

Name:

Switzerland

Statement: V_Food Systems and Nutrition

(planned content of the session according to ORL:

Update on process VG by ORL; panel discussion on the future uptake of guidelines with D. Nabarro; and follow-up on the implementation of the framework for action ICN2)

- Switzerland **highly appreciated the consultative process** for the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition and the opportunities to hand in statements through **e-consultation** and **regional consultations** in order to improve the existing draft of the guidelines.
- Switzerland believes that this process contributes to foster awareness and broad ownership among key parties and all CFS stakeholders.
- In view of the development of the Draft 1 of the voluntary guidelines, Switzerland expects that attention is paid to the following three aspects:

1. First, in order to be in line with the SDGs, nutrition aims to be **healthy for humans, as well as healthy for the planet** and is therefore based on sustainable agricultural production and food systems. Only then can the implementation of these guidelines add true value towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals as globally agreed in the 2030 Agenda. The consumption side cannot be addressed in isolation from the production side. We will not achieve the transformation to sustainable food systems without sustainable diets. Following the discussions held in the Open Ended Working Group, **we welcome** that the CFS secretariat in collaboration with FAO and WHO **will propose a definition of sustainable and healthy diets to be included in the Draft One** of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition.

2. Second, Switzerland agrees that **nutrition education is key to empower** and equip people with the information and skills necessary **to adopt healthy eating habits** and that school nutrition programmes play an important role herein. However, we would like to reiterate the fact that the **choice** individuals are able (or not able) to make is to a large degree influenced and **defined by the food environment**. Therefore, the importance of an enabling environment that facilitate consumers' choice towards healthy and sustainable diets needs to be strengthened in Draft 1.

3. Third, given the evidence provided in the recent SOFI report that economic slowdowns or downturns disproportionately undermine food security and nutrition where inequalities are greatest and that particularly income inequality increases the likelihood of severe food insecurity, the **structural causes of malnutrition** – in particular inequity and poverty – **needs to be further emphasized** in Draft 1 of the Voluntary Guidelines.

The above said it is also critical to look into **trade and investment regimes** as they can heavily form and influence food environments for the consumers. These also have an important impact on production policies and consequently on the accessibility of diverse, healthy and affordable food.

- Finally, Switzerland welcomes that the coming CFS voluntary guidelines foresee to build on and integrate existing instruments adopted within the context of the UN system, in particular the ICN2 recommendations. In this context, Switzerland **welcomes the Progress Report on the follow-up of the ICN2** and the Decade of Action on nutrition and acknowledges the progress made by the UN Agencies to integrate nutrition into their strategic approaches. Efforts of increased coordination among UN Agencies should continue to address the existing policy fragmentation between the food, agriculture, trade and health sectors.

We believe that the elaboration of these voluntary guidelines is an opportunity to go a step further in order to capture the holistic nature of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs.

CFS 46 Delegate Statement