

Draft ToR for CFS Policy Convergence Work on nutrition Comments of Switzerland

Switzerland does not support to use the food environments as entry point for policy intervention. We support expanding the focus at the food systems in their entirety. In order to be in line with the achievement of the SGDs, adequate nutrition should be based on a sustainable use of natural resources. Therefore we believe that nutrition/consumption cannot be addressed in isolation from the food production and its related policies, as recalled by ICN2.

Women empowerment should be a crosscutting issue coming up with specific recommendations. Women have a central role in translating agricultural outputs into nutrition impacts. However, their decision making power regarding choices and practices in agriculture is far too low. If women opinion, proposals, preferences and knowledge requirement are not duly supported in the matter of food and nutrition, new guidelines may remain useless.

On the Purpose

The third paragraph, after proposing the food environments as entry point, is underlining the importance of the other dimensions but without explaining the real space that can be given to them. The food environment remains an unclear concept. The arguments presented in page 6 in the *Background and Rationale* are interesting but not convincing enough for CFS to take the risk to miss essential aspects of the food systems, whose progressive improvement may have a powerful impact on reducing malnutrition. The aim of these VG are also to reconnect food and nutrition. Therefore adopting a narrow focus from the beginning will not contribute to this objective.

It is also a matter of concern to hear that the institutions (except the CSM) involved in the TTT support this position, giving to the Member States the obligation to begin this process with a negotiation with the institutions which are supposed to support the work of the Member States, not to make the choice instead of them.

On the Proposed Scope

Regarding the availability and physical access, the problem statement should also include the **quantity of nutritious food produced as part of the problem**. Taking into account that most national agriculture policies and strategies encourage farmers to produce cash crops, adopting production oriented to the market (domestic or often strictly export) in order to increase incomes. The nutritious food production is automatically discouraged and none or very poorly supported through extension service. Additionally, it is frequent that poor, malnourished population is much involved in the production of nutritious food for international markets (quinoa, shrimps, sweet corn, cocoa, fruits, etc.)

As a consequence, we propose to add a policy-relevant area:

National agriculture policies

National agriculture policies should be reviewed and integrate nutrition objectives related to the national population to enhance nutrition-sensitive agriculture, ensure food security and enable healthy diets¹.

Regarding the promotion, advertising and information, we strongly believe that education is a powerful mean to combat malnutrition. Not only campaigns but an insertion in the normal education cursus and automatically provided to mothers (like information about health and prevention of disease).

We propose to add one policy-relevant area:

¹ Inspired from ICN2 Rec. 8

Food education

- **Food education at primary school for boys and girls (through the regular education programme; part of the basic education)**
- **Food education for mothers (through programmes, projects)**

On Intended Users of the Guidelines

Letter f), instead of Donors we propose **Development Agencies including IFIs**