France – Comments on the Zero Draft of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food systems and nutrition – 30 May 2019

Chapter II

→ We would like to see added a definition of systemic food assistance.

Chapter III

1. We reiterate our comment on the consideration of sustainability issue in all its dimensions (social, economic, environmental), which remains insufficient. The narrowness of the linkages between health / nutrition impact and environmental impact need to be more apparent, especially since the language of the paragraph "climate change adaptation and mitigation" (43. i.) has been attenuated and remains very generic and partly confused. We call the text as it was in the preliminary version.

2. the notion of ‘decent income for producers’ is overlooked in the document.

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Para 36: we would like to insert a reference to the drivers as defined in the para 24

Para 41: very positive paragraph, we like the reference to cross-cutting factors

Para 43.a): we suggest the following language ‘adopting environmental friendly approaches, such as agroecological approaches and other innovations for sustainable agriculture and food systems’

Para 43h): investment in research to understand and analyse the functioning of food systems should also appear somewhere.

Para 44.b): ‘food safety is a critical piece from production to distribution’: all the steps of the value chain should be taken into account

Para 44, new c): we would like to add a new paragraph on ‘Look at urban/rural linkages and territorial approaches to improve distribution systems’

Para 45.a): we would like to add a new sentence at the end of the paragraph: ‘avoiding potential risks for human and environmental health related to food processing practices should systemically be central’

Para 45.b): we need to be more general and not to focus only on the trans fats

Para 45, new c): we would like to add a new paragraph on ‘Sustainable packaging’ (environmental aspects are insufficiently taken into account)

Para 48.a): we would like to enlarge this paragraph which would focus on ‘territorial food planning’ and include three subparagraphs
Para 53.b): even if biofortification is an important tool, it should represent only one solution among others and should be adapted to specific contexts.

Para 55.c): we would like to stress that food education should include sensory education and nutrition education.