

Written inputs from United Kingdom regarding the draft TORs for CFS policy work on Nutrition

We are grateful for the opportunity to feed in on this important piece of work.

We agree with Germany's comment that the timeframes are somewhat ambitious given that the process is intended to generate (voluntary, non-binding) policy guidelines.

On the question of whether this should focus on the food environment (referring to more the demand / consumer interface aspect of the food system) or the food system more broadly, we have sympathy with others who have commented that it would be preferable to take a broader look at food systems rather than just one part of an otherwise interlinked system. But there is clearly a question around what it's feasible to do with the resources available. Unless further resources come forward, it appears more sensible to stick with one aspect of this very broad (and extremely complex) agenda.

More generally it would be useful to see more on how the work will link to and benefit from other initiatives that are exploring some of these issues, but that don't have the same role as the CFS when it comes to policy convergence / voluntary guidelines. Ideally, the work of the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition and others could help inform the development of these policy guidelines.

The ToRs imply that there will be consultation as part of this process, but it would be useful to spell out how that will be done and to provide assurance that we are aware of the complex environment in this field (when considering specific low / middle and high income research and policy work on food systems, this is of course a very complex space with a lot of work ongoing).

On the question of the specific policy areas, we agree with comments from Canada on the need to be much more gender-sensitive throughout and to consider also how policies can effectively target vulnerable groups (including the poorest, marginalised and people with disabilities).

We also agree with Canada that there is perhaps insufficient focus on low-income country needs in this. It is also worth giving more reflection to how the food environment is likely to be changing in low income countries over the coming years to ensure that where possible, policy guidelines can be ahead of the game in being able to prevent some of the negative impacts we know urbanisation /climate change are likely to have on the food environment in low-income countries. There is some learning in this space from a few countries with poor urban populations and whilst some of the same principles may apply as in poor urban populations in high income countries it is important to ensure that urban policies are not skewed towards the needs and issues of high-/middle-income countries.

We agree with Canada's suggestions of an intersessional focus on adolescent nutrition – although to get to that we think the CFS OEWG needs to ensure it has a good handle on how it will 'segment' the consumers it needs this piece of work to consider (again thinking about how to target the poor / marginalised) so that there can be some consideration of how policies relating to the food environment need to be adapted /tweaked in order to ensure that particular groups are reached / benefit. The adolescent group remains poorly understood; whilst attempts are underway to better understand the values / interests of this group re: accessing / demand for food we're not aware of anything to date that clearly articulates what implications there are for policy development.

We also agree with Canada's suggestion for an intersessional focus on nutrition-sensitive agriculture.