

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE CFS OEWG ON FOOD SYSTEMS AND NUTRITION

On Thursday, May 30, it will be my pleasure to present the Zero Draft of the *Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition*, which is the result of an inclusive process that involved a wide range of stakeholders.

Following the last OEWG meeting held on March 8, CFS stakeholders were given the opportunity to submit written comments, inputs, and suggestions on how to improve the preliminary version of the Zero Draft. A significant number of inputs were received, which were all carefully considered. Be sure that we did our best to incorporate as many of your proposals as possible.

In line with the structure of its preliminary version, the Zero Draft is divided into four chapters. The first chapter provides the context, objectives, and purpose, as well as indications on the nature of the Voluntary Guidelines. New paragraphs have been added to reference additional evidence contained in the HLPE report, especially in the section on background and rationale.

The second chapter deals with key concepts concerning food systems and nutrition, along with guiding principles for promoting or reshaping food systems, and it has been revised to include various inputs received.

Chapter 3 includes descriptive text intended to inform preparation of the next versions of the draft Voluntary Guidelines. Following the conceptual framework of the HLPE Report on Food Systems and Nutrition, and which had been retaken in the ToRs, different policy-relevant areas were identified and developed for each constituent element of food systems – food supply chains, food environments, and consumer behavior. The chapter presents issues and topics that can be addressed in the Voluntary Guidelines, structured around relevant key entry points. During the OEWG meeting on May 30, and during the regional consultation meetings, CFS stakeholders will be invited to provide inputs on policies, interventions, initiatives and programmes. At the same time, CFS stakeholders are also invited to provide their views on an eventual re-shuffling of chapter 3.

The fourth and final chapter has also been revised to incorporate inputs received on ways to promote the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines and the monitoring of their use and application.

The OEWG meeting on May 30 is an important opportunity for CFS stakeholders to provide inputs on the Zero Draft that will feed the preparation of the First Draft of the Voluntary Guidelines, expected to be finalized by the end of 2019 following regional consultations taking place between July and October 2019 and an e-consultation foreseen this summer.

I apologize that we were not able to circulate translated versions of the Zero Draft in advance of the May 30 meeting. Nonetheless, I would like to thank all CFS stakeholders who have been contributing to the preparation of this document. I strongly hope that this positive spirit of active collaboration will continue throughout this entire process. Finally, allow me to thank again the Government of the Federal



Republic of Germany for its generous financial contribution to support the organization of regional consultations.

Looking forward to a fruitful discussion on May 30.

Dr Liliane Ortega
CFS Food Systems and Nutrition OEWG Chair