

WHO

CFS OEWG for Nutrition - April 30, 2018

AGENDA ITEM 1 – DRAFT ToRs

a) General comments on the revised version

WHO would like to thank the Secretariat for the revised Terms of Reference.

- We very much welcome that the voluntary guidelines will be a tool to help countries operationalizing the ICN2 outcomes and in particular the Framework for Action, under the umbrella of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and SDG2 (Agenda 2030).
- With this regard, we think that the connection with the ICN2 Framework for Action recommendations could be more clearly expressed and strengthened in the document. (This was also requested by Member States during the last OEWG meeting).
 - For example: Para 7 actually describes with other words, what the FFA refers to in its set of recommended actions on **sustainable food systems promoting healthy diets** (R8-16). We suggest to add a respective reference to this para.
 - We welcome annex table 1. And like to suggest an annex table 2 Showing for each of the proposed areas of scope, to which ICN2 recommendations it relates.

Regarding the section on Background and Rational

- We feel that the drivers of change (para 21) are very broad and it is not clear how these can be addressed in their entirety in this work. A way forward could be to integrate elements of them in relevant areas of scope.

Regarding the type of food systems (para 23):

- We would like to refer to the **outcomes of one of the CFS intersessional event on nutrition: 'Investments for healthy food systems'** (May 2017).
- The different types of food systems are not good or bad, they all have the potential to produce / provide the healthy diets needed for good nutrition and human health. We should not forget that countries often have varies types of food systems. Therefore, a more open and flexible approach might be appropriate.

b) on Section IV: regarding the Proposed Scope of the Voluntary Guidelines.

Proposed scope in general:

- Our general observation is that this section now covers all elements from the HLPE report conceptual framework. As agreed during last meeting.

- We notice that the text under each area is rather generic. It could be useful / meaningful to express the issues that need attention in each of the areas (problem statement). From there, the potential policy solutions, which should be evidence-based, could be identified.
- In fact we suggest that the voluntary guidelines should address evidence-based policies and interventions, that have shown to be effective.

References to relevant previous CFS products:

- We like to suggest to include references to previous CFS work where applicable, in the proposed areas of scope.
- As already mentioned, the link to the respective set of recommendations of the ICN2 Framework for Action could be shown clearly. In fact, most, if not all of the proposed areas under section IV (Proposed Scope of the VG) are addressed in the ICN2 Framework for Action. The intension here is certainly not to re-write the ICN2 outcome document. We would like to suggest to visualise these connections more clearly, such as in an annex table.
 - Food supply chains – relate to ICN2 set of recommendations R8-R16
 - Food environments –partly to these ones, and also to the R on food safety (R51-57)
 - Consumer behaviour – relates to R for nutrition education (R19-R21)

c) Suggestion concerning the other sections of the document

Finally, we think that the section on ‘type of instrument’ in the current draft could be further elaborated. One elements for consideration:

- 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 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 and the development of voluntary guidelines. It could be an advantage if the event helps to building a common understanding of issues related to the food systems and nutrition. The three policy entry points we just discussed under the previous agenda item are particular relevant.

In 2016, CFS had discussed nutrition sensitive value chains in this context of the event on trade and nutrition.

Within this year's policy convergence work, obviously the food environment is a relatively new concept. It would be important to increase common understanding about the food environment and some of its policy elements.

With this regard, the theme 2 (food transformation and nutrient profiling) is very relevant.

Such an event could also integrate elements of the proposal 4, by presenting selected segments of the HLPE report relevant for the food environment.

It could also include elements of theme number 6 related to noncommunicable diseases and nutrition.

Our preferred choice would be an event on food transformation and nutrient profiling .