

Participation for improved policy making: An examination of policy roundtable negotiations in the reformed Committee on World Food Security

Jessica Duncan
Centre for Food Policy
City University London

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Overview

- Context: Food Policy & Global Governance
 - Democratic deficit, participation, accountability, legitimacy
- Reform of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS): 2 main objectives
 - Increase participation
 - **Civil Society**, Private Sector, Philanthropic Foundations, Research Institutes, International Financial Mechanisms
 - Policy output
 - Policy roundtables
- **How does this work in practice?**
- **How does increased/improved participation impact policy outcomes?**

Committee on World Food Security

- 1974: Established upon recommendation of the World Food Conference (response to 1970s food crisis)
- 2009: Reform document adopted. Seeks to address calls for greater coordination and cohesion of food security policies (response to 2007-8 food crisis)
- 2010: First Session of the Renewed CFS (CFS36)
- Emerging consensus that the CFS is the forum for discussion and debate on global food security governance

(Ambitious) Vision of the CFS

“To constitute the foremost **inclusive international and intergovernmental platform** for a broad range of committed **stakeholders** to work together in a **coordinated** manner and in support of country-led processes towards the elimination of hunger and **ensuring food security** and nutrition for all human beings”

“Its composition will ensure that the voices of all relevant stakeholders – particularly those most affected by food insecurity - are heard.”



Key Issues Addressed by the CFS

CFS	Issue
36 (2010)	Addressing food insecurity in protracted crises: Issues and Challenges
	Land tenure and international investment in agriculture
	Managing vulnerability and risk to promote better food security and nutrition
37 (2011)	How to increase food security and smallholder-sensitive investment in agriculture
	Gender, Food Security and Nutrition
	Food Price Volatility
	Methods for calculating number of food insecure
38 th Extraordinary Session (2012)	Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security
39 (2012)	Climate Change
	Social Protection
	Global Strategic Framework
	Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment

Note these are politically charged/sensitive issues = evidence of impact of participation

Civil Society Mechanism (CSM)

Challenge: How do you coordinate a global civil society in all its diversity?

- Autonomous network of actors guided by set principles that facilitate communication, discussion & participation
- The CSM facilitates local struggles into political processes
- Open to all CSOs working on food security
- Prioritize voices of social movements over NGOs
- Builds on history of engagement (esp. IPC)

www.csm4cfs.org



CFS Policy Roundtables

- Policy roundtables **function** “to support the CFS’s role to promote greater **policy convergence** and coordination”
- Includes the “development of international **strategies** ... on the basis of **best practices**, lessons learned from **local experience**, input received from national and regional levels, and expert advice and opinions from different **stakeholders**”
- The **objective** “is to arrive at concrete recommendations for consideration by the Committee... with a view to the formulation of **actionable recommendations**”
- Included in a Global Strategic Framework: one-stop policy shop

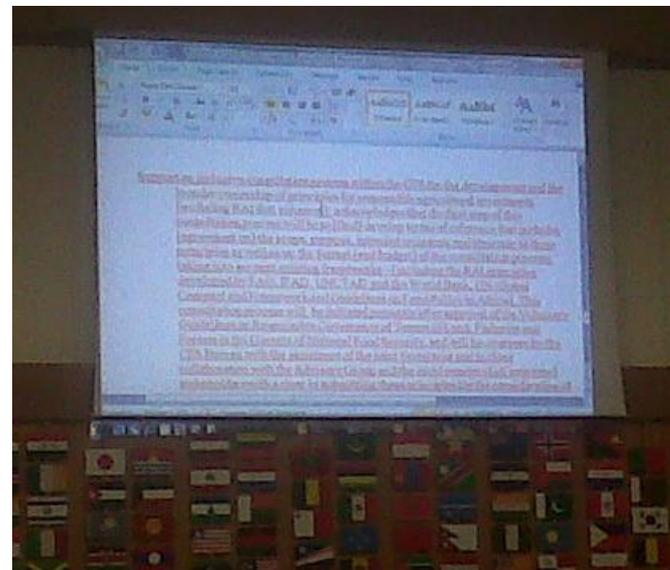
Matters to be brought to the attention of CFS

The Committee:

- i. Stresses the need for concerted international efforts to address the structural causes of food price volatility and ensure that its impacts do not undermine poor producers and consumers' right to food
- ii. Welcomes the report of the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) on Price Volatility and Food Security and recommend its consideration by all stakeholders*
- iii. Welcomes the Action Plan on Food Price Volatility and Agriculture of the G20 as a positive effort to address a number of the main causes and implications of food price volatility and recommends its endorsement by the G20 Summit to be held in November 2011
- iv. Urges stakeholders to take into account the assessment by FAO and other international organizations of the positive and negative effects of different policy responses to high and volatile food prices, as discussed in the series of regional and subregional consultations organized by FAO in 2011:
 - Actions to increase food production and availability and enhance resiliency to shocks*
 - a. Increase stable and sustainable public and private investment to boost agricultural productivity and rural development, with particular attention to smallholder agriculture
 - b. Promote a significant expansion in funding for agricultural research and development, including by strengthening the current reform process of the CGIAR, supporting national research systems, and promoting technology transfer, knowledge sharing and capacity building through cooperation
 - c. Support the development, or review, by Member Countries, of comprehensive national food security strategies which are inclusive of civil society and farmers' organizations and combine a range of policies across several sectors
 - d. Urge Member Countries to explore incentives to reduce waste in the food system, including addressing post harvest losses
 - Actions to reduce volatility*
 - e. Support the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) to enhance food market information and transparency, and urge the participating international organizations, major private sector actors and governments to ensure the dissemination of timely and quality food market information products
 - f. Acknowledging the need for countries to better coordinate responses in times of food price crises, support the establishment of the AMIS Rapid Policy Response Forum and request the CFS Bureau to decide upon and implement a mechanism for collaboration between that Forum and CFS
 - g. Improve transparency, regulation and supervision of agricultural derivative markets
 - h. Noting that a fair and predictable international trade in food is crucial for reducing excessive price volatility, maintain focus on building a transparent, accountable, fair and rules-based multilateral trading system taking into account food security concerns and, in that context, support the conclusion of the Doha Development Round
 - i. Encourage reforms so that renewable fuels and feed stocks can be produced where it is economically, environmentally and socially feasible to do so, and traded more freely and recommend the development of contingency plans to

Decision Box from Food Price Volatility Background Paper

- This draft text provides the starting point for negotiations
- Participants can engage up to the point of consensus: only member states vote as they are accountable



Smallholder-sensitive investment in agriculture

- **What:** For 30 years, investment in agriculture has been steadily declining, due in part to a growing perception that agriculture was unprofitable (top down)

OR

The food consumed by over 70% of the population of the world is produced by small-scale food producers. Food producers are the #1 investors in agriculture (bottom up)

- **CSO Concerns:** Smallholder versus small-scale, corporate focus, context of land grab
- **Key Areas of Focus:** Support small-scale food production; protect it from corporate take over; re-focus decision box on food security and small-scale food production; monitoring and accountability; inclusive consultation process.
- **Outcome:** Civil society actors had an important impact

CSO Perspective on Investment

- “When you talk about investment, you have to ask **who needs investment and who is investing**. The trickle-down theory of investment affects us adversely and is grabbing land from the poor... **Investment is linked to the land** and those who do not have title to land, fisherfolk and pastoralists, for example, do not benefit from investment. They are completely **left out** of systems of investment.”
- “When we talk about investment, we are talking about **farmers investing in the land** and this is not the same logic as multinational corporations investing in large plots of land.”
- “This means **farmer empowerment and the development of systems that allow for farmers to invest** where they need to invest in order to control their livelihoods.”

(field notes, May 2012, Cordoba).

Negotiating New Language

Draft Text

- “Recognizes that the bulk of investment in agriculture is undertaken by a multiplicity of private actors, **in particular farmers themselves**, their cooperatives and other rural enterprises”

Final Recommendation

- “Recognizes that the bulk of investment in agriculture is **undertaken by farmers and smallholders themselves**, their cooperatives and other rural enterprises with the rest being provided by a multiplicity of private actors as well as **governments**”

Food Price Volatility

- **What:** The price spikes in 2008 pushed an additional 80 million people into hunger. Number of hungry reached 1 billion. On going
- **CSO concerns and areas of focus:** Food reserves, financial speculation, biofuels, dominance of the G20 agenda
- **Challenges:** Timing, process (exclusion)
- **Outcome:** G20 had a major influence on the outcome. Dominated by a G20 agenda: actions v. recommendations. Positivist discourse. CSOs walked out. A few wins, e.g., food reserves included as an instrument for mitigating FPV & recognised as playing a role in emergencies

Civil Society Reflections

- “The decision box was re-crafted in a way that **failed to adequately address the root causes** ... the **CFS has been co-opted by the G20 agenda** (CSM Working Group Food Price Volatility 2011:para 4).
- “Civil Society is concerned about this trend for two reasons. Firstly, it is **incoherent with the vision of the CFS** as an inclusive platform... Secondly, the G20 plan itself has also proven woefully **inadequate** to prevent the recurrence of price spikes... By **neglecting to include changes to long term structural issues**, the G20 Action Plan fails to prevent food price volatility or ensure food security for all” (Field Notes, October 2012, Rome).

Conclusions

- The CFS represents a forum with the potential to change the way food security policy is framed by changing who defines the topics and who participates in the debates
- **Through the CSM-CFS, social movements translate their struggles into broader political processes**
- The impact of civil society engagement has broadened the scope of debate within the CFS and expanded the scope of policies coming out of the CFS
- CFS is not immune to power politics
- CFS remains weak on technical and “big politics” issue; less willing to step back from a business-as-usual approach, here CSOs have less influence and legitimacy
- **So what if the policies are not taken up and implemented at regional and national level? (Future research)**

Thank you



View presentation and paper:

foodgovernance.com

jessicabrownduncan@gmail.com