

Follow up to CFS Food Systems and Nutrition OEWG met on Friday 8th March to discuss a 'Preliminary Zero Draft' of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition.

Written Comments from EU Delegation

General Comments

- The motivations for action should be clear for policy makers, e.g. the costs of malnutrition.
- Crosscutting issues should be dealt with in a way that they have prominence e.g. education, gender.
- Building firmly of the scientific basis for discussions.
- Advising a policy coherent approach across all of government.

As the draft currently stands, initial ideas listed under these three elements (food supply chains, food environments and consumer behavior) do not reflect language around:

- **Equity issue & the shift in paradigm:** changing the practice of “big business” (a concern also voiced at CFS45 side event: “the process of economic and political power concentration in few hands has further shrunk the space of democratic sovereignty and the guidelines need to reclaim the multidimensional public objectives that food system reform serves”); equitable distribution of the economic returns of diversified production; apart for a mention in relation to connectivity to markets, pro-poor/pro-smallholder farmers policies mainly mentioned in relation to social protection schemes
- **data and information**, in particular on improved measurement and monitoring of dietary quality at individual level all along the pathway from access to adequate food (food security) to nutrition outcomes and disaggregated (age, sex, wealth group, geography etc.)
- **gender issues:** not reflected in part III
- Consumer behavior (third element in Part III): narrow view, only two policy entry points (SBCC, national food-based dietary guidelines) and nothing is said around **formal education**.
- more generally, there is **scope in these VG for greater emphasis in dovetailing with other sectors** including water and sanitation, health systems, etc. to act synergistically for better nutrition outcomes

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