

CFS Food Systems and Nutrition OEWG meeting

30 May 2019 – 9:30-15:00 – Red Room

OUTCOMES

The meeting was opened by the OEWG Chair, Dr Liliane Ortega (Switzerland), who thanked the CFS stakeholders for the numerous valuable inputs they sent after the March meeting and explained that these inputs have been taken into account as much as possible for the preparation of the Zero Draft of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition. She underlined that the objective of the meeting was to receive initial feedback on the Zero Draft.

CFS stakeholders were also informed that they will have the possibility to provide written inputs on the Zero Draft to the CFS Secretariat (cfs@fao.org) by Friday 28 June 2019, that will help, along with the regional consultation inputs and e-consultation, to prepare the Voluntary Guidelines “Draft One” to be circulated by the end of this year.

1. Zero Draft of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition – Chapters 1 and 2

An overview of the first two chapters of the Zero Draft was provided and a relevant number of comments and suggestions were submitted by CFS stakeholders.

It was suggested to identify and make reference to the main policy targets in the section concerning the objectives of the Voluntary Guidelines while different views were expressed on whether to further articulate the issues concerning sustainability and human right perspective in relation to food systems. It was requested for further articulate the causes of malnutrition and highlight the relevance of poverty, and poverty reduction, across the document. At the same time, it was mentioned that the text should be more explicit about indigenous peoples-specific situations and also make reference to their knowledge. The participants expressed the need to further elaborate the main drivers impacting food systems. Reference to previous CFS policy products as well as major relevant instruments (like the CODEX) would be appreciated. It was also highlighted that consistency between the guiding principles presented in Chapter 2 and the content of the other sections of the document, is important.

It was clarified that the FAO/WHO experts meeting taking place in early July will provide a basis for a revised definition of sustainable and healthy diets which could hopefully be agreed upon by CFS stakeholders, considering the importance for political consensus to be based on solid evidence.

2. Zero Draft of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition – Chapters 3 and 4

The OEWG Chair clarified that Chapter 3 includes initial proposals regarding the issues and topics to be covered in the Voluntary Guidelines. In line with the suggestions provided by several stakeholders, both

the structure and the content of this chapter will change around different entry points. It was highlighted that paragraph 41 of the Zero Draft already refers to different cross-cutting or enabling factors that may affect positively food systems to deliver healthy diets. Should the CFS stakeholders validate them, these factors could be considered for the future structure of the chapter. It was requested that specific reference to the different status of Chapter 3 is made in the agenda of the Regional Consultations in order to avoid confusion among participants.

In this regard, it was reiterated that it is key to promote a holistic view that looks at food systems in their entirety through the identification of the most effective policy objectives and priorities.

Initial ideas and suggestions regarding policies, interventions, instruments and additional focus have been proposed by participants during the meeting.

3. Update on the process

An update on the next steps of the process was provided with special attention to the upcoming regional consultations, including dates and venues.

The Zero Draft will be the main background document for the consultations which are an opportunity to receive inputs from a variety of regional stakeholders, with the aim of better aligning the Voluntary Guidelines with regional, national, and sub-national perspectives.

In line with the CFS multistakeholder model, they will be open to participants from member countries, civil society and private sector organizations, UN bodies, international financial institutions, as well as agricultural research organizations.

Multi-sectoral participation is encouraged to ensure the voices of all relevant actors in nutrition and food systems are heard - especially from the food, agriculture, and health sectors.

Interpretation in UN official languages relevant to the respective regions will be provided during the consultations.

At the end of each regional consultation an OEWG Chair's Summary will be produced to reflect the main issues highlighted and suggestions provided during the discussions which will contribute to the preparation of the Draft One of the Voluntary Guidelines.

The agenda and the guiding principles that will guide the discussions in the regional consultations are available on the [CFS Working Space](#), along with all relevant information and background documents.

The invitation letters for the regional consultation for Africa and Asia and the Pacific were sent out. Countries will be invited to nominate two representatives each, ideally from different Ministries and with different technical areas of expertise (agriculture and nutrition).