

Coming to Terms with Terminology

Food Security

Nutrition Security

Food Security and Nutrition

Food and Nutrition Security

Presented by: UNSCN Executive Secretary

16 October 2012

The Request

The 37th Session of CFS

called on the Bureau, in consultation with the Advisory Group and joint Secretariat, as well as with relevant international organizations, in particular WHO and UNICEF to propose options on the meaning and different uses, if any, of the terms to the CFS Session for the standardization of the official terminology that the Committee should use .

(CFS37 Final Report, 2011).

Significance of the Request

- Policy makers and practitioners encounter problems
 - Different formulations and concepts used, lack of consistency.
- Prevents meaningful discussions on how best to achieve food security and improved nutrition.

Process followed in 2012

January : Concept note presented to Open Ended Working Group

Feb–Apr: Task Team developed Zero Draft

May : Consultation process with AG and Bureau members

June : Revision of draft document

July : Presentation of revised document to CFS AG + Bureau

August : Online consultation on CFS, FSN and UNSCN websites

Sept : Revision 2 and presentation to CFS AG + Bureau

Finalization of document for CFS 39

Oct : Presentation of outcome in CFS 39 Plenary Session

Key Messages

- Terms under discussion have evolved over time,
- Are based on different perspectives by leading professional communities of practice,
- There is wide recognition of
 - the four dimensions of food security - availability, access, utilization and stability - and
 - the three main determinants of nutrition security - access to food, care and feeding, and health and sanitation.

Key Messages

- Mutual agreement on acceptance of a common term,
- Will facilitate future communication, decisions and actions
- To achieve our common goal:

The end of food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition for the people we serve

Recommendations (decision box)

It is proposed that the Committee

- (i) Recognises long history and evolution of meaning and use of the terms
- (ii) Acknowledges as best conceptual option the combined term “food and nutrition security”
- (iii) Recognizes that the following issues need further explorations:
 - policy implications for countries
 - potential implications for CFS mandate
 - linguistic considerations
- (iv) Recommends that further work to be carried out to address these and results to be presented to the CFS plenary

COMING TO TERMS WITH TERMINOLOGY



Thank you

Proposed definition (para 33) ‘Food and Nutrition Security’

“Food and nutrition security exists when all people at all times have physical, social and economic access to food, which is safe and consumed in sufficient quantity and quality to meet their dietary needs and food preferences, and is supported by an environment of adequate sanitation, health services and care, allowing for a healthy and active life.”