

CFS Food Systems and Nutrition OEWG meeting

29 November 2019 – 14.00-17.00 – Green Room

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

The meeting was opened by the OEWG Chair, Dr Liliane Ortega (Switzerland), who presented the agenda and clarified the objective of the meeting, which was to provide an update on the status of preparation of draft Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition and clarify the next steps of the negotiation process leading to CFS 47 in October 2020.

1. Update on the outcomes of the six Regional Consultations on Food Systems and Nutrition and of the E-Consultation

The OEWG Chair provided an update on the outcomes of the E-Consultation and the six Regional Consultations held related to the preparation of the First Draft of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition.

The Chair reported on the main findings from the six regional consultations that were successfully held between July and November 2019, in Addis Ababa, Bangkok, Budapest, Cairo, Panama City, and Washington DC, respectively.

She thanked the Federal Republic of Germany for their financial support for the organization of the regional consultations, and the FAO Regional and Sub-Regional Offices for their considerable logistical and administrative support. The Chair took the opportunity to express appreciation to the WHO Regional Office in Cairo for hosting the Regional Consultation for the Near East, and the University of Maryland for hosting the Regional Consultation for North America, organized in collaboration with the US Department of Agriculture.

Information on the level of participation at the different regional consultations was provided, with specific figures regarding number of countries, different ministries, and number of civil society and private sector representatives, United Nations agencies, and other institutions, represented.

The OEWG Chair also shared an overview of the main challenges and areas of focus identified during the regional consultations, along with some key messages received from these meetings and the E-Consultation that took place between 1 July and 2 September (for which 102 contributions were received).

The OEWG Chair reiterated that the inputs received during the Regional Consultations and the E-Consultation, along with the outcomes of the OEWG meeting held in May and the written contributions submitted by OEWG members in June, will feed the preparation of “Draft One” of the Voluntary Guidelines, which is expected to be publicly circulated by the end of December 2019. In response to concerns expressed by some OEWG members about the outcomes of the regional consultations, the Chair highlighted the need to find a balance between the inputs received during the different steps of the process, and the need to foster a constructive, inclusive dialogue between stakeholders.

The PowerPoint presentation by Dr Ortega is available on the [Food Systems and Nutrition section](#) of the CFS Working Space.

2. Update from CFS stakeholders on developments relevant to the policy process

Dr Anna Lartey, Director of the FAO Food Systems and Nutrition Division, took the floor to present the outcomes of the *International Consultation on Sustainable Healthy Diets* organized by FAO and WHO during July 2019, providing an overview of its guiding principles and a definition of sustainable healthy diets that was agreed during the consultation.

Concerns were expressed by some OEWG members on the concept and definition of sustainable diets. The OEWG Chair made reference to the outcomes of the CFS Food Systems and Nutrition OEWG meeting held on 30 May, where it was clarified that FAO/WHO's expert consultation would "*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*"¹.

3. Update on next steps of the process

An updated work-plan of the Food Systems and Nutrition workstream, as agreed by the CFS Bureau on 29th November, was presented by the CFS Secretariat.

Recognizing the support expressed by participants at the meeting, it was confirmed that HLPE report #14 lead author, Dr. Jessica Fanzo, will remain engaged in the process, to provide technical support to the CFS Secretariat.

It was clarified that, following the circulation of Draft One by end-December, language versions will be available in January 2020. CFS stakeholders will be allowed almost seven weeks until 5 February to provide written comments on the document. A full-day meeting will take place on 29 January at FAO (with webcasting) to discuss the draft document.

The inputs received in writing and at the 29 January meeting will feed the preparation of a further draft that will be circulated in March 2020 (language versions available by mid-April) for the negotiations. An additional OEWG meeting will take place in April (date to be confirmed) to give the opportunity for CFS stakeholders to share initial views on the final version of the Voluntary Guidelines circulated for negotiations.

The first round of negotiations will take place between 11 and 15 May, followed by a second round between 22 and 24 July.

The CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition are expected to be presented for consideration and endorsement by the Plenary at CFS 47 in October 2020.

¹ [CFS OEWG-Nutrition/2019/05/30/03/Outcomes](#)



Open Ended Working Group on Food Systems and Nutrition

CHAIR'S SUMMARY - CFS OEWG-NUTRITION/2019/11/29/04

An agreed work-plan is attached, together with this Chair's Summary, and are available on the "Food Systems and Nutrition" section of the CFS Working Space.