

**Submission of the United States of America for the  
CFS Workstream on the Uptake of CFS Policy Products  
January 19, 2023**

**1. Could you share your expectations in terms of desired outcomes and areas of work of this CFS workstream?**

- a. Concrete and achievable recommendations for CFS to consider adopting to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and value-add of CFS products.
- b. Recommendations that help the Committee focus more time and attention on the quality of CFS products and give CFS more time to be intentional about the recommendations and guidelines that CFS members develop and bring in high level technical expertise to back those recommendations/guidelines.
- c. Recommendations that strengthen the value of CFS policy products at every stage of their development, including due consideration of inclusion in the MYPoW, the content, the length, etc. The discussion should not only be focused on improving the uptake of the work, but also on reviewing the structure and purpose of the documents.
- d. An action plan that serves as a clear roadmap for implementation that allows for an effective and pragmatic discussion about the quality and uptake of CFS products.
- e. Consideration of how inertia in the Committee may limit uptake of CFS products. Significant time is spent on negotiating policy products without reflecting on or ensuring their value. In FAO, we do negotiate Codes of Conduct, Strategies, Action Plans, voluntary guidelines. But they are demand driven--i.e. members decide they need certain products and then begin a process to develop them. It is not something that is done on a permanent basis. There is prioritization. CFS, on the other hand, has become a permanent negotiating body that is not demand driven.
- f. *Important question:* How relevant are the recommendations and guidelines to those that we are sharing them with? We have heard members lament the lack of uptake by stakeholders and heard suggestions that there needs to be accountability to countries or policymakers to use these products, but that gets this backwards. We as members must be developing tools that are helpful for stakeholders, not demanding that they use the tools that we develop.

**2. Could you indicate the main elements that would be important to include in the Action Plan?**

- a. Recommendations that strengthen the value of CFS policy products at every stage of their development, including due consideration of inclusion in the MYPoW, the content, the length, etc. The discussion should not only be focused

on improving the uptake of the work, but also on reviewing the structure and purpose of the documents.

- b. The role of all actors in supporting the value-add, utility, and uptake of CFS products, including the Chair, the Bureau, the Secretariat, the private sector and civil society.
  - c. Consideration/assessment of whether CFS has the right expertise across all of the policy convergences to be drafting their recommendations and guidelines? How can we be sure?
  - d. A review/consideration of how the process has changed over time for developing policy products. Has process led to improved documents, or documents that are used by more policymakers? Does it always follow that members should negotiate a policy product following an HLPE report? Or is there a basis in using it as a point for debate and discussion? This could include a review of relevant portions of the 2017 independent evaluation to identify ways in which the historical role and work of CFS over time has impacted the uptake of CFS products.
  - e. Recommendations on how to address funding associated with a policy convergence and what funding is needed to facilitate CFS uptake and the appropriate role of CFS in that regard. CFS should identify funding for all policy convergence (recommendations or voluntary guidelines), to financially support the dissemination, communication, and uptake of the work following approval by CFS members. Land tenure is a good example of a successful product and its uptake. The World Bank contributed to funding the uptake and this tends to be the one most often discussed as a success.
  - f. A monitoring and evaluation framework that includes an assessment of the utility of CFS products for the various CFS stakeholders, to be conducted a set period of time after the release of each product.
  - g. Discussion and recommendations that help CFS better understand whether the recommendations/guidelines of the policy products are relevant, actionable, and implementable.
- 3. Could you present concrete examples of uptake activities carried out by your constituency, including indications on their impact, challenges encountered as well as areas for improvement?**
- a. n/a