declaration on COVID-19: Youth Demands for a Radical Transformation of our Food Systems. The Declaration was presented to CFS member states and the international community at the CFS High Level Virtual Special Event in October 2020, as part of the CSM's wider call for the CFS to lead a global policy response to COVID-19.

Given the systemic challenges youth are facing globally, and the urgent need for a radical transformation of our food systems, creating space for CSM youth to participate in political discussions on these topics is more important than ever. CSM participating organisations and movements have an important role to play in elevating, accompanying and enabling youth voices and leadership in CSM and CFS work. This role involves making space for youth; acknowledging the particular challenges and pressures they face; respecting the plurality of youth identities, experiences, knowledge and aspirations; recognizing that the struggle for the future takes place in the present; providing sustained support and fostering inter-generational exchange to enable youth leadership; and including youth as active participants in every stage of the political processes we work so hard to influence through our collective CSM efforts: from agenda setting, design, discussion and planning, to the implementation, evaluation and monitoring of CFS policy instruments.



CSM Youth Working Group Members

HISTORY OF CSM YOUTH CONSTITUENCY AND WORKING GROUPS

People

2009 – 2013 Kalissa Regier (Canada) and Georg Dixon (India) were involved in many of the CFS policy negotiations, the CSM Coordination Committee and the CSM Advisory Group to the CFS

2015 New coordinators Coly Papa Bakary, (Senegal) and Israel Baetz, (Guatemala) started the process towards a large CSM Youth Constituency

2017 Nasmin Choudhury (India) and Margarita Gomez (Argentina) selected as Youth Working Group co coordinators and facilitation provided by Teresa Maisano (CSM Secretariat)

2018 ——— Nzira de Deus (Mozambique) joins Margarita Gomez as Youth Working Group co-coordinator

Jan 2020 Nadia Lambek (Canada), Julia Spanier (Germany) and Anisah Madden (UK/Australia) join the CSM Youth Working Group as co-facilitators

Activities

Youth have always been present in the CSM as a constituency, participating in all CSM work through their organisations, networks, and movements

2017 Youth Constituency Meeting and **Creation of CSM Youth Working Group**

2019 (October) CSM Youth Side Events at CFS Plenary 46

2019 CFS Plenary approves Youth policy workstream

2018 -19 ——— CSM Youth Vison drafted

Jan 2020 CSM Youth Constituency input into scope of HLPE report on Youth

Aug 2020

1. Preparation of Youth Declaration on COVID-19
2. Preparation of Youth side event for CFS virtual events October 2020
3. Capacity building of Youth WG : Introductory webinar and political formation
4. Preparation for CFS policy process on "Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems"

2009 2015 2017 2018 2019 2020

CFS YOUTH POLICY PROCESS: Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems

Opportunities for CSM Youth Constituency participation, facilitated through CSM Youth Working Group

Proposed* CFS MYPoW Timeline

*may change due to COVID-19

Youth Working Group input into framing of Youth Policy Recommendations for MYPoW 2020-23

CFS discussions on MYPoW 2020-23

Oct 2019 Governments approve MYPoW 2020-23 at CFS Plenary 46

Jan 2020 Youth Working Group input into scope of CFS HLPE Report on Youth

Input into the FAO Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Forum online portal

Jun 2020 HLPE Project Team finalised

Oct 2020 Zero Draft of HLPE report on Youth released

Oct-Dec 2020 Window for comments on Zero Draft of HLPE report on Youth

Input into the FAO Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Forum online portal

2021 HLPE report on Youth released

CSM input into negotiations with governments on content of Youth Policy Recommendations

Negotiations with governments on content of Youth Policy Recommendations

Youth advocacy for and monitoring of the use and application of Youth Policy Recommendations

Oct 2022 governments approve Youth Policy Recommendations at CFS Plenary 50

2019 2020 2021 2022



Appendix 1:
Additional Resources:

CSM Website
http://www.csm4cfs.org

CFS Website
http://www.fao.org/cfs

CFS Reform Document
http://www.fao.org/3/a-k7197e.pdf

Original proposal for the CSM
http://www.fao.org/3/k9215e/k9215e.pdf

CSM Evaluation 2014
http://www.csm4cfs.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/csmevaluation2014externalreport_final_en.pdf

CSM Evaluation 2018
http://www.csm4cfs.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/CSM-Evaluation-Report-2018-ilovepdf-compressed.pdf

Discussion Paper on CSM Facilitation
http://www.csm4cfs.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/CSM__FacilationDiscussionPaper_English_11.2.19.pdf

CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2020 – 2023
http://www.fao.org/3/na703en/na703en.pdf

CSM 'Common Understanding of Facilitation in Principle and Practice'
http://www.csm4cfs.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Common-understanding-of-Facilitation_English_21.1.20.pdf

CSM 'Tasks for a CSM Sub-regional or Constituency Facilitators, being CC members'
http://www.csm4cfs.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/List-of-CC-Tasks_English_21.1.20.pdf

KEY MOMENTS IN OUR INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS

● Global constituency organisations ● Regional grassroots organisations ● Facilitation NGOs
● International platforms ● Declarations

Timeline of Peoples' Organisations, Facilitating NGOs, and Declarations*

1920 IUF: International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations
www.iuf.org/w/

1942 Oxfam International
www.oxfam.org/en

1957 SID: Society for International Development
www.sidint.net/

1960 Consumers International (formerly the International Organisation of Consumers Unions)
www.consumersinternational.org/

1964 FIMARC: International Federation of Rural Adults Catholic Movements
www.fimarc.wordpress.com/

1969 FoEI: Friends of the Earth International
www.foe.org/

1969 Terra Nuova
www.terranuova.org/terra-nuova-en

1972 Action Aid International
www.actionaid.org/

1974 IITC: International Indian Treaty Council
www.iitc.org/

1976 HIC: Habitat International Coalition
www.hic-net.org/

1986 FIAN International
www.fian.org/en/

1989 MAELA: Latin America Agroecological Movement
www.maela-agroecologia.org

1991 PIANGO: Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations
www.piango.org/

1993 LVC: La Vía Campesina
www.viacampesina.org/en/

1994 CLOC-Vía The Latin American Coordination of Rural Organisations
www.cloc-viacampesina.net/

1994 COPROFAM: Confederation of Organizations of Family Farmers of Mercosur
www.coprofam.org/

1995 Focus on the Global South
www.focusweb.org/

1995 WFF: World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers
www.worldfisher-forum.org/

*The list of organizations and networks presented in this timeline does not comprehensively reflect the hundreds of organizations and national platforms participating in the CSM, but the global, international and regional organizations who have played active facilitation roles in the CSM Coordination Committee, Constituencies and Working Groups during past years.

1997 IPACC: The Indigenous Peoples of Africa Co-ordinating Committee
www.ipacc.org.za/

1997 WFFP: World Forum of Fisher Peoples
www.worldforumoffisherpeoples.blogspot.com/

2000 ROPPA: Network of Farmers' and Agricultural Producers' Organisations of West Africa
www.roppa-afrique.org/?lang=fr

2000 WMW: World March of Women
www.marchemondiale.org/

2002 AFA: Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development
www.asianfarmers.org/

2003 APC: Asian Peasant Coalition
www.asianpeasantcoalition.wordpress.com/

2003 WAMIP: World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples
www.wamipglobal.com/

2003 IPC: International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty
www.foodsovereignty.org

2004 PCFS: People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty
www.foodsov.org/

2005 PROPAC: Plateforme Régionale des Organisations Paysannes d'Afrique Centrale
www.infopropac.org/

2007 REDSAN-CPLP
www.redsan-cplp.org/

2007 Nyéleni Declaration on Food Sovereignty
www.nyeleni.org/spip.php?article290

2008 ARWC: Asian Rural Women Coalition
www.asianruralwomen.net/

2008 Urgenci
www.urgenci.net/

2009 ESAFF: Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum
www.esaff.org/index-php/

2010 CSM: Civil Society and Indigenous People's Mechanism
www.csm4cfs.org/the-csm/

2010 IWA: International Women's Alliance
www.intlwomensalliance.org/

2012 Arab Network for Food Sovereignty
www.apnature.org/en/arab-network-food-sovereignty-anfs

2015 Nyéleni Declaration on Agroecology
www.foodsovereignty.org/forum-agroecology-nyeleni-2015-2/

2016 ESAPN: Eastern and Southern African Pastoralists Network
www.pastoralistsesa.org/

CFS Timeline

1974 World Food Conference, creation of the CFS

1996 World Food Summit

2002 World Food Summit +5

2002-4 CFS/FAO Right to Food Guidelines

2009 World Food Summit

2009 CFS Reform

2010 – 2019 CFS policy outcomes

2010 Creation of the CSM

General UN Timeline

1945 establishment of the UN

1945 establishment of the FAO

1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights

1976 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

1976 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

1979 Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

1992 UN Summit on Sustainable Development

1993 UN Summit on Human Rights

1994 Establishment of the World Trade Organisation (WTO)

1995 UN Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing)

1999 UN Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights General Comment 12: Right to Adequate Food

2000 UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

2000 Establishment of UN Special rapporteur

2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

2016 CEDAW General Recommendation 34 on the rights of rural women

2018 UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other People Living in Rural Areas (UNDROP)

Pre-1970 | 1970 | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2010

