



COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

Fifty-first Session

"Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition"

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PROPOSAL FOR MODALITIES FOR A PHILANTHROPIC FOUNDATIONS MECHANISM FOR RELATIONS WITH THE CFS

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This document has been prepared by the Agroecology Fund, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Global Alliance for the Future of Food. It does not necessarily reflect the views of the CFS, its Bureau or Secretariat.

I. BACKGROUND

1. As foreseen in the CFS Reform Document: “Private sector associations, **private philanthropic organizations** and other CFS stakeholders active in areas related to food security, nutrition, and the right to food are encouraged to **autonomously establish and maintain a permanent coordination mechanism for participation in the CFS** and for actions derived from that participation at global, regional and national levels. They are invited to communicate a proposal to that effect to the CFS Bureau”. (CFS: 2009/2 Rev. 2, para 17).
2. The CFS structure is comprised of the Plenary, the Bureau and its Advisory Group, the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN), and the Secretariat. The Advisory Group – appointed every two years by the Bureau – is composed of representatives of FAO, WFP and IFAD and other non-Member CFS Participants that include, among others, Philanthropic Foundations. Its function is to provide input to the Bureau regarding the range of tasks which the CFS Plenary has instructed it to perform (CFS:2009/2 Rev.2, paras 11, 19 and 32).
3. The modalities described in this document represent an arrangement of three private philanthropic organizations - the Agroecology Fund, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Global Alliance for the Future of Food - to establish an autonomous mechanism for participation in CFS activities, discussions and negotiations, as well as for provision of inputs to Members’ decision-making.

II. THE PHILANTHROPIC FOUNDATIONS MECHANISM - PFM

A. Role and Functions

4. The essential role of the Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism (PFM) is to coordinate the participation of philanthropic organizations in the work of the CFS, including input to negotiations, input to consultations, contributions to the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN).
5. In order to fulfill its coordination role, the PFM will perform a series of functions, including, *inter alia*, i) exchanging of CFS information, analysis and experience; ii) developing common positions as appropriate; iii) communicating to the CFS and, as appropriate, its Bureau through representatives designated by its Coordination Committee (see para. 11); iv) convening a philanthropic organizations forum and/or other events before and in conjunction with CFS sessions.
6. The PFM will participate in both inter-sessional activities and the CFS Plenary Sessions.

B. Organizing Principles

7. The three organizations constituting this PFM remain committed to maintain this Mechanism open to additional membership. Philanthropic foundations working on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) that are not part of their respective networks and who do not have commercial interests in the outcomes of their giving are eligible to join the mechanism in annual periodical reviews, conducted during the fourth quarter of the year to discuss progress and review membership. The Coordination Committee will establish eligibility protocols (e.g. based on the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems) for membership in the Philanthropic Foundations Mechanism (PFM). These will be transparently disclosed on the PFM website.
8. The PFM will develop an outreach strategy to actively communicate its constitution to networks of funders and private philanthropic organizations.
9. Statements and submissions shall represent the maximum consensus possible, be respectful, and constructive. Where consensus is not possible, the PFM might either express a range of different

positions from its constituencies in issues where common positions are not achieved, or remain silent on the issue.

C. Governance and Structure

10. The PFM is composed of one Coordination Committee with representatives from each philanthropic organization. The Coordination Committee is responsible for ensuring that the functions of the PFM are carried out as effectively as possible and according to the organizing principles. The Coordination Committee will meet regularly and will make decisions on the functioning of the PFM.

11. One of the philanthropic organizations will lead the Coordination Committee in a rotating period of 1 year. The Lead Philanthropy of the Coordination Committee will be responsible for chairing the Committee periodical meetings, its annual meeting and philanthropic organizations forum, and for supervising the work of a shared Consultant – Liaison Advisor, which will serve as a focal point for all communications with the CFS.

12. The Consultant supports the Coordination Committee by, among other duties, attending CFS' Advisory Group, Bureau meetings, and other intersessional CFS activities, and tracking key processes and decisions that require Advisory Group input and, or, input from the Coordination Committee. The Consultant is also responsible for communicating relevant information to all parties of the PFM.

13. The Consultant is selected in a hiring process inclusive of all organizations' members of the PFM. The Lead Philanthropy organizes the recruitment process and directly supervises the Consultant.

D. Meetings

14. The Lead Philanthropy facilitates the organization of at least one Philanthropic Foundations meeting every year; if possible and strategic, around the annual CFS Plenary. The meeting will be open to the members of the PFM and guest invitees. The meeting will provide an important occasion for exchanging information, discussing priority food security and nutrition issues, identifying priorities for philanthropic foundations advocacy and, eventually deliberating common positions to be taken to the annual CFS Plenary.

E. Communications

15. The Lead Philanthropy is responsible, with the support of the Consultant, for maintaining a mailing list and an official PFM website in English, where all relevant documentation, such as report of meetings, statements, inputs to consultation, side event proposals, etc. are openly accessible for transparency and accountability (see Section II.E). Any interested organizations can sign up and receive communication.

16. The PFM will develop an outreach communication strategy for announcing its activities and developments to all CFS participants (Bureau, Members, CSIPM, PSM, other participants and observers) and to the general public.

F. Accountability and Evaluation

17. Elements of accountability:

- The Coordination Committee will be accountable for all philanthropic organization members of the PFM on to one hand, and to the CFS on the other;
- The website and other communications pieces circulated by PFM will facilitate and encourage transparency and accountability of PFM actions. It will contain information on, among other:

- I. Contact information from the current Consultant and Lead Philanthropy;
- II. Contact information from the Coordination Committee and all philanthropic organizations;
- III. Relevant dates, agendas, and consultations;
- IV. Statements, inputs, contributions, and recommendations to the CFS, including contributions to the HLPE;
- V. Dates of periodical meetings, annual philanthropic organizations forum, and means of participation.

18. The Lead Philanthropy of the current year, in collaboration with the Coordination Committee, will be responsible for organizing an Annual Review and Evaluation of the PFM in the fourth quarter of the year where members of the PFM will assess its performance, achievements, and points of improvement. On this occasion, a new Lead Philanthropy will be chosen, and admission of new members will be assessed, if any.