

THE HIGH LEVEL PANEL OF EXPERTS on FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION (HLPE)

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FACCE JPI Workshop, Dublin, 13th July 2012

Renewed CFS's : key new elements



1. An “inclusive” CFS: Governments + civil society, producer, private sector, intl. organizations (including trade and finance, WTO, IMF), organizations and research systems (CG and national), foundations;

>>Advisory Group

2. The HLPE, an independent expertise process for analysis and advice to the CFS

>> New “informed” intl governance

>> inclusiveness goes hand in hand with renewed expertise they are complementary.

>> Importance of an open and complete (honest) process

Why the HLPE ?

Many analyses, need for a synthesis that confronts them

Need of a starting point for analysis and advice

Crisis has revealed the need of a watchman a sentinel that looks at problems ahead or overlooked problems

>> 3 functions of the HLPE (CFS 2009)

HLPE Functions (as per the CFS)



- (I) Assess and analyze the current state of food security and nutrition and its underlying causes.
- (ii) Provide scientific and knowledge-based analysis and advice on specific policy-relevant issues, utilizing existing high quality research, data and technical studies.
- (iii) Identify emerging issues, and help members prioritize future actions and attentions on key focal areas.

Key attributes of the HLPE



- Created, appointed, mandated by the CFS but working independently
- The HLPE has to address the multidisciplinary complexity of food security: many possible topics, none can be addressed within a single discipline
- Demand-driven, tight agenda, present status of knowledge
- Works in a transparent and open way, in particular openness to various forms of knowledge.

The HLPE as an interface

How does the HLPE work?

What is its structure?

Both respond to two purposes:

- I) Work as a demand driven interface, but independent
- II) Be able to treat a multiplicity of topics linked to food security and that are
 - all complex
 - all requiring a multidisciplinary approach
 - potentially very diverse

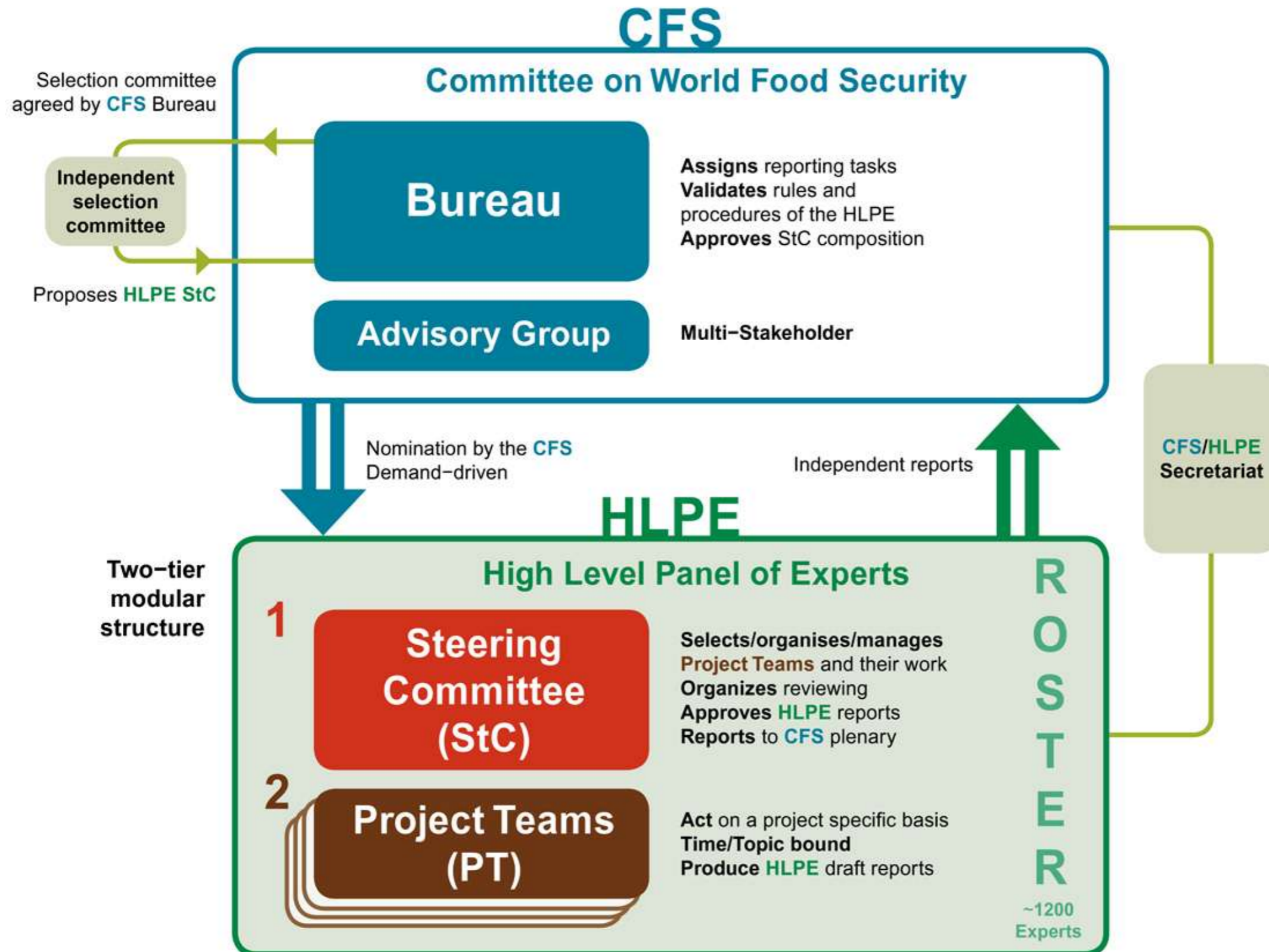
An infinite suite of topics

Food Security: the eye of the storm (Shaw, 2007)

- all topics are complex
- all require multidisciplinary approach



The HLPE and the CFS



“Demand-driven” and goals of efficiency, openness, transparency, rigor and scientific legitimacy.

1. The CFS defines the mandate of the HLPE:
2. HLPE Steering Committee:
 - Defines the scope of the study
 - Appoints the Project Team
3. Open Public Consultations (scoping, V0)
4. External scientific evidence-based review
5. Approval of reports by the Steering Committee
6. Publication of reports and feeding into CFS (Bureau, Advisory Group, Plenary)

What makes HLPE's reports different

From other scientific reports

- Demand driven
- Answering a political question, often a “burning” issue (urgency)
- Has to provide information, no “need more research”
- Has to provide recommendations

From other documents produced by international organizations

- Do not avoid controversies
- Do not avoid difficult topics (no “political” review)
- Not limited by the mandate of the organization

Food Security and Climate Change



- 1 Impacts of CC on Food and Nutrition Security today :
assessing Vulnerability
- 2 Assessing impacts of CC on Food and Nutrition
Security tomorrow : plausible Scenarios of the Future
- 3 Adaptation : response options for Food Security
challenges from CC
- 4 Agriculture and GHG emissions : Mitigation options with
Food Security synergies
- 5 Coordination and coherence of Food Security and CC
Policies and Actions

Recommendations

- 1 **Integrate** food security and climate change concerns
- 2 **Increase resilience** of food systems to climate change
- 3 Develop **low-emissions agricultural strategies** that do not compromise food security
- 4 **Collect information locally, share knowledge globally, and refocus research** to address a more complex set of objectives
- 5 **Facilitate participation of all stakeholders** in decision making and implementation

Recommendations on Research

Better international data collection and sharing :

- **biophysical**
- **monitor** practices and performance
- Improve **information about vulnerable communities**
populations and regions
- Improve **models**

Refocus research to address a more complex set of objectives:

- adaptation
- mitigation and food security
- involve farmers to understand their needs

Assess and compare farming systems

Some fields of interest :

- neglected crops, fruits and vegetables
- effects of stress combinations
- biodiversity and agrosystems' efficiency

HLPE work program

Published July 2011,
CFS debates in 2011



Published July 2012,
CFS debates in 2012



For CFS 2013

Biofuels and food security



Investments into
smallholder farming

Potential collaborations



- The HLPE uses best available knowledge and science
- Recruits its Project Teams and experts where they are
- Can bring to the attention of the CFS important topics and emerging issues

as per example the report on CC with a focus on genetic resources/intellectual property rights/CC

More information



www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe