

CFS Open-ended working group on Nutrition Friday, 8 March 2019

UNSCN Statement

First, we would like to thank the CFS Secretariat for its work in preparing this preliminary version of the zero draft VGs and for the support provided to the Technical Task Team during the past months. We have come a long way, from the HLPE Report presented at CFS44, to the drafting and endorsement of the TORs at CFS45, and now we are here discussing this preliminary zero draft of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition.

UNSCN is pleased to be a member of the Technical Task Team and is committed to support the process by involving in the discussion several of its members, including relevant partner agencies beyond the RBAs and WHO, such as UNICEF, UNIDO, and UN Environment.

We believe this **Preliminary zero draft of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition** is a good starting point: all relevant elements highlighted in the HLPE report #12 have been included as well as the key concepts concerning food systems and nutrition.

However, the next phase represents an important step to make sure we focus on the consistency, coherency and integratedness of these VGs. The guidelines should be seen as a coherent, integrated and comprehensive set of recommendations for reshaping food systems to improve nutrition and not as a list of separate recommendations from which one could easily pick one or two. The guidelines should prioritize sets or clusters of actions that work across the entire food system and contain actionable recommendations to enhance policy coherence for nutrition at national and sub-national level

To achieve consistent and coherent guidelines, the driving forces impacting food systems, as identified in the HLPE report, need to be taken into account. This is currently mentioned in para 13 of this preliminary draft. The VGs should find a way to combine and cluster the recommendations across the three key entry points of food systems (food supply chains, food environment, consumer behavior) and around the drivers, in order to come up with a list that is both actionable (not too many individual recommendations), coherent and consistent (by linking them to the drivers) to address food insecurity and malnutrition in a sustainable way. We think one way to do this is to identify comprehensive actions (e.g. FBDGs, breastfeeding promotion, and public procurement) that would be capable of addressing multiple issues at the same time among those already identified in this preliminary zero draft, while taking into account the cross-cutting drivers affecting our food systems.

Several UN agencies have done very important work in the area of food systems. For example the work done by FAO and UN Environment to transform food systems into more sustainable and healthy ones, could also help guide the further development of these guidelines that will support the transformation of food systems.

We are of course willing to continue to contribute to this very important process.