

Question 1. Would you agree with the proposed approach which uses food environments as the entry point for policy intervention?

France could agree with the proposed approach that means entering by the food environments. But with two conditions:

1/ That the different elements of the environment been discussed without neglecting the question of the role of the actors in the food system. That means identifying the actors with their constraints and their room for maneuver, questioning who have built these environments, tackling the issue of the balance of power between the actors. That will make it possible to understand how these environments can or cannot evolve.

Indeed the food environment is an entry point that allows to start the discussion without addressing the most difficult issues from the start, but that is restrictive. It is an entry point that focuses attention on the relationship between supply and demand but we must be aware that it does not allow tackling issues like:

- The practices and strategies of supply players that have led to the construction of food environments which are more or less favorable to nutrition.
- Power asymmetries, within value chains (between farmers and processors or distributors) and at each stage of these chains (between small and large companies).
- The regulations of the system by the public authorities, the questions of governance, political influences between actors.

It is important to consider the structural causes of malnutrition and the entire value chain of food systems including aspects of food production and diversification. Employment and income, health, cultural and lifestyle issues are also essential.

The elaboration process should be preceded by an inventory and analysis of already existing international and even regional guidelines on nutrition and food systems, principles and standards so as not to duplicate the work and take into account of these documents as appropriate.

A diagnosis of the causes of current situations, with a mapping of the actors and the balance of power between them could be even done before starting the process.

2/ Because food systems' entry point will allow us to address the nutrition issue in a more holistic way and not only through the behavior of consumers and their environment, we would like to consider developing policy guidelines with several steps, beginning with the entry food environments, but defining a clear timeline that also allow us to address other aspects of food systems.

We are much attached to have a development process very inclusive, based on inclusive consultations (public and private sectors, civil society, academia and research), and carried out at different levels (national, regional and global).

- As such, the CFS is a relevant forum for discussion at the global level.
- At the national level, the multi-stakeholder platforms set up in the countries adhering to Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) could be mobilized.

The development process will need to build on similar processes that have resulted in concrete, quality guidelines such as VGGTs.

Furthermore it would be a challenge for the CFS. The development of an ambitious product would also relaunch a positive dynamic for the CFS. The multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder dimension of

the topic can also give visibility to the CFS by involving actors that are unusual in this context.

Question 3. Would you agree with proposed policy-relevant areas? Do you suggest any additions or amendments?

- The conceptual framework proposed in the HLPE report is indeed a functional framework. It identifies the steps that make the food system work (production, processing, consumption, etc.). But it neglects the fact that actors at every stage are not only functional: they are not just farmers, processors, distributors or consumers. They also have strategies. To define policies, this functional conceptual framework must be coupled with a mapping of actors that accounts for their weight, their power, their evolution. This approach is valid for the whole ToRs.
- According to us, an essential dimension of the consumer environment which is missing in the ToRs is the social environment. Behaviors are largely determined by social norms. School canteens are, for example, a place where these standards are basically learned.
- In the point d) Food quality, safety and transformation, the approach is far too restrictive.

The quality of food (alimentation) is not limited to the quality of food (aliments). The quality of diet must be taken into account. Such an approach in terms of diets makes it possible to take into account diversity, a widely recognized factor favorable to nutrition.