

Written inputs from the European Union regarding the draft TORs for CFS policy work on Nutrition

1. The Terms of Reference and the work ahead would greatly benefit if a document would exist (e.g. as annex to the TOR) on relevant 'guidance' that already exists in the world on the broad field of 'food systems and nutrition', e.g. developed by WHO, WHA, UNICEF, UNSCN etc. I expect that the task team can be of great assistance in such an exercise.
2. 'Quality of recommendations is more important than speed'. I am happy to see this also appears in the outcome document of the meeting.
3. In the work ahead, it is important that, while addressing all forms of malnutrition, the core orientation of the CFS (covering more in particular undernourishment, micronutrient deficiencies, stunting etc.) is adequately reflected and emphasised.
4. Whether we work on the basis of 'food systems with restrictions' or 'food environments with coverage of food supply and consumer questions' may in practice make not that much difference. Point is that all relevant aspects from production to consumption would need coverage. To me, the core issue is that the work should be directed towards questions of increasing food diversity and healthy dietary options for all (producers and consumers alike, with a specific emphasis on vulnerable groups)

Furthermore, I would like to add the following remarks/suggestions:

- The para on “landscape and dietary diversity” (under availability and physical access) needs elaborating further; a policy-relevant area is to generate data on individual dietary diversity (disaggregated by age and gender) so that there is a much better understanding (by policy-makers) of how different elements of food systems contribute to a better quality diet. This represents a major gap in policy in many high burden countries.
- The proposed scope of the TOR lists “policy relevant areas” under each of the four dimensions of food environments. Key policy areas excluded are: (i) access to and control over land (linked to the VGGT – one would need at least cross-referencing); (ii) women’s empowerment and gender equity; and (iii) the rights based approach to food and nutrition security. Economic dimensions (related to causes that limit access) need adequate treatment; they can be supplemented but not replaced by social protection issues.