

Comments on latest version of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN) – 3 June 2020

Canada

Dear CFS Secretariat:

Further to the OEWG meeting and consultation that recently took place on the Voluntary Guidelines, please find below additional Canadian comments on paragraphs on indigenous peoples, and on the marketing of foods.

Indigenous knowledge and indicators

- Regarding para 3.5.2.c on Indigenous Peoples knowledge (para 3.5.2c) (see below): Canada agrees with the assertion regarding the need for recognition of the importance of incorporating Indigenous People's traditional knowledge/ science into the guidelines.
- In the Friends of Indigenous peoples Group in Rome, Indigenous peoples representatives have stressed the need to develop nutrition indicators that make sense to them, pointing to the lack of such indicators (and hence appropriate data) to date. Canada recommends the inclusion of text to support this point, and will bring forward suggested text, at a later date, that makes reference to the need to develop specific indicators on Indigenous Peoples nutrition and food security.

Monitoring of marketing of foods on line

- 333-a : Canada suggests that the paragraph on the role of the internet, social media and online marketing of foods also include monitoring of marketing of foods that contribute to excess consumption of nutrients of public health concern.
- 351-b: Canada also suggests that with regards to the recommendation to restrict food and beverages marketing, that the language better reflect the intent of the WHO recommendations, i.e., "foods and beverages that contribute to excess intakes of nutrients of public health concern". We also support the deletion of a specified age of children. This would be in keeping UN/WHO documents on restricting Marketing to Children which leaves the definition of "age" to the Member State.