

PSM Plenary Session
CFS MULTI YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPoW) 2020-2023

9th February 2021, Rome

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Thank you Chair for the opportunity to provide remarks by the PSM.

I would like to begin by recognizing that this CFS MYPoW began almost at the same moment as this, difficult period of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this, under the Chairman's leadership, the CFS membership, Bureau and CFS and HLPE Secretariats, have continued the agreed work programme and responded to the evolving situation by planning for, not one, but **three** CFS Plenary events this year, and doing so in a continuing inclusive manner. The PSM greatly appreciates the commitment shown by all in implementing the work programme and will continue to be involved in all aspects and workstreams.

The on-going work programme is part of the new 4-year MYPoW that was agreed by the Plenary, following the recommendations of the CFS evaluation. The decision to have 4-year programme has allowed us all to focus on both the agreed workstreams without having to reconvene to develop a new MYPoW. It has also allowed us to adapt that programme to allow for the extensive work done on the Covid pandemic, and our appreciation to the HLPE for leading that piece of work.

The evaluation of CFS also highlighted the need for the CFS to deliver impactful, relevant products at country level. We are clearly making progress with the work on the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and

Nutrition almost concluded, the work on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches moving towards negotiation in the coming months.

The workstream on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment should begin following the anticipated approval of the Terms of Reference later today.

This will allow us to take forward the rolling programme of the MYPoW. As we turn our heads to Youth Engagement and Employment we remind that the Report should 'Explore the potential of food systems and enhanced rural-urban linkages to provide more and better jobs for women and youth'. The PSM supports that emphasis on the opportunities and dynamics for income earning opportunities, and employment for youth. This will mean promoting private sector development, investments, and value chain development to generating more and better jobs for the youth.

The PSM also looks forward to contributing to the planned intersessional events on Data Collection and Analysis and Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition. Both are themes that are already being explored by the preparatory work of the Food Systems Summit and these are therefore CFS products which will facilitate the implementation of the Summit's outcomes. Combined with 3 plenaries and several negotiations, this will be a high demand on CFS time.

The PSM therefore endorses the decisions being put before CFS membership today and encourages CFS to implement the MYPoW in the order to which it was agreed and to remain tightly aligned to the ambitious number of workstreams that lay before us. Now is a time for CFS to remain

focused not on more products, but high quality, effective ones that can help advance global food security.

Thank you.