

## **V. Food systems and nutrition**

### **CHAIRPERSON**

Now item 5. Item 5 is food systems and nutrition. Under this item we will highlight the paramount importance of nutrition in global regional and national food systems, and we will do this in 2 segments. One will tackle the ongoing process for producing voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition, that's one part of this agenda item.

The second part will consist of a progress report on the second International conference on nutrition or ICN2 for short. Now just so that we are all on the same page on this, I will give more details about part 1.

The journey to ending hunger and the various forms of malnutrition have been premised on increasing production levels and productivity rates. Then policy makers realized that the equation had to include nutrition and sustainability. More recently we have understood that a food systems approach is needed. Food systems are extremely complex and agreeing on nutritional guidelines intensifies such complexity.

So, I will ask the working group Chair, Liliane Ortega of Switzerland to provide an update on the work done so far including on the 4 regional consultations that have taken place. I attended the one in Budapest where I petitioned participants to maintain focus on the subsequent uptake by all stakeholders, especially national and local government as we advance towards policy recommendations. Inclusive consultations will continue including here today, and successive outlines will converge into a set of voluntary guidelines to be endorsed by the CFS 47 plenary, 12 months from now. Next year, 12 months from now.

It is proper to express gratitude to the government of Germany for the financial resources invested in this project, which is an expression of confidence in the committee and the relevance of its products.

Following Dr Ortega's presentation, we will listen to Dr Naoko Yamamoto, Assistant Director-General for universal health coverage and health systems at WHO, addressing the importance of cross sectoral collaboration.

The first part also includes a panel discussion on the use and uptake of policy guidelines followed by an open discussion. My good friend David Nabarro will moderate the panel. He of course is a World Food Prize recipient and creator of the food systems dialogues of the World Economic Forum.

The panelists are Bibi Giyose nutrition and food systems expert at the new partnership for Africa's development. Emorn Udomkesmalee, Prof of nutrition at Mahidol University in Bangkok. And Preeti Ahuja, agricultural expert at the World Bank. That's for part 1.

For part 2 of this item, we will have Anna Lartey, Director of food systems and nutrition here at FAO and Francesco Branca, Director of nutrition for health and development at WHO, they will both present jointly progress in implementing ICN2 policies and actions that are relevant to CFS. Now Dr Ortega will take over.

### **Ms Liliane ORTEGA, Chair, OEWG Nutrition**

Thank you very much, Chair. Good morning everybody. Excellences, distinguished guests, dear colleagues, and ladies and gentlemen. It is an honor for me to be here to present an update of the ongoing CFS policy process on food system and nutrition.

In 2015 during the 42<sup>nd</sup> session of the plenary, the CFS decided to commission the high-level panel of experts to prepare a report on nutrition and food systems. To set the basis for policy convergence process.

In 2017 during the 44 session of the CFS plenary, this report was launched and briefly discussed and the decision to conduct the process to produce voluntary guidelines on food system and nutrition was taken. Therefore, the plenary requested the open-ended working group to elaborate TOR, terms of reference, these were endorsed last year during the 45<sup>th</sup> session of the plenary.

The HLPE report stated that malnutrition in all its forms under nutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and overweight and obesity, now affect all countries, whether low middle or high income. Those different forms of malnutrition can coexist within the same country or community and sometimes within the same household or even individual, and can even paradoxically, be linked, they are linked some of them. They must be all together. It also states that malnutrition like hunger will not be self-corrected by economic growth nor will it be spontaneously addressed. So, it needs decisions and courageous political will.

The HLPE report also called for radical transformations and made several proposals to shared food systems to improve food security and nutrition. The objective of the voluntary guideline is to promote food systems that lead to healthy diets and healthy foods that are available, affordable, acceptable, safe and of adequate quantity and quality for everybody.

Based on the HLPE report, the TOR considered the 3 constituent elements of food systems to serve as policy entry points for improving nutrition. The food supply chains, food environment and consumer behavior. The voluntary guidelines are being developed across these 3 constituent elements to support government to develop new policies for reducing the lack of coherence amongst sector policies, the so-called policy fragmentation and for promoting cross sector well-coordinated interventions that integrate different dimensions, such as health, agricultural food systems, education, water and sanitation, gender, social protection, trade and employment.

I am glad to update you today on the result of this process since the last session of the plenary. This year 2019, the CFS stakeholder has already achieved a big amount of work, and so did the CFS Secretariat. In March the very first steps prepared by the CFS Secretariat with the support of the technical task team, were discussed within the open-ended working group. Many inputs have been provided by CFS stakeholders which have contributed to the preparation of the Zero Draft of the voluntary guidelines.

This Zero Draft was circulated last May and translated into all FAO languages. It is the background document for the regional consultations that are currently taking place. It was also discussed in the meeting we held in May, meeting of the open-ended working group.

Let me express like the CFS Chair, my gratitude to the government of Germany for providing the funds to organize 5 regional meetings, and also for funding the translation of the Zero Draft. Indeed, without this generous support I don't know how the process would be today.

I also would like to thank those who have been actively involved in this process, many of you actually, both for their input and insuring connection between this policy process and the constituencies at national and regional levels.

I am pleased to inform the committee that the first 4 regional consultations in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Near East went very well, with active engagement of different actors who provided a variety of comments, proposals and suggestions on how to improve the Zero Draft, which was generally well received. The harvest is fabulous, at the moment, but it is not yet finished.

These inputs and suggestions are important to ensure that the guidelines will be aligned with national priority and needs. They foster the ownership among CFS stakeholders and increase legitimacy of the process and the final version of the guidelines.

69 countries were represented, in these 4 consultations, which also saw a wide participation of representatives from specialized agencies of the UN, regional organizations, civil society, private sector and agriculture research institutions. The agenda, the background document as well as the Chair's summary prepared at the end of each meeting, are available on the CFS working space.

To complete the regional consultation process, 2 other consultations will soon take place. One in Panama at the end of this month for Latin America and the Caribbean, and one in Washington middle of November for Canada and the USA.

In parallel to the regional consultations an e-Consultation was hosted between July and September by the global forum on food security and nutrition. To get additional input from CFS stakeholders during this process, 102 contributions were received.

I also wish to inform the committee that a consultant has been hired to support the CFS Secretariat in the June part of the process. It is Dr Jessica Fanzo, who you know, I suppose you remember she has been a team leader of the HLPE report.

An open-ended working group meeting will take place at the start of December or end of November, the date is not yet clear, to discuss the outcomes of the regional consultation and of the e-Consultation process.

All this input, comments, suggestions will be used to prepare the draft one of the voluntary guidelines that is expected to be circulated by the end of this year. CFS stakeholders will be given the opportunities to provide comment during another open-ended working group meeting, which will be scheduled in February, and also to written inputs. Then the final draft of the guidelines will be circulated in all languages in time for negotiation during the spring 2020.

Developing guidelines will be endorsed in 2020 during the next plenary session of the CFS. We heard yesterday in the statement made on behalf of the UN Secretary General that this voluntary guideline will be an important input in view of the food system summit in 2021. I guess they will not be important only for this.

Now let me provide you just an overview and a kind of snapshot of the input received on the Zero Draft during the regional consultation and the civil meeting of the open-ended working group we held in Rome in May.

These are suggestions made to improve the current draft. We heard many messages, many proposals but tried to get from them a common position, it hasn't been so difficult. For example, the comment of the chapter 1 and 2, which are the introduction, objectives, guiding principles, definitions. There is a strong request of having a more people centered text, highlighting human dignity. Stressing how the combat against malnutrition contributes to the realization of the right of adequate food.

There is also an expectation to develop more text on the importance of reshaping food systems to achieve the objective of Agenda 2030. We heard yesterday they are strong linkages between SDG's achievement of SDG's and the human rights, that is something we heard also very often by many stakeholders.

More text also on the burden of malnutrition on societies and the cost of inaction, which is even hindering to some extent, economy growth, but not only. More text on the causes of malnutrition which are food

system related. More text on the need for adapted and feasible but bold decisions not to have a text which is too much about knowledge management, some decisions, some possibilities, but really going right to the point.

Poverty and inequalities, there is a strong need to highlight much more in the text how they undermine access to healthy diet. Actually, how they undermine the possibility also to produce food and to get to achieve a decent livelihood. So much more will have to be considered to develop to consider poverty and inequalities in this text.

Also, the specific constraints in humanitarian crisis and context should be better visible. A strong emphasis on sustainability, and in particular on environmental sustainability. The 3 dimensions, but in particular, the environmental sustainability.

And finally, also there were requests to insist more on culture and traditional diets and their link with agrobiodiversity.

This is a kind of summary, not the Chair's summary, but more or less. It's a Chair's summary but it will not be published or even communicated, it is a snapshot.

Now we had a very important discussion of how to restructure, reshuffle the current chapter 3, those who know well the document know that the chapter 3 is currently presented according to the 3 components. Food supply, food environment and consumer behavior. There was from the beginning, expectations to consider differently the presentation of the guidelines to be less led by sectors and taking into account the numerous contributions we have for the moment an impression that we could organize this chapter 3 according to the following area of focus.

One would be nutrition education and literacy. There is across all regions a clear message about the necessity to increase nutrition education and food literacy. In the world population for all the actors involved in the food chains, the food supply, the decision-makers.

For example, even the school meals, is one of the instruments that could be used for this, but definitely it is to consider all the actors. And this is basically to enable better food choice, to create a demand for nutritious food. For this education is, as conveyed, very clearly from everywhere. A transparent and accountable governance of food system, this is a request we hear many actors, including the private sector say, we need more framework to take actions, to know where to go and how to do it. So transparent and credible governance of food systems. Food systems appear in every region to have escaped to the society. Society is just taking the consequences.

Nutrition oriented sustainable food system is the context of climate change. Climate change is our context. So, the food system from now to the future have to be developed to be sustainable, nutrition orientated but taking into account what the climate change is capable to do to this food system. But also improving the food system in the way that will contribute less to the climate change. So economic sustainability, social sustainability, environmental sustainability.

And finally, but not last, enhancing women's rights and empowerment, that is more than clear, and we heard this morning so many things women are still far behind. Women's empowerment is seen by all stakeholders we have heard as the undermining factor to improve nutrition and food.

Then food safety, food loss and waste are 2 more technical issues which have come very high as priority and they are also to be considered as an area of focus. So that is for the moment, what we have at the

moment, of having 4 of the regional consultation meetings of 6. And the discussion we had in the past. Thank you very much for your questions.

## **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you, Liliane Ortega for your presentation and for your leadership. I speak for everyone when I say that you have been a great leader and you will continue shepherding this process till its successful completion 12 months from now. I will now ask Dr Yamamoto to tell us about the points of effective communication between key actors and across sectors.

## **Ms Naoko YAMAMOTO, WHO**

Thank you Chair and Ambassador Mario Arvelo, Excellencies, distinguished delegates and ladies and gentlemen. Good morning. It is my honor to be here. First of all, I would like to commend the Committee on World Food Security for leading this policy process that will result in voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition. WHO gives great importance to this work.

Safety, and nutritious food, is a fundamental element of the people's right. Today leaders in almost all countries, especially in lower, and middle-income countries face a complex policy challenge, the so-called triple burden of malnutrition and nutrition including stunting and micronutrient deficiency co-exist around with escalating overweight and obesity.

In the world still more than 820 million people are suffering hunger that threatens his or her life, dignity, development and health. And healthy diet is a leading risk factor to the people in the world. The most vulnerable to malnutrition disease are typically those with higher nutrient requirements and those with those less control over their choice of diet.

The UN decade of action on nutrition is addressing these challenges and shows us the affordable solution exist. It is clear in that decade of action of nutrition a lot more action needs to happen, and all stakeholders have a role to play including the private sector. The private sector is producing most of our food, whether it is the smallholder farmer or fishermen or Trust National Corporation. The dialogue with these actors is required to ensure food sector produces, transforms and markets food that ensure healthy and sustainable diet for all.

WHO is it proactively engaging with those state actors, including private sector actors, on food product reformulation in the spate of our SDG's?

In May, Dr Tedros, WHO DG, met with representatives of the international food and beverage alliance including chief executive officers from several of the 12 companies to discuss action to eliminate industrial trans-fat and reduce salt, sugar and saturated fat in processed food. The CEOs of major food companies have pledged to eliminate trans-fat from global food supply by 2023. Trans fat intake is responsible for over 500,000 deaths from coronary heart disease every year globally. This commitment from the industry is welcomed. But let me make it clear this does not replace relevant policy majors by national government. Member states regulatory action on food safety, delivering and regulating marketing of food, especially to children is an effective and essential policy majors in the fight against malnutrition and diet-related noncommunicable disease.

WHO also called on industry to fully adhere to the WHO code of marketing of breastmilk substitutes. Obviously different actors have different roles to play in the shift towards healthier and more sustainable food systems. These roles and responsibilities must be clearly defined. A lot of engagement needs to be set up that strengthens transparency and accountability. This includes identifying and acknowledging at every stage, possible tensions and conflicts of interests among partners.

WHO upon the request of member states developed tools for addressing conflicts of interests, which are to address the risk and benefit of engagement with government, with non-state actors.

Let me conclude by reminding that in 1948, WHO was given the mandate to ensure enjoyment of healthiest obtainable standard of health for all. WHO generated a program of work in 2019 to 2023, is our roadmap toward 1 billion more people benefiting from universal coverage. 1 billion more people better protected from health emergencies, and 1 billion more people enjoying better health and well-being aligned with SDG's.

Profit cannot stand in the way to improve food security, nutrition and health for all. WHO stands ready to continue to work with CFS and providing its expertise and leadership to support this important policy process. Thank you very much, Chair.

## **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you, Dr Yamamoto for your inspired words. It is important to draw attention to the collaboration between CFS and the World Health Organization for developing these guidelines and I hope that my successor as Chair, will be able to speak at the next World Health Assembly for further strengthening the fruitful relationship between CFS and WHO and continue building these bridges between Rome and Geneva as we are doing between Rome and New York, and indeed with all UN capitals for the good of mankind, humankind.

Having WHO among our advisory group members has enriched CFS for which we are extremely grateful.

Now we will have a panel, a panel discussion that David Nabarro will moderate. He's a long-time supporter of CFS, co-director of Imperial College Institute of Global Health Innovation in London and a leadership multiplier for sustainable development from his social enterprise, 4SD. And I have to say a dear friend and someone that I learn from every time we have a conversation. So, thank you for that David. I hand over to you and I will be back for the second part of this item. So probably you want to sit here to have control of the microphone. This is the magic seat.

## **Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR**

The reason for moving is there is equipment here to see who wants to speak and everybody, we are awfully short of time. And I want to make sure that we have the full panel discussion. We have got a fabulous trio of people who are going to reflect on this issue, but just to give 1 or 2 remarks as we go into it.

I used to work in the United Nations on food, in something called the high-level task force on food security set up in 2008. And then on nutrition working as the coordinator of the movement to scale up nutrition, and so the subject matter that you are discussing here, for me personally, is really important.

And I always wondered whether the CFS would be able to establish some voluntary guidelines on food security and nutrition. I know it's not an easy task, and I really think the work being done by Liliane Ortega and the group, is just fabulous. And I love the cooperation and collective effort that is building between FAO and WHO again, particularly on this issue. They came together on the decade of nutrition and now they are together on this. And never has it been more important for humanity that the issue of nutrition was given attention, given the enormous numbers of people in our world whose whole performance, whose well-being and whose capacity to contribute to sustainable futures is so tragically undermined by poor nutrition. It really is one of the extraordinary global emergencies of our time.

So, we would like this discussion to help the working group advance the development of the voluntary guidelines. And our panel members are going to provide specific examples of coordinated cross sectoral interventions that contribute to sustainable food systems that are improving nutrition through ensuring healthy diets. They are going to speak about some of the constraints that they have faced in ensuring coherence between the interventions and the policies and between the different actors involved. And they are going to share ideas on what should be woven into the CFS guidelines on food systems and nutrition, so that they can be fully implemented once they are endorsed next year.

Now our 3 panelists in the order in which they are going to speak to us are, Dr Emorn Udomkesmalee, who is actually Prof at the Mahidol University in Thailand. And also, at Bloomberg School of Public Health Johns Hopkins University. She is also a board member of the micronutrient forum of the International Food Policy Research Institute, and of the Sight and Life Foundation. She co-chaired the independent expert group for global nutrition report and is a member of the Scientific Council of the, Institut de Recherche pour le Developpement, in France, IRD, as well as scientific director of ILSI Southeast Asia. And actually, the list of Emorn's interests and achievements go on and on. I can just describe her as somebody who was with us at the birth of the SUN Movement and she played a particularly important role in advancing multisectoral approaches to nutrition across the world.

Our second panelist is Bibi Boitshepo Giyose. Now Bibi is familiar to many people in this room because before she became the African Union's NEPAD special adviser on nutrition, advising the CEO, Ibrahim Mayaki, she was senior nutrition officer for policy and programs here in the Nutrition and Food Systems division at FAO. Her work is about integrating and mainstreaming nutrition into agriculture and related development agendas. She promotes multisectoral approaches for addressing all forms of malnutrition, and she did this in work for the African Union as well as for other parts of the international system including UNDP. She has actually achieved quite a lot of awards as well, distinguished alumni award from the Appalachian State University, and also, she has been named senior policy scholar by the Global Child Nutrition Foundation of the USA for her work on school food and nutrition. Bibi it is great you are back also here in FAO.

Our third panelist is Preeti Ahuja. She is practice manager for agriculture and food for the World Bank group currently covering Latin America and the Caribbean region. She is supporting client governments to advance aspects of agriculture and food in the Latin America region. And she is really well equipped to talk to us about the relationships between food systems and nutrition through the work she is doing on climate smart and nutrition sensitive agriculture, linking farmers to markets in various ways. Food systems approaches for getting rural transformation and reducing risk vulnerability and gender equality.

Preeti has a long and distinguished history and we are really pleased that she has come from her work in the World Bank to share with us. Each panelist will speak for 5 minutes and then after they have spoken then we will have some opportunities to engage you in the discussion. We will set up a speakers list and then once that has been completed, we will close.

I will get advice from Chris Hagedorn as to how we manage the time challenge on this particular panel. Once the panel is finished, we will revert back to interventions in relation to the actual guidelines themselves and there is a specific program for that.

So, after that introduction I would like to invite Emorn to start her 5 minutes now. You have the floor.

**Ms Emorn UDOMKESMALEE, Mahidol University, Thailand**

I think it's now, good afternoon. Thank you CFS for the invitation. I have read voluntary guidelines, and I have to admit that this is a very bold initiative. And it's very helpful. Coming from a country I feel this is the guideline that has an opportunity to engage more likely and bring policy coherence across sectors. That has been for us, in the nutrition field, the most challenging task to achieve.

Starting with the guidelines with the food system being talked about all over the world, with the climate change being a 'zoom ahead' agenda, I believe 2020 we will see a lot of guidelines related to these 2 subjects and more coming on the screen. From the country point of view how can CFS voluntary guidelines play that role of coordination, to see how we can link across all those guidelines and be able to bring clarity for the country, agree to it and say this is the guideline I should really follow, because it has a connection to others that I need. And I think this is one of the things I see as important for the country itself.

Now going to the country, looking at this, the challenge it's usually this, government takes the lead to make policy, but I want to say there's an opportunity here before policy generation is to be able to invite those stakeholders that have an interest of the same similar lack of policy to be able to come on board and have an alliance policy primarily being made in order to inspire commitment to actually, rather than generate a policy and then you have to advocate for it and say who is going to buy in. So, I think that we need to do a pre-empt for that before. The policy coherence across sector is important, but the next step is that.

The guidelines as itself is global in nature. Success of these guidelines will be measured by how much that country can translate and adapt these guidelines into action. That's one of the things about it is that it is possible that the countries take a look at the context. So now you have seen the report that has come out in 2017. For example, the food system typology is traditional, mixed and modern. Well, actually in a country all these 3 can coexist and perhaps the country would say, well we want to keep the traditional system, fix some of the weakness and be able to keep it and work alongside modern systems where innovation of food can help traditional diet to prosper. Korea is starting on that.

In Thailand traditional food is coming back into play with some of the culinary people know Thai food. If we want to keep some of the good things and be able to bring technology innovation to bring it better and on board.

Now nutrition should be part of this, and we think that would be an opportunity where these guidelines could touch on.

My last point is the data and evidence that exist in the country, and country needs to make more likely benefits out of those treasures. What are the data and evidence that are important to them? Some of the examples that would come out has to do with dietary intake assessment survey that is now being done in many countries. How can that be part of this in order to guide where food needs to go in order to fulfil nutrition needs of the mothers and children out there. So, some of this data also needs to be consolidated.

The other things that come on board very quickly, has to do with the initiatives that would be friendly to these guidelines, like city initiatives. The food cities of the world are coming up very quickly, and I know that one of the things we see in the Expo in Milan has to do with a lot of them want to bring the greens to the city. And of course, some of the gardens that would be edible. Some of these will be complimentary and maybe I would say voluntary guidelines could pick that up and be able to use it for that, including the effort done by the chefs of the world and culinary association that also highlights sustainable diet and healthy diet. That work should not just be done in limbo but perhaps to have a place where they can really help the guidelines for the how-to.

We have a lot of, why it's important, the malnutrition that is really a dilemma everywhere and now is the time for solutions. How the guidelines can bring that on board for the clarity of the how and make this a doable guideline for countries all over the world. Thank you very much.

**Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR**

Thank you very much Emorn. I think this whole effort has been really beautifully supported by the work of the high-level panel of experts and their report on nutrition and food systems, HLPE report 12. I'd like to give a real shout out to the HLPE team for that wonderful piece of work. And just really re-stress to you 3 things that Emorn said.

1, moving from why to how. 2, to the coexistence of traditional mixed and modern diets and the way that many countries and consumers are engaged in that, in a very exciting way. And 3, working with cities, for example through the Milano Food Policy Pact, and also with chefs, really great.

Now we'd like to come to Bibi for her 5 minutes comments and just to say that Chris Hagedorn just whispered in my left ear, this session has to finish by the time we break for lunch. So, if you are going to comment, we would invite you to be very brief when we finish the remarks from our speakers. So over to Bibi.

**Ms Bibi GIYOSE, NEPAD**

Thank you very much David. Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, Excellencies. Let me just start my remarks by confirming that NEPAD has gone through a transformation. We are now called African Union Development Agency. So, I would like to center my intervention around 3 or 4 points. The first one being, as she pointed out, these guidelines are doable, but what is going to remain very critical is to ensure that the guidelines are tailored to fit the different country context. Countries are at different levels of cultural expression, social economic expression and more importantly all the constraint being economic wherewithal to actually be able to translate them into workable policies and programs. And so applying them, is going to necessarily require certain sensitivities so that we don't leave anybody or any group outside.

My second point is, yes, we have the guidelines, then where do we go from here. Are they going to be another beautiful document, with big grammar, that doesn't translate into anything meaningful? I don't think we should be going that route. We have taken a lot of efforts to develop these guidelines, therefore they must serve the purpose for which they are intended. We have global targets for nutrition. We have regional targets and national targets, but more importantly let's think about that human individual face.

What are the targets for ensuring that these guidelines are going to be serving the individuals that are so plagued by hunger and malnutrition, in their different forms.

So engaging policy makers with evidence, is a very important element but policy makers are exactly that. But who are the policymakers? More often than not we forget a very important group of policymakers who are the parliamentarians. How often do we actually talk to parliamentarians about issues of nutrition and food systems?

I would like to give an example of the work we are doing in Africa. We have since last year engaged the South African parliament and the sub regional parliamentarians. It is amazing how they have said to us, my goodness we never knew we had a silent emergency called malnutrition. And we never knew how to actually engage and work with the different sectors that are really key in stemming out prevention and managing the challenge of handling malnutrition. So, these people are actually or should be, our best allies and our best champions.

And indeed, there are other examples from other parts of the world in Latin America where the parliamentary fora, are actually gatekeepers of the law and therefore they should be addressing the issue. But let's not forget the program implementers. Since this is an International Day for Young Women, let me stress that we should not forget the girls, the women, and the grandmothers because not only are they food producers, they are food processors and carers. And here is a saying, that nothing for us, without us. So as women we must really be at the center of dealing with and handling issues of malnutrition.

Thirdly the guidelines without a dedicated resource, cannot be anything. It's more like a lion without teeth. So, if you want to prevent that lion into a pangolin, go ahead, you're not going to be able to get any results out of it. So, we certainly must ensure that sectors dedicate resources to the implementation of the guidelines.

Last, but not least, development of these guidelines as we found in nutrition and food system instrument, would require enhanced human capacities, and a skills mix particularly around the softer issues of management and good governance. Without good governance we cannot achieve the target of zero hunger. Therefore, let's get the guidelines in a way that really can serve the populous. Thank you

#### **Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR**

Thank you, Bibi for once again, as with Emorn, the clarity with which you laid out the issues. My 3 takeaways from what you said are this guidance must serve the purpose which means they must be accessible to policymakers.

That secondly one of the key policy maker groups is parliamentarians, and they have different roles in different country contexts, that's the only way in which it will be possible to leave no one behind. Number 3, the resources and human capacity will be needed to implement. I hope that's a reasonable take away from what you said. Thank you for those remarks. Now I would like to invite Preeti Ahuja to give her remarks.

#### **Ms Preeti AHUJA, Manager Latin America, Global Practice Agriculture & Food, World Bank**

Thank you and good afternoon. From the World Bank we welcome the voluntary guidelines. We are faced with a silent global crisis today, with half of the world's population facing one form of malnutrition

or another. This issue is costing annually trillions and trillions of dollars in terms of lost productivity, health care cost. But imagine also the future where this translates into many fold that amount, through lost potential.

Now let's put this together with the need to produce 50 to 60% more crop calories, the term put forward by WRI to really get to that objective, in a sustainable nutrition sensitive manner by 2050, how will we achieve that? So, I would like to propose 3 sets of actions which would help us get there. And to really give teeth, as someone was saying, to the voluntary guidelines.

So, the first bucket, or the first pillar relates to leveraging the technology and the research and innovation infrastructure that we have available today globally. In terms of technology, this is a dynamic, disruptive force which is here, both public and private sector actors are engaged in it. We can leverage technologies ranging from biofortification, alternate proteins, means to curb food lost and waste on the one hand and on the other hand, we need to invest the energies and resources of the public and private research and innovation arms of the nations as well as at a global level. The CJIER system for instance, to really focus on the agenda which is so critical that we are talking about today.

The second bucket is more and better use of funds. Somebody asked earlier today about resources. Where are the funds going to come from? Now we do have trillions of dollars in private funding, which is available, which is looking for investment with impact. Whether it is private investment funds or whether it's institutional funds, we need to see how these trillions of dollars can move from an orientation towards the global north, to really being orientated for impact on the nutrition security agenda more equitably distributed across the globe.

Secondly how do we make better use of the funds that are available in the system. So, OECD has estimated there are about \$570 billion which are being leveraged each year in terms of public support to the agriculture sector. Some of this is being used effectively, but the bulk of this amount, this huge amount, could be put to better use. Could be redirected to foster nutrition sensitive, nutrition smart approaches.

And the third element of course, which we have all talked about and touched on, is finding ways to work together better. This is everyone's business that we are talking about. It is the governments, the public sector agencies, the private sector and multinationals. The 500 smallholder producers, and the 7.7 billion consumers, we all have to come together to work on this agenda. At the same time, I think we need to identify champions for this cause at national levels, at local levels. Champions with vision, commitment and drive. Thank you.

### **Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR**

So all our panelists have pointed out this really is a massive global crisis, and as Preeti said, half the world's population is experiencing some form of malnutrition, with enormous costs as assessed by the World Bank. She suggested firstly leveraging technology and research for innovation to be a dynamic disruptive force. Using public and private resource energies. She identified the possibility of more funding and better use of funding particularly better use of the 570 billion that goes in public support to the agriculture sector.

And thirdly this is everybody's business. It just cannot be left to one discipline or one sector.

Now despite the enormity of this issue, we have to say that each speaker is asked to speak their remarks in about a minute. We will take 5 and then see how we get on. Could you please use the usual technique for getting the floor. And I know that the interpreters have currently agreed to work until 1:10, but then we have to stop. So, who would like to comment on what you have heard from the panel, and issues, more generally? If you wouldn't mind doing the technique. Here we go.

So, I'm told that time is even tighter. So, here's the list. It's the order in which you pressed the buttons and we will close the list now. Its private-sector mechanism, Finland. Civil Society Mechanism Scale up Nutrition movement, Kuwait. United States of America, Russian Federation. Let's see if we can manage Brazil has come in as well. The people advising me on my left will tell me when we have to stop. Could we invite the private-sector mechanism? I will tell you when you have spoken for a minute.

## **PSM**

Thank you very much Chair. Thank you very much for the opportunity and good afternoon everybody. My name is Catherine Otto. I work for Cargill and I am here as a member of the private-sector mechanism, and I participate in the nutrition there.

I will keep my intervention very short and in line with what also the panelists have said. We would encourage in order for the voluntary guidelines to be implementable and transformative, to really reduce the number of areas that are covered in the voluntary guidelines. As private sector mechanism we have suggested 17 policy recommendations and would invite all stakeholders of the CFS to consider a number closer to 20 than the current number.

I have participated in the regional consultation in Budapest. I am very pleased to see that a lot of comments and proposals that were also enumerated by the Chair of the open-ended working group, are really areas where the private sector is already taking action today and where we can further expand and improve our interventions often in partnership with other stakeholders. Let me quickly point out to you a number that have also been highlighted across the debate this morning. The role of food knowledge and nutrition education to empower consumers, but also extending it to other stakeholders in the supply chain. The promotion of diverse foods that constitute a healthy diet. Food reformulation, and linked to innovation across the whole supply chain, responsible marketing and let's not forget food safety. I want to end here.

## **Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR**

That's beautiful. Thank you. That was absolutely on time. Please could others do the same. I think next speaker is Finland.

## **Finland.**

I'm speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 38 member states, but I will keep to the key message to save time. We welcome the progress made to us, the elaboration of the voluntary guidelines and the reaffirm to commitment of the European Union and its member states to keep engaging in this critically important CFS process.

And we also express our appreciation from the broad, excessive and inclusive consultation process that has taken place, including at regional level.

We reiterate the importance of a system-based approach for food and nutrition and of addressing the issue of food systems governance and relationship and power dynamics between actors. We also emphasized the importance of multi-stakeholder approaches, and also collaboration between the governments and private sector.

Food system sustainability is a key element and strongly interlinked with nutrition and human health and is an increasing challenge in the context of climate change. This dimension should be properly reflected in the future guidelines.

As many experts here today have mentioned, it is extremely important to emphasize the necessity of practical and user-friendly guidelines. Thank you very much.

### **Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR**

That is about 90 seconds, but you are speaking in behalf of an awful lot of important countries, so thank you for your lovely and precise statement, and also what you said. Now we would like to go to the civil society mechanism, you have the floor.

### **CSM**

Thank you very much, Chair. I will try to be brief as well and respect the time limit. I am from the civil society mechanism and from a consumer's organization. We would just like to echo what was said by others in relation to the commitment we all have here, to this process. As the CSM we represent food producers, consumers and actors in food systems, they are often the most affected by hunger and malnutrition and that's why it's important that our voices be heard in this process.

In summary we have already heard some things, we have had things come out of the regional consultation. So we spoke about human rights and it's very important to emphasize the indivisibility of human rights. And this is important to these guidelines because the rights of women and farmers are very important in this, in relation to human rights more broadly. We have already heard about the proposal to change the structure. This was brought up in the consultations as well. We need to feed this new structure when it is created, and 800 million people are suffering from hunger and malnutrition, this is affecting families and many people who are being affected and represented by civil society mechanism. We need to make sure that we conserve knowledge for solutions, and we would like to make sure we have a good political roadmap so we can have a change of direction for our food systems. Thank you very much.

### **Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR**

Now the movement to scale up nutrition.

### **SUN Movement**

Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I would like to commend the organizers of this panel because it is a lovely panel. What you said was very much to the point.

2, the SUN Movement with its 61 member countries wants to make food systems part of our DNA.

3, it needs, the guidelines need to be able to be country owned and country driven. So please don't make them too detailed and pragmatic, so they can be tailor-made later on.

4, invite from the very beginning the different sectors around the table and the different stakeholders. So not only the food players but also the environment or climate players and the health players and the social protection, whoever you think needs to be involved. The same counts for the stakeholders. Please invite everyone who is a stakeholder to the table so they can have a say in the development, and later on in the implementation.

And finally, these voluntary guidelines are of crucial importance to be there on a timely manner, to play in a role in Nutrition for Growth summit next year in Japan and in the Food System summit in 2021, but involves all the players and stakeholders from the very beginning. Thank you very much.

### **Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR**

Thank you, Gerda Verburg, SUN Movement coordinator. Now the floor goes to Kuwait.

### **Kuwait**

This intervention of Kuwait comes on behalf of the Near East group. Talking of food systems and nutrition in the Near East region means talking about malnutrition in all its forms. Food systems have a direct impact on human health well-being and development and are therefore a major contributor to the nutritional status of the populations in our countries as in other countries and of course to varying degrees, depending on the level of progress to each country in dietary applications.

The international voluntary guidelines currently being developed under the auspices of the CFS will certainly contribute to strengthening our food systems in terms of developing and defining policies that will regulate science policy linkages towards viable food and nutrition system or what is known as sustainable diets.

We would like to insist on the need to take into consideration the result of regional consultations held on 25 September 2019 in Cairo, the rich reviews emphasized the need to take into account the specificities of the different areas. For example, we need to take into consideration the problems having to do with hunger and malnutrition, particularly in countries facing conflicts on top of other issues shared with other countries such as obesity. We would like also to insist on the need to take into consideration the consultations and we would also like to insist on the role of young people as factors of change in terms of food habits, thus improving food and nutritional system.

We would like to reassert the importance of all stakeholders from decision makers, civil society organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations, civil society and others because they have a part to place in having better quality food. Now is the time to start implementing the recommendations of the second International conference on nutrition, so as to have better nutrition across the world it is necessary also to involve all actors, all stakeholders. We would also like to insist on the 5

vectors identified by the high-level panel of experts to influence food and nutrition systems across the globe. Thank you.

**Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR**

So, colleagues, tricky times because we have lots of people wanting to speak and the time available to us is very limited. Please stick to 1 minute if you can. United States.

**United States of America**

Thank you very much. Thank you to the speakers including the panelists for their helpful context and excellent reminders about ensuring the guidelines are practical, nationally usable, inclusive of evidence. We very much appreciate the update on the voluntary guidelines from Madame Ortega. We strongly believe these voluntary guidelines should adhere to the highest scientific standards so that member states and other stakeholders can continue to rely on the guidance they provide. To that end these guidelines should be supported by a sound and sufficient body of scientific evidence.

We support international efforts to develop effective guidance for nutrition policies and we appreciate the recognition by the CFS that advancing nutrition requires a holistic, interdisciplinary and inclusive approach that bridges all relevant sectors within the context and capacity of each country and region.

We appreciate the continued opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions on the documents in progress and we look forward to continued engagement in this process including the North American regional consultation near Washington DC in November, to provide further input on these voluntary guidelines and sharing evidence-based practices, and important discussion. Thank you.

**Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR**

Thank you very much indeed United States of America. Now we go to Russian Federation please.

**Russian Federation**

Chairperson we welcome the work carried out by the CFS open-ended working group to prepare the guidelines. We welcome the inclusion in this version of the guidelines of a comprehensive, intersectional approach to coordinate measures in the area of agriculture, food policy and health to ensure healthy diets.

In the document, it is necessary to take into account, all the components of the so-called triple burden of malnutrition, under nutrition, micronutrient deficiency and factors that cause obesity. This would be in line with the decisions of the second International conference on nutrition, relevant themes in our view that should be reflected in the CFS recommendations include the following. Food safety and quality. Reducing food loss. Combating noncommunicable diseases linked to unhealthy diets. Education in this area and promoting healthy lifestyles. Social protection for vulnerable parts of the population. Attracting investment in food production systems and the use of innovative technologies in this area and reducing antimicrobial resistance.

In formulating the content of the principles, we call on the Secretariat to strictly adhere and stick to its technical mandate. We shouldn't delve into non-core issues of the committee and shouldn't encourage on

the competence of other UN bodies. In order to not get lost in the diverse set of issues that are proposed to be resolved by developing the principles, it is important to clearly link them to their impact on the area of nutrition.

On a separate note we would like to record the importance of the gathering and expansion of regional contributions to the preparation of the voluntary guidelines. We thank Ms. Liliane Ortega for presenting information on the outcomes of the recent regional consultations. We will be happy to familiarize ourselves with the outcomes in written form, after which we will determine our position on what is contained in them.

In conclusion allow us to say that we expect this document to become one of the significant practical outcomes of the UN decade of action on nutrition and that it will make a significant contribution to the achievement of many of the sustainable development goals. Thank you for your attention.

**Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR**

Now we invite the delegate from Brazil to make remarks. Brazil you have the floor.

**Brazil**

Thank you, Mr. Chair, I will be very concise. Brazil reiterates its full support to the agenda food systems and nutrition, as central to the work of the FAO and all the RDAs. We would like to highlight the quality of the document which addresses the multiple burden of malnutrition and presents strategies and solutions which can be applied in different national contexts.

Brazil supports and adopts within its domestic legislation, a broader conceptual approach, adequate and healthy food in order to incorporate perspectives beyond those biological, bringing elements referring to social cultural aspects to how the food is produced and to the level of processing of the food. In this sense we support this broader and updated concept of adequate and healthy food, to be taken into consideration within the elaboration of the voluntary guidelines. Thank you very much.

**Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR**

Thank you very much indeed Brazil. So, we are going to try to have 3 more speakers. Thank you to the interpreters. I'm just saying to the panelists, I regret I don't think there will be time for you to have significant further comments. We will try our best. So, we would like to invite Kenya, the delegate from Kenya to take the floor please. Kenya you have the floor.

**Kenya**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I must join Anna in thanking the panelists for the very comprehensive and educative presentation. We participated in the regional consultation for the Africa, Freedom for Africa in Addis Ababa, and we are very grateful for the comprehensive report by Ms. Ortega.

And just to emphasize 3 points that protection and regeneration of natural food systems, especially agroecology, really should be brought out. The guidelines should be able to assist us and to ensure soil

pollution free land. The other point is to foster sustainability of positive aspects of culture, social relations and indigenous knowledge. I think that really came out from the panelists. And the issue of consumer education for informed decisions.

As we all know the food which comes to the table, there has been a lot of decision that has been made on the same. Whether it is nutritious or not, the food choices and even the preparation methods really the consumer education and nutrition education is very important, and we are happy that it is highlighted in this program guidelines. We are also happy that the different governments at all levels, will be able to really align themselves to the guidelines, and that there is opportunity for that. Thank you Chair.

**Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR**

Thank you. Lovely, thank you very much indeed. Now we go to the World Food Program please.

**WFP**

Thank you, Chair. Given the time I'll skip right to the 4 key points. WFP believes that the humanitarian angle should feature more prominently in the documents starting from the scope. The human and economic cost of not addressing food systems and nutrition and in a humanitarian context, are far too high for us to ignore. We believe the guidelines constitute a unique opportunity to promote systematic and comprehensive policies that aim to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of food systems in response to climate change shocks and humanitarian crises.

The second point, in line with the recommendation 2b of the 2017 HLPE report on food systems and nutrition, WFP calls for the inclusion in the guidelines of a preventive and long-term approach that results in increased resilience to the humanitarian crisis. Disrupted and broken food systems are particularly vulnerable to shocks and disruptions and can be strengthened or altogether rebuilt through the creation of resilient food supply chains through improved food systems.

The third point, Chair, as already stated by the SUN coordinator the role of platforms such as the scaling up nutrition movement should be leveraged as they are already galvanizing multisector efforts for improved nutrition at the country level.

The final point, we would like to reiterate the important role that the private sector needs to play to make food systems work for nutrition and we stand ready to share WFP's experience and expertise in this area of work, in particular, through the co-convening of the SUN Business Network and work at local level with smallholder farmers and other initiatives involving the private sector.

**Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR**

Thank you very much WFP. The last speaker on this section is Thailand. Thailand you have the floor.

## **Thailand**

Thailand supports the voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition, and the involvement of our stakeholders in the voluntary guideline process. We also support the conceptual framework in the HLPE report.

Regarding the 3 policy entry points for food systems, transformation towards improved nutrition memory, food supply sales, food environments, and consumer behavior. Thailand is transforming the national food system. Several policies and objectives have been implemented to promote sustainable food systems and enable healthy diet, especially for children and women and vulnerable groups.

However for safeguard of smallholder, we would like to list our concern on the eventual use of voluntary guidelines as a benchmark for [unclear 03:00:55] assist our country in the context of food and nutrition, in order to avoid potential economic and social impact in the international forums, or even trade barriers.

We like the voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition, is a useful tool for changing food systems to ensure that food contributes to healthy diets, including combating malnutrition in all its forms. Thank you.

## **Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR**

Thank you so much, very lovely. So now each of our panelists who just want to reiterate your remarks, was really appreciated by so many people. Could you give one sentence final reactions.

## **Ms Emorn UDOMKESMALEE, Mahidol University, Thailand**

Food is visible, nutrients are not. It is the time where we can empower food, using nutrition as part of the element to bring the food systems towards the global eradication of malnutrition in all its forms. Thank you very much.

## **Ms Bibi GIYOSE, NEPAD**

Simply let's move beyond the words, let's move beyond platitudes. Let's take action now or never.

## **Ms Preeti AHUJA, Manager Latin America, Global Practice Agriculture & Food, World Bank**

Just to say that food touches us all. We are heading out to lunch. Culture to technology, chefs to scientists. Let's all pull together to make it happen.

## **Mr David NABARRO, MODERATOR**

Thank you for the chance to be moderating this session. I hand back now to the Chair.

## **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you, David, Dr Nabarro for managing an illuminating discussion. Thank you also to Miss Ahuja, Miss Giyose, and Miss Udomkesmalee.

As David and our panelists just said, we have to break now for lunch. We do not have more time, more interpretation time to do anything else. At 3 PM sharp, 3 PM sharp, 15:00 hours, we will reconvene here in the plenary room to finish item 5.

Now we have side events. I will ask the technical team to put the list of side events that are taking place now on the screen. And we also have a, Friends of the Chair meeting next door here in the Caribbean lounge, taking place now. Thank you.