

Private Sector Mechanism Position Paper
January 2017

ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- 1) The Sustainable Development Goals set the international development agenda until 2030, and all stakeholders must mobilize to ensure their achievement.**
 - a. The SDGs represent a cross-cutting strategy to "eradicate extreme poverty", using an integrated approach to address all three aspects of development: economic, environmental, and social.
 - b. The CFS must ensure that its work is aligned with and relevant to ongoing SDG (or other UN) processes and multi-stakeholder partnerships, as well as draw attention to the vital contribution CFS activities can make to them.
 - c. The SDGs touch every single person on the planet with the stated intent to leave no one behind. No organization (whether public, private, or other) can afford to stand on the sidelines.

- 2) Agriculture is an engine for inclusive economic growth and will be essential to achieving the SDGs.**
 - a. Agriculture constitutes the basis of the livelihoods of many of the most vulnerable populations and the backbone of rural economies.
 - b. Investing in agriculture should be addressed by taking into account other challenges covered by the SDGs beyond Goal 2, including climate change, water and energy use, and unsustainable production and consumption.
 - c. The CFS must leverage its position to ensure that the role of agriculture in achieving the SDGs is given appropriate recognition, and is not neglected in other SDG processes.

- 3) Improved food security and nutrition will be necessary to achieve the SDGs**
 - a. Food security and nutrition security is achieved when all people have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food for a healthy balanced diet which is critical to economic growth and social progress in developing countries. Food security is an indication not only of the numbers of the hungry, but also of long term development prospects.
 - b. Advances in food security, including increased supply due to improvements in food safety and production, will therefore have relevant impacts on a much larger number of SDGs than simply Goal 2, including those related to ending poverty, bettering public health, and fostering economic growth.
 - c. Therefore, the CFS and its products can play an extremely important role in achieving the SDGs by emphasizing the significance of food security and nutrition and working towards effective tools and partnerships to achieve it.
 - d. The Private Sector Mechanism (PSM) encourages CFS and all CFS stakeholders to recognize and build on the value of open, transparent, rules-based trade policies that foster market integration, create resilient food systems and enhance food security.

4) The SDGs cannot be achieved without progress on nutritional outcomes.

- a. Ensuring adequate and reliable access to diverse, affordable, safe, and nutritious diets is a key component for Goal 2, but is also relevant for many broader development aims.
- b. Private sector contributions and partnerships have helped, and will continue to help embed nutrition-specific interventions, crop diversification and nutrition-sensitive innovations, policies and programs throughout food systems.
- c. The CFS cannot allow nutritional issues to be sidelined in the SDG processes, and should ensure that they are given an appropriate level of attention.

5) A strong commitment to global partnership and cooperation is required to help in the full realization of the SDGs.

- a. As the foundation of the SDGs, all efforts to achieve the SDGs must be framed around, and must strive for the 5 Ps: people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnerships.
- b. Effective partnerships between government, the private sector, and civil society are particularly useful in addressing complex and interconnected challenges through the value chain, which cannot be successfully addressed by a single actor.
- c. As a unique multi-stakeholder platform, the CFS is exceptionally well-suited to fostering innovative partnerships among development actors and highlighting their achievements.

6) Business has a key role to play in achieving the SDGs and is already implementing the Agenda 2030.

- a. Private sector actors have undertaken a large number of projects to further the SDGs, and have attempted to include them in their operating frameworks. This engagement can only expand in future.
- b. The private sector is engaged in many large-scale coordination initiatives to build trust across supply chains, ensure that business contributions to the SDGs remain positive and coherent.
- c. Advancements by business in technology and precision agriculture will aid in the development of new business models, the advancement of sustainable production and consumption practices, the tracking of data and enablement of data driven decision-making, knowledge transfer and capacity building – all of which will contribute to the delivery of Agenda 2030.

7) Successful implementation of Agenda 2030 will depend on the application of effective and appropriate indicators

- a. Indicators are an essential tool for tracking progress and identifying successful approaches towards achieving the SDGs.
- b. Indicators must reflect and simplify the complexity and multi-dimensionality of development issues, and be flexible enough to be operationalized in a variety of differing contexts. Some indicators (such as those for target 2.4) have not been resolved, and this process will require the careful and concerted effort of all stakeholders.

- c. All stakeholders have a role to play in monitoring indicators. Business and civil society are often able to bridge eventual data gaps that may exist in government sources.

8) Good governance is fundamental to achieving the SDGs.

- a. The CFS should strive to include the targets laid out in Goals 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and 17 (partnerships for the SDGs) in all aspects of CFS work and outputs.
- b. CFS recommendations should emphasize the rule of law and well-functioning national institutions, in particular to reduce corruption and informality of people. They should also promote policies that encourage government, business, and civil society to share and adopt best practices in governance.
- c. CFS recommendations should promote policies that protect and promote human rights including: democratic values, independent courts, free speech, and individual liberty.

9) CFS should promote the uptake of its main products in the context of the SDGs.

- a. As major products of the CFS, the Principles on Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI), the Voluntary Guidelines on Governance of Tenure (VGGT), and the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition Protracted Crises (FFA) represent important resources for the achievement of the SDGs.
- b. The CFS must raise awareness of these resources, and encourage all stakeholders to implement activities related to the SDGs.

10) Approaches to fulfil the SDGs must not only be integrated, but also inclusive.

- a. Synergistic solutions must be sought, recognising the interconnectedness of distinct environments and populations. For example, projects cannot focus on rural issues without recognizing the impact they have on urban areas, or focus on producers at the expense consumers.
- b. Projects must include all voices, including those of women, youth, indigenous peoples and the elderly. In order to be successful, farmers and SMEs (small and medium enterprises) must be included in policies and programmes at every stage, from development to implementation.
- c. Crosscutting challenges require holistic solutions at the nexus of development issues that create positive impacts at several levels.