

Agenda item 1: draft TORs for the policy convergence work on nutrition

WHO supports the proposed approach of the draft Terms of Reference that is also in line with the recommendation made by the HLPE report. Why to focus on the Food Environment as entry point?

- We believe that this is the right approach for CFS to make a meaningful and impactful contribution to the food system transformation.
- This approach allows the important opportunity for CFS to widen the focus of improved agricultural production and to link it with other elements of the wider food system transformation. The integrated nature of nutrition calls for stronger policy coherence across sectors. And it is in the food environment where these different sectors and their actors come together.
- Food Environments are an issue for all forms of malnutrition and for every country independent of the characteristics of its food system.
- Changes in the Food Environment have the potential to send strong messages to the production and supply side and to trigger changes in investments and policies for more diversified and nutritious and sustainable food production.

Regarding proposed focus areas outlined in the draft TORs:

We would like to stress that CFS policy guidance should not overwrite, but should build on and integrate the guidance adopted by other intergovernmental and Member State bodies of the UN System such as the World Health Assembly.

Our vision of a coherent policy framework is, that CFS voluntary guidelines would incorporate relevant WHA guidance and place them into a broader multisectoral framework for advancing policy coherence for enabling food environments. This is also in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda that calls for enhanced policy coherence for sustainable development. As the HLPE report states, the agriculture and health sector need to come together and together take the lead as equal partners in improving food environments, diets and ultimately nutrition and health.

WHO has developed a number of guidance on evidence-informed policy measures for enabling food environments. And we are very happy to contribute to the work of CFS, following today's guidance provided by Member States.

Finally, we think that the section on 'type of instrument' in the current draft could be further elaborated.

Two elements for consideration are:

- i. The instrument should be meaningful for countries and should inspire them to take policy decisions and actions in country specific contexts. And for that the product could include some type of decision guidance for policy makers and concrete country examples that are motivating for others.
- ii. The instrument should entail elements of commitments and accountability. In this way it should encourage country commitments for action and regular self-reporting about their implementation. This includes also that countries are encouraged to set up monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of voluntary commitments of different actors. Moreover, it should encourage

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networking between countries with similar interest. This would encourage countries to lead and join action networks under the Decade of Action on Nutrition.

WHO is looking forward to continue providing its expertise to the CFS's policy convergence work on nutrition and to make this a meaningful product for the implementation of the ICN2 outcomes and the Nutrition Decade.

Agenda Item 2 – CFS intersessional event on nutrition

WHO supports the plan to have an intersessional event on nutrition, based on the positive experience with past events.

The theme should be closely linked to the policy convergence work on the development of voluntary guidelines, and it would be advantageous if the event would help building a common understanding of issues related to the food environment, as the food environment is a relatively new concept.

We agree with merging some of the themes, such as the first 2 themes.

Also theme 3 and 4 (*food transformation and nutrient profiling*) could be merged.

The proposal 5 could be integrated in the proposed themes as well, by presenting selected segments of the HLPE report relevant for the topic agreed on for the event.

Our preferred choice would be an event on food transformation and nutrient profiling (the merger of topic 3 and 4). This would also address proposed topic number 8 related to NCDs and nutrition.