CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems for Nutrition (VGFSyN)
Draft for Negotiations

Contents

PART 1 - INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

1.2 KEY CONCEPTS

PART 2 - OBJECTIVES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

2.1 OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE

2.2 NATURE OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES AND THEIR INTENDED USERS

2.3 GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR TRANSFORMING FOOD SYSTEMS OR PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

PART 3 - THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON FOOD SYSTEMS FOR NUTRITION

3.1 TRANSPARENT, DEMOCRATIC AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE OF FOOD SYSTEMS

3.2 SUSTAINABLE FOOD SUPPLIES FOR IMPROVED DIETS AND NUTRITION IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

3.3 EQUITABLE ACCESS TO HEALTHY DIETS DELIVERED BY SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

3.4 FOOD SAFETY ACROSS SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

3.5 SOCIAL RELATIONS, KNOWLEDGE AND CULTURE OF DIETS
3.5.2 Encouraging local food knowledge and culture ................................................................. 22
3.5.3 Promoting “hubs” for nutrition knowledge, education and information ................................ 22

3.6 GENDER EQUALITY-EQUITY AND WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT ACROSS FOOD SYSTEMS ...... 23
3.6.1 Empowering women .............................................................................................................. 23
3.6.2 Promoting and acknowledging women as food system entrepreneurs ....................................... 23
3.6.3 Recognizing women’s nutritional status and deprivation ....................................................... 24

3.7 RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS IN HUMANITARIAN CONTEXTS ..................................................... 24
3.7.1 Protecting the most vulnerable to malnutrition in humanitarian contexts ............................... 25
3.7.2 Improving the quality of food and nutrition assistance .......................................................... 25
3.7.3 Ensuring food systems are resilient in humanitarian contexts .............................................. 26

PART 4 - IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE USE AND APPLICATION OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON FOOD SYSTEMS FOR NUTRITION ................................................................. 26
4.1 POLICY FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VGFSyN ............................................. 26
4.2 BUILDING AND STRENGTHENING CAPACITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION ........................................ 27
4.3 MONITORING OF THE USE AND APPLICATION OF THE VGFSyN ................................................. 28

PART 1 - INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

1. Malnutrition in all its forms - undernutrition, wasting, chronic malnutrition - micronutrient deficiencies, overweight, and obesity - is one of the major global challenges that countries face and is a result of food insecurity, along with many other factors and causes. Malnutrition, in at least one of its forms, affects every country in the world and most countries are affected by multiple forms. The impacts of malnutrition have profound consequences on people’s health and wellbeing, physical and cognitive development, and livelihoods throughout their lifetime and across generations. High malnutrition rates can also take a heavy toll on national GDP due to lost productivity and high medical care costs. Malnutrition is a major impediment to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2. Malnutrition in all its forms is associated with various forms of ill health and increased mortality. Undernutrition is a major cause of death among children under the age of five years, and a source of increased susceptibility to infectious diseases during childhood, and risk of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in adulthood. Wasting and edema, also known as acute malnutrition, poses a significant risk of increased morbidity and mortality in children. Stunting, largely a result of also known as chronic malnutrition, is associated with delays in both physical growth and cognitive development.

---

Commented [USG1]: This should be “equity” rather than “equality.” Ensuring equality does not ensure equity so this matters. For example, ensuring equal opportunities for ag extension for men and women usually means women don’t have access because there are too many barriers, such as child care needs, household duties. Equity means these issues are dealt with.

Commented [USG2]: Greater specificity

Commented [USG3]: Nutrition status is an indicator of success, not an impediment to success. Impediments include poverty, lack of nutrition education, etc.

Commented [USG4]: Stunting and chronic malnutrition are not the same thing. Stunting is largely a result of chronic malnutrition, but also other issues. Stunting is a syndrome that results from a poor growth environment.

---

Footnote: Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, economic and social access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their energy and nutritional needs.
food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”. FAO, 1996. Rome Declaration on World Food Security and World Food Summit Plan of Action.
3. **Micronutrient deficiencies** related to the inadequate intake of food rich in iron, vitamin A, iodine, folate, vitamin D, and zinc, among others and other essential nutrients, affect a large proportion of the global population with serious consequences on health, well-being, and development. Nutritional needs vary across the lifecycle. Children under the age of five years, adolescent girls, women of childbearing age, and pregnant and lactating women have specific nutritional requirements across their lifecycle and are susceptible to have a higher risk of anaemia, in particular iron deficiency anaemia. Also referred to as “hidden hunger,” micronutrient deficiencies increase a person’s vulnerability to infection, birth defects, impaired development, and lower life expectancy.

4. **Overweight and obesity** represent major risk factors globally for diet-related NCDs such as some forms of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes. While undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies are still the main forms of malnutrition among children under the age of five years globally, overweight and obesity are increasingly prevalent among young and school-aged children, adolescents and adults.

5. The heavy social and economic impacts of malnutrition in all its forms are transmitted across generations. Undernourished mothers are more likely to have low-birth-weight babies, who are at putting them at an increased risk of becoming undernourished as children, into adulthood as well as overweight and or obese as adults. Maternal obesity poses short- and long-term risks for maternal health, and also risks to child health and wellbeing, including poor cognition and increased risk of neurodevelopment disorders early in life, as well as an increased susceptibility to NCDs in adult life. Malnutrition in children results in reduced stature, diminished physical and mental health, and poor school performance in childhood as well as, reduced economic productivity and opportunities, and increased vulnerability to NCDs and other chronic diseases in adulthood. These diseases lead to early death and increased morbidity and disability, which and require higher spending on health care and, placing significant burdens on national health care systems and economies.

6. Malnutrition in all its forms has many interrelated and underlying causes that need to be addressed simultaneously. Among them, the lack of stable access to safe food and healthy diets, inadequate infant and young child-care and feeding practices, poor sanitation, and hygiene, and insufficient access to safe drinking water, insufficient access to quality education and health services, low socioeconomic status, and marginalization. Basic causes of poor nutrition encompass include the factors, societal structures and processes that low down the realization of human rights and perpetuate poverty and, limiting or denying the access of vulnerable populations to essential resources for achieving optimal nutrition and health for vulnerable groups.

7. **Poverty and inequality** are important underlying causes of hunger and malnutrition in all its forms. Low and underemployment rates, low wages, and incomes, and decreased purchasing power have negative consequences on nutrition and health outcomes. Negative economic trends limit the capacity of national governments to deliver essential, under-resourced food assistance programs, nutrition-relevant services, nutrition-related services, social services, and health care to their citizens. In this context, inequality in income and asset distribution as well as in access to nutrition-relevant services, further contributes to poor nutrition and health outcomes as well as to marginalization and
social exclusion, and which further increases vulnerability to malnutrition.

8. **Those most affected by malnutrition in all its forms** typically include people with increased nutrient requirements and those who have less control over their dietary choices, including young and school-aged children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women, the elderly, and people with

Disabilities. In addition, Indigenous Peoples, peasants, urban and rural poor, agriculture workers, upland and remote communities, migrants, refugees and displaced people are those who live in impoverished conditions are particularly vulnerable to malnutrition because of their persistent or temporary poverty.

9. **Complex and protracted crises** also have short, medium and long-term adverse consequences on the nutritional status of impacted populations, particularly pregnant and lactating women and children under five. Conflicts, fragility, and susceptibility to climate-related and other disasters pose a major threat to the ability of food systems to deliver healthy diets and to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a whole.

10. **Climate change, agriculture**, and nutrition are interconnected. Climate change affects temperature and precipitation, as well as the frequency and severity of extreme weather events. Increases in temperature, heat waves, and droughts, and floods affect impact agriculture, with the largest effects being decreased crop yields and livestock productivity, as well as declines in fisheries and agroforestry production in areas already vulnerable to food insecurity. Climate change also affects food quantity, quality, safety, and ultimately food prices, with significant implications for the availability of healthy diets. At the same time, agriculture and food production are major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions and account for large portions of the planet’s land and fresh-water use.

11. **Unhealthy diets** have become a major risk factor of multiple forms of malnutrition and poor health outcomes globally. Global dietary patterns have been changing, affecting people across all parts of the world. In many regions of the world, dietary changes are shifting towards the overconsumption of convenient food and beverages with high content in sugar, and/or in saturated fat, and/or salt content. Diets based on these foods are associated with an increased prevalence of overweight, obesity and certain NCDs.

12. **Profound dietary changes**, both positive and negative, are occurring for several reasons, including the movement of people to urban places, the increased purchasing power and preferences of newly middle-class consumers, the influence of globalization and trade within the food system, the continued loss of access to food movement away from traditional diets, and changing lifestyles.

13. **Food systems** are complex webs of activities and actors involving the food production, processing, handling, preparation, storage, distribution, and consumption of food and ultimately waste of food. They are constantly being shaped by different forces, drivers and decisions can affect food systems and the provision and consumption of food that contributes by many different individuals. Every food system has the capacity to be equitable and to produce healthy diets needed to healthy for optimal nutrition. But, they can also be shaped by power concentration and imbalances, which may not be inclusive and equitable. Some sustainability of food systems – including environmental, social and economic sustainability – determines the ability of food systems to provide healthy diets for current and future generations. Food systems are sustainable while others show their limits in terms of sustainability. This indicates that in order to improve nutrition, context-specific changes are needed not only in agriculture and food policies, but also across multiple sectors and policy areas that address the sustainability of food systems, and inefficiency in natural resource utilization, and in the use of labour and energy, leading to

Commented [USG12]: Simple statement preferable to a list of peoples who could be in impoverished conditions.

Commented [USG13]: The problem is high sugar, saturated fat and salt, not convenience per se. Apples are convenient.

Formatted: Character scale: 100%, Not Expanded by / Condensed by

Commented [USG14]: These should be a separate paragraph instead of being shoehorned into the paragraph on unhealthy diets.

Formatted: Font: Bold

Formatted: Font: Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Commented [USG15]: The suggestion that the transition away from traditional diets is due primarily to reduced access does not reflect the dynamic of the transition, including such things as increased demand for protein and fruit and veg, cultivation opportunity costs, time-cost of traditional diets, etc.

Commented [USG16]: This paragraph should provide a concise description of the two reasons for the guidelines: importance of a food systems approach and of sustainability for improving nutrition. Without a sharp focus, the rationale for the guidelines is lost in a listing of problems and objectives.

Commented [USG17]: This paragraph should provide a concise description of the two reasons for the guidelines: importance of a food systems approach and of sustainability for improving nutrition. Without a sharp focus, the rationale for the guidelines is lost in a listing of problems and objectives.

Commented [USG18]: Deleted to keep the focus of this sentence on food systems, not externalities or other sustainability issues.

Commented [USG19]: Why just equitable and not a list of other desired attributes? Best to keep focus on nutrition here.

Commented [USG20]: Too vague and does not fit topic of paragraph, which is to describe what a food system is.

Commented [USG21]: Every food system could be improved and must adapt to changing conditions. Sustainability is not a static state.
13. Protracted crisis situations are “characterized by recurrent natural disasters and/or conflict, longevity of food crises, breakdown of livelihoods and insufficient institutional capacity to react to crises”. 2010 State of Food insecurity in the World Report. FAO. 2010

1 Agriculture includes crops, forestry, fisheries, livestock and aquaculture. UNGA Resolution A/RES/74/242. Paragraph 20

2 “Food systems gather all the elements (environment, people, inputs, processes, infrastructures, institutions, etc.) and activities that relate to the production, processing, distribution, preparation and consumption of food, and the output of these activities, including socio-economic and environmental outcomes”. HLPE. 2014. Food Losses and Waste in the context of Sustainable Food Systems. A report by the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security, Rome.

Environmental degradation, water pollution, and loss of biodiversity as well as to excessive food consumption and food waste patterns.

13. The functionality of food systems and their ability to deliver healthy diets is influenced by a number of drivers which indicate that, in order to improve nutrition, context specific changes are needed not only in agriculture and food policies, but also across multiple sectors and policy areas that address, for example, national development priorities, economic policies, and social norms.

14. Transforming to more sustainable food systems and promoting sustainable food systems that meet the dietary needs of populations require institutional and behavioural changes among all food system actors. Food system-related policies need to focus on their economic, social, environmental, cultural, nutritional, and health consequences, paying special attention to the poorest and most vulnerable to malnutrition and addressing barriers they face in accessing food for healthy diets.

45.14. Changes in governance are needed within and across food systems, and its constituent elements, namely food supply chains, food environments, and consumer behaviour to generate positive outcomes along the three dimensions of sustainability – social, economic, and environmental.

46.15. Coordination processes are required to address policy fragmentation across sectors such as health, agriculture, education, environment, water, sanitation, gender, social protection, trade, employment, and finance – all of which can influence nutrition outcomes.

47.16. The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) has undertaken a policy process to produce agreed to develop the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems for Nutrition (VGFSyN). The preparation of the VGFSyN is informed by the findings and scientific evidence provided in the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition’s (HLPE) Report on Nutrition and Food Systems, additional literature, and as well as a consultation process that took place between May and November 2019, which involved the participation of CFS stakeholders in regional meetings in Italy, Ethiopia, Thailand, Hungary, Egypt, Panama, and the United States of America, as well as through an electronic consultation.

48.17. This policy process is taking place at the same time as a variety of organizations from different sectors are working to address malnutrition. Food systems and nutrition have received increased attention from the global community, including the United Nations (UN) and its Member States, and are recognized as essential co-determinants for achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

---

Commented [USG22]: It is impossible to list all. Better to use revert to three pillars of sustainability.

Commented [USG23]: Combined with the subsequent paragraph.

Commented [USG24]: Throughout the document, “transforming food systems and promoting sustainable food systems” are listed as separate actions. This raises the question as to what food systems are being transformed to. The goal of transformation to more sustainable food systems should be made explicit. Promotion is a necessary part of transformation and doesn’t require special mention.

Formatted: Font: Bold

Formatted: Right: 0.25", Space Before: 9.85 pt, Line spacing: Multiple 1.2 line

Commented [USG25]: Institutional and behavioural change does not apply to all actors.

Commented [USG26]: Implies that government policies need to adhere to social and cultural consequences.

Commented [USG27]: This seems to imply a central or single governance structure behind existing food systems, food supply chains, food environments and consumer behavior. This is not true and confusing. For example, what would a change in governance in consumer behaviour mean?

Formatted: Font: Bold

Formatted: Underline

Commented [USG28]: Move to end of paragraph to keep malnutrition/nutrition examples with first sentence.

9. Food systems to make their decisions about acquiring, preparing and consuming food.” HLPE 2017b

Consumer behaviour “reflects all the choices and decisions made by consumers on what food to acquire, store, prepare, cook and eat, and on the allocation of food within the household.” HLPE 2017b

The HLPE is the science-policy interface of CFS and provides a structured evidence base to inform CFS policy discussions drawing on existing research and knowledge, experiences, and policies at different scales and in different contexts.

2014, at the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), members of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) committed to ending hunger and malnutrition, in all its forms11. In 2016, the General Assembly of the UN (UNGA) proclaimed the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025)12 and called upon FAO and WHO to lead its implementation, in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), using coordination mechanisms such as the Standing Committee on Nutrition and multistakeholder platforms such as the CFS. In 2017, the UNGA proclaimed the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028)13. Specific attention to nutrition has been given by a number of UNGA Resolutions14, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)15, the UN Environment Assembly16, the World Health Assembly (WHA)17, the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025, and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food18. Food systems and nutrition have received increased attention from the global community, including the United Nations (UN) and its Member States, and are recognized as essential co-determinants for achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

49. The VGFSyN are expected to contribute to and complement these international initiatives with a view to promoting policy coherence. They provide evidence-based guidance to help countries operationalize ICN2’s Framework for Action19 recommendations in support of the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security and of the right to the highest attainable standard of health, and of the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 220, with particular attention to targets 2.221 and 2.423. In addition, the VGFSyN should can play an essential role in assisting countries to achieve other related SDGs (SDG 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12).

1.2. KEY CONCEPTS

Healthy diets are those diets that are of adequate quantity and quality to achieve optimal growth and development of all individuals and support functioning and physical, mental and social wellbeing at all life stages. They help to protect against malnutrition in all its forms, including undernutrition, micronutrient deficiency, overweight and obesity) as well as NCDs, such as diabetes, heart disease, stroke and cancer. The exact make-up of healthy diets varies depending on individual characteristics (e.g. age, gender, lifestyle and degree of physical activity), cultural context, local availability of foods and dietary customs. Healthy diets are diversified, balanced, and safe and should minimize the

12 UNGA Resolution A/RES/70/259 - The Work Programme of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition
13 UNGA Resolution A/RES/73/239.
15 Ministerial Declaration of the 2018 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
17 The World Health Assembly has endorsed the Comprehensive implementation plan for maternal, infant and young child nutrition, and the WHO Global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013-2020, which delineate policy options for the prevention of malnutrition in all its forms and the promotion of healthy diets.
18 A/71/282 “Interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food”
20 SDG 2, “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”.
Target 2.1, “By 2030 end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round”.

Target 2.2, “By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons”.

Target 2.4, “By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation for climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality”.
intake of saturated and industrially produced trans fats, added sugars, and sodium. Healthy dietary practices start early in life. Breastfeeding fosters healthy growth and improves cognitive development and may have long-term health benefits.24

**24.20. Sustainable healthy diets** are healthy diets that combine all the dimensions of sustainability to avoid unintended consequences and undermine healthy diets of future generations. They contribute to the preservation of biodiversity and have a low environmental pressure and impact.25

**22.21. Nutritious foods** are those foods that tend to be high in essential nutrients such as vitamins and minerals (micronutrients), as well as proteins, unrefined complex carbohydrates such as fibre, and/or unsaturated fats and are low in sodium, added sugars, saturated fats and industrially produced trans fats.

**23.22. The right to adequate food** is realized when every man, woman and child, alone or in community with others, have the physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement. The right to adequate food implies the availability of food in a quantity and quality sufficient to satisfy the dietary needs of individuals, free from adverse substances and acceptable within given culture.26

**PART 2 – OBJECTIVES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

**2.1 OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE**

**24.23. The objective of the VGFSyN is to contribute to the transformation to more sustainable transforming food systems** for nutrition and by helping governments and other actors make informed, science-based policy choices that support the availability, affordability, accessibility, and safety of healthy, culturally acceptable diets now and into the future delivered through sustainable food systems: promoting sustainable food systems to ensure that the food that contributes to sustainable healthy diets is available, affordable, accessible, safe, and of adequate quantity and quality while conforming with beliefs, culture and traditions, dietary habits, and preferences of individuals, in accordance with national and international laws and obligations.27

**25.24. The VGFSyN follow a comprehensive, systemic, cross-sector, and science- and evidence-based approach to building more sustainable food systems.** Addressing policy fragmentation with a special emphasis on the food, agriculture, and health sectors while also addressing social, environmental and economic sustainability issues, to improve current and future food security and nutrition. The VGFSyN provide guidance on potentially effective policies, investments and institutional arrangements. The VGFSyN are expected to address the diversity and complexity of food systems with the intention of promoting policy coherently designed policies that are coherent, benefit and trade-offs, and to foster and guide dialogues among different institutions and sectors.
Adapted from WHO healthy diet: [www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/healthy-diet](www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/healthy-diet)


The definition of the right to adequate food is given by [the Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) which, through the general comment 12, is interpreting Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)].

[UNGA Resolution A/RES/74/242. Paragraph 40.](UNGA Resolution A/RES/74/242. Paragraph 40.)


26.25. The VGFSyN are intended to be global in scope and to provide guidance to policy-makers and relevant stakeholders when designing context-specific policies, laws, regulatory frameworks, strategies, plans and programmes. They take into consideration different national realities, capacities, and levels of development, as well as different types of food systems and the many drivers impacting them.

27.26. These VGFSyN take evidence from a range of rigorous studies, best practices, and world experience - at municipal, at sub-national, and at national levels - and apply the evidence through a broad lens.29 Much of the evidence in the VGFSyN comes from the HLPE 2017 report, various UN technical documents, and peer-reviewed scientific literature.

2.2 NATURE OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES AND THEIR INTENDED USERS

28.27. The VGFSyN are non-binding and should be interpreted and applied implemented consistently with existing obligations under relevant national and international law, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and other agreed international human rights instruments, and with WTO obligations, and with due regard to voluntary commitments under applicable international and regional instruments. Nothing in the VGFSyN should be read as limiting or undermining any legal obligations to which a State may be subject under international law. The VGFSyN should be interpreted in accordance with national legal systems and their institutions. CFS guidance should build upon and integrate existing instruments and frameworks for action adopted in the context of the UN system, guidance, and recommendations endorsed by Member States.

29.28. The VGFSyN are intended to avoid duplication of the work and mandate of other international bodies, and build upon and complement related guidance contained in other CFS products with specific attention paid to:

- Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of the national food security (2004),
- CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security – VGGT (2012),
- CFS Principles for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems – RAI (2014),
- CFS Policy Recommendations on Food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems (2014),
- CFS Framework for Action for food security and nutrition in protracted crises – FFA (2015),
- CFS Policy Recommendations on Water for food security and nutrition (2015),
- CFS Policy Recommendations on Connecting smallholders to markets (2016), and

29 Because situations can vary widely, the generalizability of evidence to other situations is absolutely crucial, but not always available, for food system actions that address diets and nutrition. Additional research designs are needed to contribute to the

Commented [USG45]: Should these voluntary guidelines build off of other relevant high-quality work as well?
The VGFSyN bring together evidence from different methodologies: some of which is experiential that holds promise for real-world relevance, some comes from the evaluation of programmes and policies that provide guidance on implementation in specific settings and contexts.

Commented [USG46]: Suggest rewording this comment. If science or data are lacking, research must be done to justify the policy recommendation.
2.3 GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE TRANSFORMATION TO MORE SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS FOR PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS AND NUTRITION

The VGFSyN include five guiding principles that emerged from the consultation process as foundational that should be followed to contribute to the transformationing to more sustainable food systems and promoting sustainable food systems that support healthy diets.

These principles draw on the need to ensure participation, accountability, non-discrimination, transparency, human dignity, empowerment and equality, and the rule of law in order to contribute to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of improving national food security and nutrition outcomes.

a) Systemic, multisectoral, science- and evidence-based approach. Promote a systemic, multisectoral, and science and evidence-based approach that considers food systems in their totality, appropriately integrates indigenous and traditional forms of knowledge, seeks to simultaneously maximize outcomes across all sustainability dimensions, and looks at the multidimensional causes of malnutrition in all its forms.
The private sector is made up of many different types of companies with a wide range of sizes, scales, human and financial resources, as well as varying reach into local, domestic and international markets.

These guiding principles are consistent with already agreed international documents and tools, such as the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action of ICN2.
b) **Coherent and context-specific policies.** Contribute to the formulation and implementation of coherent and context-specific policies and related investment through coordinated actions among different actors and across all relevant sectors at international, regional, national, subnational, and local levels.

c) **Accountability, transparency and participation.** Support efforts in strengthening governance and accountability mechanisms that contribute to fostering citizen-stakeholder participation in national debates on food security and nutrition and on food systems, and transparent and inclusive decision-making processes, based on transparent rules of engagement including safeguards against the identification and management of potential conflicts of interest.

d) **Healthy, prosperous people, healthy planet.** Promote policies and actions that enhance the livelihoods, health, and well-being of the population, as well as sustainable food production and consumption to protect natural resources, ecosystems and biodiversity, and ensure support mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.

e) **Gender equality and women’s empowerment.** Promote gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment, and respect, protect and fulfill their rights, creating the conditions for women’s involvement in decision-making and strong engagement in shaping food systems that improve nutrition, recognizing their key role in care, education, agriculture, health promotion and food production, preparation and consumption, while promoting gender-equitable practices.

**PART 3 - THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON FOOD SYSTEMS FOR NUTRITION**

33. With the aim of ensuring the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security, the VGFSyN provide a framework to promote policy coherence and to bring various stakeholders who are involved in food systems to work together to ensure promote healthy diets for everyone. 

34. To achieve the WHA and 2030 Agenda targets and national commitments to end malnutrition in all its forms, a food systems approach is needed that recognizes that the various parts that make up food systems are interconnected; that any action or decision to address one aspect of a food system will likely impact other aspects, and that food systems respond to and are impacted by other systems, situations, and contexts. Thinking systematically and interdisciplinary toward about the transformation to more sustainable food system transformation can ensure that challenges are tackled from multiple perspectives. Thus, the VGFSyN provide guidance on a mix of potential evidence-based, voluntary, regulatory, fiscal, and other policy actions spanning the diversity of food supply chains, food environment and consumer behavior, as well as the drivers and people that shape those actions.

35. These guidelines are structured around seven focus areas: i) transparent, democratic and accountable governance of food systems; ii) sustainable food supply chains [delivering] for improved diets and nutrition in the context of climate change; iii) equitable access to healthy diets [delivered by] sustainable food systems; iv) food safety across sustainable food systems; v) social relations, knowledge and culture of diets; vi) gender equality and women’s empowerment across food systems; and vii) resilient food systems in humanitarian contexts. These seven focus areas were identified by CFS stakeholders during the consultation process.

36. The HLPE report was structured around three main constituent elements of food systems and proposed a wide number of policy areas and drivers of change (See Figure 1). During the consultation process, CFS stakeholders identified a number of cross-cutting factors that are relevant for improving diets and nutrition and hence the origin of these seven focus areas. The first focus area, the governance of food systems, establishes the foundation of the remaining policy recommendations of the VGFSyN. Governance, as a major driver in shaping food systems, is interwoven across the six other areas. Three focus areas (ii, iii, and v), cover the main components of food systems while an additional focus area (iv) is based on the recognition of the increased importance of collective action in addressing food safety. Special attention is focused on women because of the vital role they play in food systems (focus area vi). The humanitarian context serves as a standalone focus area (vii), because it will continue to be a significant global issue in the context of climate change, protracted crises, conflict and migration.

Figure 1: HLPE Food Systems Framework

Food supply chains, food environments and consumer behaviours

HLPE 2017b
3.1.1 Interest, transition costs, costs and benefits of policy
Governments also develop a system to allow for stakeholder engagement, promote awareness, and set priorities for impactful action. Of Food Systems, promote awareness, and set priorities for impactful action.

3.1 TRANSPARENT, DEMOCRATIC AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE OF FOOD SYSTEMS

3.1.1 Promoting policy coherence by integrating nutrition into national development

a) Governmental actors should foster policy coherence across sectors to reduce all forms of malnutrition from a food system perspective. Governmental actors should prioritize, include:

improving the sustainability of food systems as a priority in order to effectively align relevant sectors around a common set of goals.

b) Governmental actors should integrate sustainable food systems actions that promote healthy diets and nutrition into national and local development, health, economic, agricultural, climate/environment, and disaster risk reduction plans. This integration should be complemented with Governments should consider increased and improved budgetary allocations to food system activities with clear objectives of improving diets and nutrition with indicators to track and assess the progress in full cost accounting of addressing malnutrition in all its forms.

c) Governmental actors should promote increased adoption and use of science-based international food safety standards, guidelines, and recommendations (e.g. Codex Alimentarius...
CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems for Nutrition (VGFSyN): Draft for Negotiations and World Organization for Animal Health standards) by governments, food businesses, and other relevant actors ensure that international and bilateral trade and investment agreements are consistent with nutrition, food and agriculture national policies, and international food safety standards (e.g. Codex Alimentarius and World Organization for Animal Health standards).

d) Governments and intergovernmental organizations should identify opportunities within food systems to achieve national and global food security and nutrition goals and measure progress against, targets, and indicators set out by the WHA and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3.1.2 Strengthening multisectoral coordination and actions

a) Governmental actors, intergovernmental organizations and development partners across sectors, ministries, and agencies, at all levels, should work to improve diets and nutrition across sectors, ministries, and agencies at all levels through strengthened legal-policy frameworks and institutional capacities that address the multiple causes and

Commented [USG67]: Should include footnotes to the relevant references.

consequences of malnutrition in all its forms. This coordination should establish and/or strengthen multisectoral, and multistakeholder mechanisms that oversee the design and implementation of evidence- and science-based policies, strategies, and interventions that contribute to diet and nutrition outcomes from national to local levels, adopted in accordance with multilaterally agreed rules.

b) Governmental actors should facilitate an inclusive and transparent dialogue and ensure the participation of a range of stakeholders working with or in food systems, including civil society organizations, the private sector, intergovernmental and regional organizations, Indigenous Peoples, youth, researchers, consumer and farmer associations, donors, and development partners. This dialogue should include all dimensions of sustainable food systems, as well as including the protection of natural resources and the environment, as well as social and economic sustainability, cohesion, and inclusion.

c) Governmental actors, intergovernmental organizations, and civil society organizations should encourage increased commitment to action with responsible investment from the public sector, private sector actors, and donors to support sustainable food systems that promote healthy diets, while considering trade-offs with other policy priorities.

3.1.3 Creating accountability mechanisms and tools for monitoring and evaluation

a) Governmental actors should establish or strengthen evidence-based regulatory and legislative policy frameworks to govern, guide, and facilitate the participation of a range of stakeholders working with or in food systems. They should institute robust and transparent accountability mechanisms that promote good governance, public deliberation, independent bodies that monitor compliance and performance, individual complaint procedures, and remedial actions to improve accountability, systematic identification and management of conflicts of interest and vested interests, power imbalances, and capacity to settle disputes that may undermine public health. Governmental actors should ensure that dialogue with the private sector is transparent and follows clear roles and responsibilities for engagement to safeguard the public interest.

b) Governmental actors, in partnership with research organizations and intergovernmental organizations, should improve the availability and quality of multisectoral information systems and national surveillance systems that capture, harmonize, and disaggregate data and indicators across all aspects of food systems and outcomes related to food security and food safety. They should ensure the participation of food security, dietary intake, and dietary quality, food composition, nutrition, and health stakeholders, including the measurement of micronutrient status and anthropometry, for improved policy development and accountability, and better targeting of public programmes.

c) Governmental actors, with the support of intergovernmental organizations, should promote investment in human, system, and institutional capacity to analyze food system information in a comprehensive manner to support the planning, monitoring, and evaluation of programmatic actions.

Commented [USG68]: This is unclear as to what exactly is being referenced here. Needs further clarification. Also unnecessary.

Commented [USG69]: Policy is more descriptive as changes may or may not require legislation depending on the local context.

Commented [USG70]: Unclear what specifically is being recommended here.

---

34 In line with the CFS Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, RAI (2014).
3.2 SUSTAINABLE FOOD SUPPLY CHAINES FOR IMPROVED DIETS AND NUTRITION IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Food supply chains - from production, storage, processing and packaging, and distribution, operate at assorted scales, structures, and levels, from simple to highly complex and globalized. Food supply chains involving many food system actors. This section complements the goals outlined in the UN Decade of Family Farming and highlights the importance of improving nutrition as food moves through the system, indicating which food system actors should be given special attention, and suggests ways to create resilient food supply chains in the midst of climate change and natural resource degradation.

3.2.1 Prioritizing climate adaptation and mitigation across food supply chains

a) Governmental actors (including national extension systems), development partners, NGOs, and private sector actors should assist farmers and other food producers to adapt to, and ensure the resilience of food supply chains are resilient to, climatic shocks by managing risk and building preparedness and resilience. Assistance can include access to finance, insurance, forecasting data, and methods, and immediate help through service apps (e.g. to identify plant diseases and parasites). Assistance could also include protecting crops, livestock, and fisheries and overall production systems from the anticipated impacts of climate change in the form of pests, diseases, weather-related shocks, and adopting drought-resistant varieties, as well as productive-asset creation initiatives (e.g. rehabilitating degraded land and infrastructure development).

b) Governmental actors, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, and private sector actors should support and assist farmers and other food producers to reduce the environmental impact of food systems. This could be done by fostering the adoption of appropriate technology and on-farm management practices to improve crop yields and reduce use of fertilizer and pesticide usage. Governmental actors should promote optimization of agricultural outputs per unit of water, energy, labor, and land, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity loss, and natural resource degradation of agriculture activities.

c) Governmental actors should institute surveillance systems (including early warning systems), quality indices (e.g. integrated diversification and agro-biodiversity targets), health and water quality, farm income, food price, and other food system and dietary metrics to monitor changing conditions and the effectiveness of policy responses.

d) Research organizations, academic institutions, and universities should promote the generation and use of rigorous science and evidence that demonstrate robust climate change mitigation and resilience strategies for food systems and sustainable, sustainably produced, healthy diets. Research should focus on potential interventions and policy entry points to ensure agricultural production, processing, storage, and packaging, retail, and markets, and consumer demand behavior, are contributory to support food producers in their efforts to adapt to climate change, mitigate their impact, and reduce natural resource degradation, disaster, and other disruptions.

Commented [USG71]: The terminology “food supply patterns” is better captured by the commonly used “food supply chains” as is done in the rest of this section.

Commented [USG72]: Globalized chains could also be simple.

Commented [USG73]: Improving nutrition as food moves through the supply chain is not a generalizable possibility or goal. Unclear exactly what is intended.

Commented [USG74]: Unclear on the meaning of this statement.

Commented [USG75]: This is not reflected by the recommendations in this section.

Commented [USG76]: Unclear as to why just the word assist is in bold. Suggest instead that the main action in the paragraph “enhance the resilience of food supply chains”.

Commented [USG77]: Oddly specific and out of place in the paragraph. Perhaps it can be added with more detail as footnote to “protecting crops, livestock and fisheries.”

Commented [USG78]: Reducing use of fertilizer and pesticide may not be the sustainable choice. Closing productivity gaps to enhance nutrition, food security and reduce poverty may require greater use of these inputs. This may particularly be the case if climate change introduces new pests.

Commented [USG79]: Outcome based indicators are preferable.

Commented [USG80]: Edit to reflect that what is requested is broader than demand. Could include handling and storage practices to increase food safety and reduce food waste.

Commented [USG81]: The whole supply chain needs to be resilient to climate change and other disasters – not just food producers.
3.2.2 Ensuring Promoting sustainable use and management of natural resources in food production

a) Governmental actors and farmers and their organizations should address soil health as central to agricultural production systems. Governmental actors should encourage the use of integrated soil fertility management practices to maintain and increase crop productivity in a sustainable way, and provide appropriate incentives for the use of sustainable land management services and agricultural practices to maintain soil biodiversity and nutrient balance and promote carbon storage.

b) Governmental actors should improve the management and control of water resources for agriculture and food production through improved regulation, community participatory approaches, market-based approaches, and water stewardship approaches that involve civil society organizations, private sector actors, and other stakeholders. A systems approach to water resource management should include expanding watershed protection and restoration to improve water quantity and quality.

c) Governmental actors should foster the protection, conservation, and sustainable use of biodiverse, productive systems that include, where appropriate, diverse crops and livestock, neglected and underutilized species, forestry and plantations, fisheries and sustainable aquaculture as well as biodiverse landscapes including forests, water and coastal seas. This should be complemented through the adoption and application of sustainable food production and natural resource management practices including agroecological and other innovative approaches in a manner that is economically viable for all legitimate tenure rights holders to uphold those rights and maintain livelihoods.

d) Governmental actors should protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, small-scale producers, peasants, and other communities with customary tenure systems that exercise self-governance of land, fisheries and forests, to land territories, and resources they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired. Their livelihoods should be maintained, their traditional, collective knowledge and practices should be valued and respected, their access to traditional food should be protected, and their preservation of traditional diets, nutrition, and wellbeing should be a priority.

3.2.3 Promoting nutrition within agriculture and food production

a) Governmental actors should integrate nutrition objectives into their national agriculture policies.

b) Governmental actors, private sector actors, development partners and donors should diversify agricultural investment and incentivize all types and sizes of producers to adopt sustainable production practices and to produce diverse, nutritious crops and food that contribute to healthy diets, while ensuring a decent income and provide support for livelihoods and resilience for farmers, particularly smallholders and/or family farms, and farm workers. This should include supporting and encouraging sustainable livestock, agroforestry, animal and fishery systems (including artisanal fisheries and aquaculture).

c) As relevant and practical, governmental actors should integrate urban and peri-urban agriculture and urban land use into national and local agricultural development strategies, food...
and nutrition programmes, and


urban and territorial planning, as a viable input into healthy diets for growing urban populations and social cohesion of communities.

d) Governmental and private sector actors should assure promote enabling environments to assist and assure facilitate farmers and other food producers to have access to modern and sustainable technologies, technical assistance, and nutrition information within agriculture and other extension technical packages, and provide skill training and capacity development to enable producers to be able to use those technologies/assistance/information that could improve the production, safety, and nutritional quality of crops for markets.

e) To reduce excessive food price volatility, governmental actors should promote market information systems that provide timely, transparent information about food-related market transactions, with more emphasis on nutritious-underreported commodities and orphan crops, including enhanced tracking of current and future food supply stock and price data.

f) Governmental actors, private sector actors, donors and other relevant stakeholders should invest in research, development, and innovation for producing nutritious crops, such as fruit, vegetables, nuts and seeds, legumes, biofortified crops, high-yield and pest resistant varieties, (developed through conventional on-farm breeding), and diverse animal-source foods, and breeding (e.g. dairy products, fish, eggs, and meat), which are developed keeping smallholder and/or family farmers’ livelihoods in mind.

3.2.4 Improving food storage, processing, transformation and reformulation

a) Governmental actors, private sector actors, and donors should invest in infrastructure (e.g. storage facilities, roads and bridges, physical markets and market information systems) to prevent postharvest loss and assure support smallholder farmers and small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) are able to deliver diverse, perishable, and safe food to markets in sustainable ways.

b) Governmental actors, private sector actors, and farmers and their associations should facilitate minimizing food and nutrient loss and quality degradation on farms, during post-harvest storage, and throughout processing, transportation, and retail (particularly for perishable foods such as fruits, vegetables, dairy, eggs, fish and meat). Facilitation includes training and capacity on-building to improve/improved management practices and fostering the adoption of appropriate technologies.

c) Governmental actors should support research, development, and scaling up of establish guidance on the use of processing technologies that can retain or improve the nutrient content of food, minimize post-harvest nutrient losses, create new value-added products from food processing by-products, and promote longer-term storage of food, particularly during periods of drought, flooding, and insufficient production.

d) Governmental actors should promote regulatory instruments and incentives to promote support and collaborate with industry on reformulation, complemented with appropriate measures such as front-of-pack labels (FOPL) and taxes to minimize while considering labelling and other mechanisms for promoting food choices consistent with national dietary guidelines, taking into account evidence on the cost-effectiveness of the policy in the context of local socio-economic and market conditions, the promotion of foods high in...
d) Technologies include cold chambers storage units, solar walk-ins, refrigerators, dry storage, storage drums and drying facilities.

dq Technologies include flash and solar drying, converting food to pastes and spreads, appropriate packaging to preserve nutrient content, and post-harvest fortification of food vehicles with micronutrients that are beneficial to health. Food fortification should be guided by national standards, with quality assurance and quality control systems to ensure quality fortification.
3.2.6 Improving nutrition and health of farm and food system workers

- Private sector actors should strive to meet contribute to public health goals aligned with national food-based dietary guidelines by further producing and promoting nutritious foods and food products that contribute to a healthy diet, such as increasing and preserving nutrient content and making efforts to reformulate foods, when necessary, by reducing the excessive content of sodium, sugar, and saturated fats, and eliminating industrially produced fats in foods.

3.2.5 Improving nutrition and health of farm and food system workers

- Governmental actors should ensure that the right to decent work is respected, protected and fulfilled for farmers and other food producers and workers (including migrants and undocumented workers). Governmental actors should ensure that these populations are protected and safe, and that there is no unnecessary burden or undue labour (including child slavery/labour) which could negatively impact their health status.

- Governmental actors and private sector actors should provide social protection when necessary to food producers and workers to ensure they are food secure, have living wages and sufficient livelihoods, and can access healthy diets and adequate health services.

- Private sector actors should strive to improve the nutritional status of food system workers, increase their access to nutritious foods associated with healthy diets in or through the workplace, and encourage the establishment of facilities for breastfeeding.

3.2.6 Empowering youth across food systems

- Governmental actors, intergovernmental organizations, and private sector actors should engage and empower youth by removing obstacles and enhancing their access to and use of land, natural resources, inputs, tools, information, extension and advisory services, financial services, education, training, and markets, and promote their inclusion in decision-making processes in accordance with national legislation and regulations.

- Governmental actors, private sector actors, non-governmental organizations, and communities should invest in appropriate vocational training, education, and mentorship programmes for youth, to increase their capacity and access to decent work and entrepreneurship opportunities. Governmental actors, private sector actors, non-governmental organizations, and communities should stimulate the transition toward sustainable food systems for the next generation.

- Also explore and incentivize the diversification of education products in services in education markets to enable rapid uptake of decent work opportunities by young people in agriculture and supporting markets, particularly among rural smallholders moving from subsistence agriculture to commercialization.

- Governmental actors and private sector actors should promote development and access to sustainable innovation, resource hubs, and new technologies for male and female youth along food supply chains that enhance the sustainability of food systems, nutrition and support social enterprises (particularly in countries experiencing high rates of internal displacement and external migration among youth).

d) Conduct research and strengthen the evidence base for effective ways to ensure young people’s own nutrition and youth roles as change agents and influencers in achieving downstream nutritional impacts.

d) Governmental actors, private sector actors, non-governmental organizations, and communities should support youth addressing their own nutritional needs and strengthen the roles youth play as change agents, influencing the consumption of healthy diets within societies both as contributors in food systems and as influencers in their households and communities.

3.3 EQUITABLE ACCESS TO HEALTHY DIETS DELIVERED BY SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

40.39 Food environments comprise foods available and accessible to people in their surroundings or through online markets and the nutritional quality, safety, price, convenience, labelling and promotion of these foods. These environments should ensure that people have equitable access to sufficient, safe and nutritious foods.

Commented [USG104]: This idea is missing from the rest of the VGFSyN

Commented [USG105]: A simpler title makes the document more readable and compelling. Sustainable food systems is clearly implied and does not need to be repeated in the title.

Commented [USG106]: With the rise of online shopping and delivery, consumers are no longer restricted to the brick and mortar stores and restaurants in their immediate communities.

Commented [USG107]: Verb changed to appropriately reflect the sentence subject.
that meet dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life\textsuperscript{18}, and considering the various physical, social, economic, cultural, and political factors that influence that access. For many people, access to healthy diets can be problematic as they may not be available, accessible, or affordable for a variety of reasons. This section outlines the potential policy entry points to improve physical and economic access, and availability of healthy diets within sustainable food systems, in the places where people shop, choose, and eat food.

3.3.1 Improving access to food that contributes to healthy diets

a) Governmental actors should improve the availability and access of nutritious food that contributes to healthy diets through trade and investment agreements and policies, in accordance with WTO and multilaterally agreed rules, and use such agreements to ensure the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in other countries.

b) Governmental actors should take equity into consideration when investing in actions to address food environments and ensure members of historically marginalized and vulnerable communities, residents of low-income communities, Indigenous Peoples, peasants, people facing physical constraints due to age, illness, or disability, and people living in rural areas have sufficient access and ownership to diverse foods that contribute to healthy diets.

c) Governmental actors should minimize physical barriers so that people can grow, purchase, order or otherwise access diverse types of foods that contribute to healthy diets in a given food environment. This could be done by inter alia, facilitating internet access and innovative service delivery or instituting urban planning policies that encourage the establishment of economically viable retail outlets that sell affordable, nutritious foods that contribute to healthy diets, and that restrict the growth of retail outlets which sell an overabundance of foods high in energy density with minimal nutritional value, and promote community, school, and homes food production and gardens, where appropriate. Evidence on the cost-effectiveness of such policies in the context of local socio-economic and market conditions should be considered.

d) Governmental actors should encourage zoning laws, certifications and tax incentives for farmers markets, mobile food retailers, street food vendors, and other alternative retailers that sell nutritious foods that contribute to healthy diets in low-income areas. These incentives should be accessible to retailers that follow the general hygiene practices required to be followed to make the street food safe and reduce the concentration of vendors that sell foods high in energy density with minimal nutritional value.

e) Governmental actors, in collaboration with consumer associations, and local residents, can regulate and incentivize local food retailers to increase the number, variety, and sale of nutritious foods that contribute to healthy diets. This can be done by creating local food policy councils to give residents a voice in how best to improve availability, access and affordability of healthy diets in their communities.

3.3.2 Improving the availability and affordability of food that contributes to healthy diets

a) Governmental actors should consider fiscal policies and voluntary initiatives to promote...
enhance the affordability of healthy diets. This includes subsidies, consumer incentives to
promote-make nutritious food options, to ensure they are more affordable and competitively
priced compared with food and beverages high in energy density with minimal nutritional
value for which industry tax benefits for their development and marketing should be
removed. Sugar, saturated fats, industrially produced trans fats, and sodium.

38 FAO. 2004. Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of
national food security. Paragraph 15.

b) Governmental actors should **strengthen public procurement systems** by ensuring healthy diets, **in line with national dietary guidelines**, are available and convenient in public settings and institutions such as kindergartens, and other childcare facilities, schools, hospitals, foodbanks, workplace government offices, military bases, and prisons **in line with national food-based dietary guidelines**. Policymakers should consider **promoting school meals with food procured from local, smallholder and/or family farmers or food grown in school gardens**.

c) **Governmental actors should link the provision of healthy school meals with clear nutritional objectives**, aligned with national food-based dietary guidelines and adapted to the needs of different age-groups, with **special attention to the needs of adolescent girls**. Policymakers and UN agencies should consider **promoting home grown School meals**, where food served in schools is procured from local, smallholder and/or family farmers.

d(i) Governmental actors and intergovernmental organizations should facilitate the affordability of healthy diets for poor households through **social protection programmes** such as vouchers, cash, school feeding meals programs, other community-meal programs, or food supplement programmes. Where possible **social protection programs should be linked to clear nutritional objectives**, aligned with national dietary guidelines and adapted to the needs of different age-groups.

d(ii) Governmental actors, consumers, and farmer organizations should promote the availability of nutritious food that contributes to healthy diets through **local farmers markets, community cooperatives and other community-building efforts** that **engage people around local food cultures**.

3.3.3 **Monitoring** Encouraging new connection technologies and promoting trends for healthy diets

a) **Governmental actors should understand and acknowledge the influential roles of the Internet, social media, and online marketing of foods**, and should **work toward monitoring and encouraging collaboratively work with** media companies to promote nutritious foods that contribute to healthy diets on social media spheres.

b) **Governmental actors should recognize the growing trend of food purchased online and consumed away from home** (including street food) and should incentivize restaurants/online outlets to offer prepared dishes made from nutritious foods that contribute to healthy diets, display **nutritional information** about food on menus (i.e. calories, product composition, and other nutritional content), avoid food waste, and adhere to food safety regulations.

3.4 **FOOD SAFETY ACROSS SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS**

41.30 **Food safety touches upon all parts of the food system and is critical to prevent food-borne pathogens, hazards and illnesses**, as well as **transmission or contamination of naturally occurring toxins, and contaminants, and residues of pesticides and veterinary drugs, antibiotics and heavy metals**. Food cannot be considered nutritious if it is not safe, and poor food safety hinders the adoption of healthy diets. There is an increased urgency to improve the ability to track food safety to help **monitor the food supply flow**, better **connect producers to consumers**, and facilitate **food recallling and withdrawal across**

Coordinated networks. This section highlights the need for global and national cooperation on food safety and enhanced efforts across the food supply chain to reduce for every stakeholder to be responsible and accountable for the sourcing, handling, and quality control of food because of the potential spread of food-related illnesses.

Commented [USG136]: Not every stakeholder should be held responsible and accountable for sourcing, handling and quality control.

3.4.1 Adopting national and international cooperation on food safety

a) Governmental actors should promote food safety within their food systems policies or develop science-based food safety policies that consider actions across the entire food systems - concerning production, processing, handling, preparation, storage, and distribution of food.

b) Governmental actors should develop, establish, strengthen and enforce, as appropriate, food control systems, including reviewing, adopting, modernizing and enforcing national food safety legislation and regulations to ensure that food producers and suppliers throughout the food supply chain operate safely. Considering the centrality of the Codex Alimentarius Commission on in-developing science-based standards for nutrition and food safety and quality, Governmental actors should consider and implement, as appropriate, internationally adopted (by consensus) Codex standards at the national and sub-national levels.

c) Governmental actors and the FAO/WHO International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) should participate in, share and contribute data and evidence to international networks that exchange food safety information, including the surveillance of foodborne hazards and disease outbreaks and management of emergencies to improve food safety across a range of issues such as pesticide residues, antimicrobial veterinary drug residues, endocrine disrupters, chemical and contaminants and naturally occurring toxins; unsafe food additives, pathogenic bacteria, viruses, parasites, and fraud/adulteration of food products.

3.4.2 Ensuring food safety across food production systems

a) Governmental actors and private sector actors should consider a One Health Approach to food safety along the entire food and feed supply chain, recognizing the interconnection between food safety and human, plant, animal and environmental health.

b) Governmental actors, in collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, should develop and implement national guidelines on the prudent use of antimicrobials in food-producing animals, and participate in the development of standards, relevant to World Trade Organization/Sanitary and Phytosanitary (WTO/SPS) agreements, through the Codex ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance, and relevant standards developed by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), to reduce the non-therapeutic use of antimicrobials and to phase out the use of antimicrobials as growth promoters.

3.4.3 Protecting consumers from food safety risks in food supplies

a) Governmental actors, private sector actors, and development partners should promote and enhance traceability in food supply chains, early contamination detection, and leverage the opportunities that new technologies offer for traceability solutions.

b) Investment by private sector actors and donors should be made support to training for food producers, handlers and preparers on the and adoption of scientifically supported, risk-based practices that can provide safe food while retaining their nutrient content.

c) Governmental actors should understand and evaluate risks and unintended consequences and manage new food products created by emerging technologies (e.g. lab grown meats, gene editing, modern biotechnology products, etc.) as appropriate.
One Health is an approach to designing and implementing programmes, policies, legislation and research in which multiple sectors (such as public health, animal health, plant health and the environment) communicate and work together to achieve better public health outcomes. Reference: https://www.who.int/features/qa/one-health/en/
3.5 **SOCIAL RELATIONS, KNOWLEDGE AND CULTURE OF DIETS**

**HEALTHY FOOD NORMS, KNOWLEDGE, AND PRACTICES**

It is important to consider and protect the range and diversity of food cultures, social norms, relations, and traditions that contribute to healthy diets without undermining progress in gender equality. Social and behavior change interventions can shift norms around food and eating and empower people to make healthier food choices for themselves and their families. These interventions can and should cover the range from government policies to nutrition education to individual counseling to mass media campaigns, all aimed at breaking down barriers that inhibit healthy diets and encouraging healthy norms around food and eating. This section outlines the policy entry points to improve access to knowledge, awareness, education, and the quality of information available to people on nutritious food, healthy diets and nutrition as a way to empower people and key actors across food systems, and improve places in which people access food in their daily lives. Context-specific interventions and promotion of healthy traditional diets and knowledge originating from diverse food systems are vital to ensuring equitable, positive and sustainable impacts on nutrition and the environment.

3.5.1 Utilizing policies and tools to provide education and information on healthy diets

a) Governmental actors should **develop national food-based dietary guidelines** for different age groups that define context-specific, diverse, healthy diets and by taking into account social, cultural, scientific, economic, ecological, and environmental drivers.

b) Governmental actors should **develop nutrition-evidence-based dietary guidelines standards and restrict marketing** (including digital marketing), promotion and sponsorships exposure, especially for children aged 18 or younger, and separately for children 0-24 months, to foods high in energy density with minimal nutritional value and sugar-sweetened beverages, in accordance with multilaterally agreed rules and national legislation, where applicable. Complementary policies should be considered to reduce the impact of marketing of foods high in energy density with minimal nutritional value to children as well as the sale of foods of high energy density with minimal nutritional value near schools.

c) Governmental actors should **regulate the marketing of commercial infant formula and other complementary products** to ensure proper food safety and ensure the nutrient composition needs for infant and young children. Labeling should be clear and discernible to allow consumers purchasing these products to identify those appropriate for the age of their infant and young child. Implement the International Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes and subsequent WHA resolutions.

d) Governmental actors should **regulate nutritional labelling and consider voluntary front-of-pack labelling (FOPL)** to empower consumers to choose foods consistent with promoting healthy dietary patterns. The FOPL labelling system should be aligned with national public health and nutrition policies and food regulations, dietary guidelines, and food regulations as well as consider relevant WHO guidance and Codex guidelines. The FOPL system should comprise an underpinning nutrient profile model that considers the overall nutrition quality of the product.

Commented [USG140]: Codex standards are voluntary and not regulatory. Unaware of what would be an enforceable, “international regulatory framework.”

Commented [USG141]: Unclear what is meant by the phrase culture of diets

Commented [USG142]: Social Behavior Change principles and theory are absent from the introduction. Information alone does not empower actors. Edits are designed to reflect Social Behavior Change principles.

Commented [USG143]: Too vague and doesn’t fit here.

Commented [USG144]: Traditional doesn’t necessarily mean healthy.

Commented [USG145]: In line with the section head, focus of the recommendation should be on providing information about commercial infant formula.

or the nutrients of concern for NCDs (or both). Complementary policies could be considered for foods of high energy density with minimal nutritional value to not be sold or marketed in public places or near schools, including kindergartens and child care facilities.

e) Governmental actors should provide incentives to private sector actors to design food markets, restaurants, and other places where food is sold or served by encouraging the placement and promotion of foods that contribute to healthy diets in retail spaces.

f) Governmental actors, UN agencies, NGOs, and medical and health practitioners should consider coupling nutrition education and counselling to populations participating in maternal and child nutrition programmes.

Commented [USG146]: This is overly prescriptive. Additionally, there is not an internationally acceptable nutrient profile model or even guidance/principles at this time.

Commented [USG147]: Isn’t every store a public place?

Commented [USG148]: Unnecessary addition.

Commented [USG149]: This recommendation is unclear. Is it implying that education and counseling are not coupled currently and that maternal and child nutrition programmes are not coupled?


3.5.2 Encouraging local food knowledge and culture

a) Governmental actors, private sector actors, civil society organizations, and UN agencies should use evidence-based, as well as cognitive, cultural, and plural knowledge resources to promote education and knowledge of healthy diets, physical activity, food waste prevention, intrahousehold food distribution, food safety, optimal breastfeeding and complementary feeding, taking into consideration cultural and social norms and adapting to different audiences and contexts.

b) Governmental actors, private sector actors, civil society organizations, community leaders, social workers, and health professionals should encourage food culture and the importance of food in cultural heritage, culinary skills and nutrition literacy among communities. This can be done through community and consumer associations and educational institutions, targeting men and women.

c) Governmental actors should appropriately protect and promote the knowledge that Indigenous Peoples have with regard to local traditions and methods of producing, preparing, and preserving food that promote food safety and is proven to impart nutritional and environmental benefits.

3.5.3 Promoting “hubs” for nutrition knowledge, education and information

a) Universities and schools should institute a nutrition curriculum for all medical, nursing, and agriculture and food technology students during training.

b) Governmental actors, civil society organizations and UN agencies should promote culinary skills among school-age children, adolescents and adults (including promoting communal mealtimes, socializing around food, consuming healthy diets, and reducing food waste) in a variety of settings: in schools, workplaces and community centres.

c) Governmental actors should adopt and implement comprehensive school food and nutrition policies, review education curricula to incorporate nutrition principles, involve communities in promoting and creating healthy food environments and healthy diets in schools, and support school health and nutrition services.

d) Governmental actors, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, and civil society organizations should engage in nutrition dialogues with communities by drawing on the sharing of knowledge, experience and insights of individuals who are not usually regarded as members of the

Commented [USG150]: Unclear what is being proposed here. How would dietary guidelines be made to align with recommendations to reduce food waste? In the US, we have included tips to reduce food waste in ChooseMyPlate.gov, the education platform for the Dietary Guidelines.

Commented [USG151]: Need definition on the term “plural knowledge resources”. Unclear as to meaning.

Commented [USG152]: This recommendation is quite general. Suggest deletion or a second sentence explaining how it could be applied.

Commented [USG153]: Specifying locations does not add anything to the recommendation – for example this would seem to exclude online information to be watched at home.

Commented [USG154]: Two-way knowledge sharing benefits all parties.
nutrition community (e.g. community and religious leaders, chefs, supermarket buyers, influencers)

social media, youth leaders, farmers and food producers, young entrepreneurs, mayors and local communities).

3.6 GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT ACROSS FOOD SYSTEMS

Gender relations and cultural norms are among the most significant drivers of healthy diets and nutrition outcomes. In many countries, women produce food, make decisions about the household’s diet and, as primary caregivers, influence the family’s nutritional status. Women are important agents of change for sustainable development, not only as food system actors, but also as actors in their households, communities and overall society. At the same time, women have an unequal household labour burden that should be addressed. Therefore, women’s and girl’s empowerment through education, information and access to resources and services is key to improving nutrition. This section highlights the importance of improving women’s wellbeing, ensuring access to financial, technical and biophysical resources, improving as well as strengthening women’s agency, voice and status, and challenging the power relationships and legal impediments that limit equality and choices.

3.6.1 Empowering women

a) Governmental actors should pass laws that promote equitable participation between of women and men in political decision-making. Governmental actors should take specific measures to support women’s participation with specific attention to rural women contexts, and ensure gender equity in holding leadership roles in decision making bodies – such as parliaments, ministries and local authorities at district and community levels – so that women can be part of the process of devising solutions to the malnutrition challenges they face.

b) Governmental actors should promote an enabling environment to generate cultural changes towards gender equality with specific policies, programmes, institutions and advocacy campaigns to deal with the various forms of discrimination and violence women face.

c) Governmental actors and intergovernmental organizations should increase promote adolescent girls’ and women’s human capital development by ensuring they have access to education, literacy programmes, health care, and other social services as a way to increase household nutritional status.

3.6.2 Promoting and acknowledging women as food systems entrepreneurs

a) Governmental actors should ensure women’s equal equitable tenure rights and promote their equal and equitable access to and control over productive land, natural resources, inputs, productive tools, and access to education, training, markets, and information in line with the CFS VGGT.

b) Governmental actors, private sector actors, and intergovernmental organizations should enhance women’s roles in agriculture by giving encouraging greater women decision-making power for women over what they choose to produce, and how they choose to produce those crops/food. Women should be offered equal and equitable levels of access to extension and advisory services for crops and animal products that they produce or process, capacity-building to engage with traders, financial services (credit and savings mechanisms), and entrepreneurial
opportunities across food systems.

c) Governmental actors, academia, NGOs and private sector actors should promote and increase facilitate access to labour and time saving technologies\(^4\) that could help improve the livelihoods of women.

d) Governmental actors and private sector actors should facilitate women's equitable access to entrepreneurship and employment opportunities across food systems and related activities to generate income, and increase their participation in decisions on the use of household income, and build and manage savings without reinforcing unequal gender roles. This would could include household and business budget training, decision-making skills development, scaling of financial services and products both accessible and relevant to women’s needs, and tools to help men and women strengthen their intra-household communication.

3.6.3 Recognizing and addressing women’s nutritional status and deprivation

a) Governmental actors, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, and development partners should pay specific attention to the nutritional well-being of adolescent girls and women and provide health and nutritional care and services through various sectors. This can be done by ensuring that gender analyses are included in national development strategies driven by gender analyses, and that those women and adolescent girls with compromised nutritional status and higher levels of deprivation, are the recipients of receive social protection policies and benefits.

b) Acknowledging the significant time and work burden of women in the preparation of nutritious meals, and their roles in agriculture and food production, governmental actors should recognize and value the importance of unpaid care work at the household level through the effective implementation of protective laws, social protection programmes, and other benefits that, and should enable gender-equitable distribution of care work. The equal participation of men in unpaid work should be promoted, especially where women are also active in productive labour.

c) Governmental actors should create an enabling legal-policy framework and supportive practices to protect and support breastfeeding, ensuring that decisions to breastfeed do not result in women losing their economic security or any of their rights. This should include implementing maternity protection legislation, including entitlement to publicly-funded paid parental maternity leave (or paternity leave), and removing workplace-related barriers to breastfeeding (lack of breaks, facilities, and services).

3.7 RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS IN HUMANITARIAN CONTEXTS

Linking food security and nutrition interventions during humanitarian crises (man-made and climate-related disasters), with longer-term strategies to strengthen the resilience of food systems is key.

Short or protracted crises are often brought on by conflict, natural disasters, and climate change, displacing millions which increases their risk of food insecurity and malnutrition. The critical focus in these contexts is identifying how to balance meeting immediate food security and nutrition needs with these broader principles, considering the timeframes that may be required for response interventions, and what impacts these may have on the food system, while also considering opportunities to protect, strengthen, or leverage the system itself. Opportunities should be sought to link interventions during humanitarian crises with longer-term strategies to strengthen the resilience of food systems, considering the importance of

Commented [USG157]: Breaking this sentence up into its components may increase its clarity and impact.

Commented [USG158]: Edits made to make the recommendation easier to read

Commented [USG159]: Unequal labor burden broader than just unpaid care work.

Commented [USG160]: Unclear as to what is meant by “protective laws”

Commented [USG161]: Unclear as to why this caveat is necessary. It would seem to weaken the impact of the recommendation

Commented [USG162]: Overly prescriptive. Multiple ways countries can achieve paid parental leave

Commented [USG163]: This framing is unnecessary and would exclude natural disasters

Commented [USG164]: The key priority is addressing the immediate food security or nutrition challenge.

Commented [USG165]: This framing is unnecessary and would exclude natural disasters

Commented [USG166]: The key priority is addressing the immediate food security or nutrition challenge.
CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems for Nutrition (VGFSyN): Draft for Negotiations resilient food systems, this section highlights the importance of strengthening the nexus between humanitarian and development programming and builds upon the 11 principles in the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA).42

41 These include food preservation and processing equipment, cold storage, heat and thermal processing, grinding/blending devices, energy saving stoves, and modern farm equipment for ploughing, cultivating and harvesting nutritious crops/food and raising small ruminants and poultry.

42 CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises
3.7.1 Protecting the most vulnerable to malnutrition in humanitarian contexts

a) Governmental actors and humanitarian organizations should pay particular attention to, protection issues, and facilitate access to nutritious food and nutritional support to the most vulnerable and marginalized groups.

b) Governmental actors and parties involved in conflicts should respect and protect the equal and unhindered access of all members of affected and at-risk populations to food security and nutrition assistance, in both acute and protracted crises, in accordance with internationally recognized humanitarian principles, as anchored in Geneva Convention of 1949 and other UNGA Resolutions after 1949.

c) Governmental actors, with the support of the UN system and international assistance and cooperation where appropriate, should ensure access to nutritious food and nutritional support for refugees and asylum seekers in their territory, in accordance with their obligations under relevant international legal instruments.

3.7.2 Improving the quality of food and nutrition assistance

a) Governmental actors, all parties involved in conflicts, climate-related disasters, and food assistance, including humanitarian organizations, should ensure that food security and nutrition assessments and analyses (such as the Integrated Phase Classification System) are undertaken throughout a crisis to inform the food and nutrition response as well as any components of the local food system requiring rehabilitation.

b) Governmental actors should recognize nutrition as an essential need and humanitarian assistance should aim to meet nutritional requirements of the affected population, particularly the most vulnerable to malnutrition. Any food items provided should be fit for purpose, of appropriate nutritional quality and quantity, and be safe and acceptable, and not harm local markets. Food must conform to the food standards of the host country’s government in line with the Codex Alimentarius standards for food safety, quality, and labelling.

c) Governmental actors and humanitarian assistance organizations should be encouraged to purchase safe and appropriate, locally produced, fortified food when needed and ensure they are available through social protection mechanisms and acute malnutrition management programmes, with expanded coverage during times of crisis. Fortification should be used only in limited times and places, and humanitarian assistance should not disrupt local markets and accessibility of nutritious food in the longer term.

d) Governmental actors should have an explicit policy on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) in emergencies, and governmental actors, UN agencies and NGOs should ensure that such policies on IYCF practices are implemented, coordinated, promoted, and improved upon during humanitarian crises.

e) UN agencies and humanitarian assistance organizations should ensure that when implementing cash and voucher assistance, the minimum expenditure basket and transfer value is promoting safe and nutritious food that is locally available and sufficient to provide a healthy diet for all stages of the lifecycle.
3.7.3 Ensuring food systems are resilient in humanitarian contexts

a) Governmental actors in partnership with relevant organizations should develop and use early warning systems, climate information services, and food and agriculture information systems that detect and monitor threats to food production, availability and access, as well as food safety hazards, and tampering. These early warning systems should be integrated into broader food analysis systems, systems that including the monitoring of the availability and affordability of nutritious foods that contribute to healthy diets at the local level.

b) Governmental actors, development partners, and donors should invest in disaster risk reduction measures that benefit those most at risk and are in need. In particular, productive assets should be protected from severe weather and climate impacts and other disasters in a way that strengthens the resilience of affected populations and their ability to cope with shocks due to conflicts, natural disasters, and climate-related disasters. Governmental actors should aim to restore local food production and market accessibility as rapidly as possible.

c) Intergovernmental organizations, particularly the UN agencies and development partners should where appropriate, incorporate local organizations in the implementation of humanitarian food assistance and livelihood programmes to support economic recovery and development, strengthen sustainable local food systems, and foster the ability of smallholders and/or family farmers to access resources to bolster production and markets.

PART 4 - IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE USE AND APPLICATION OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON FOOD SYSTEMS FOR NUTRITION

4.1 POLICY FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VGFSyN

49. All CFS stakeholders are encouraged to promote, at all levels within their constituencies, and in collaboration with other relevant initiatives and platforms, the dissemination, use and application of the VGFSyN to support the development and implementation of coordinated and multisectoral national policies, laws, programmes and investment plans.

50. The VGFSyN are intended to support the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025 with the objective of increasing the visibility, coordination and effectiveness of nutrition actions at all levels, as key aspects toward the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

51. Governmental actors are invited to use the VGFSyN as a tool to undertake new initiatives toward the transformation of food systems to make them more sustainable and capable of delivering healthy diets. These include identifying policy opportunities, fostering a transparent and open
dialogue, promoting coordination mechanisms, and establishing or strengthening existing, multistakeholder platforms, partnerships, processes and frameworks, such as the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement.

52. Parliamentarians and their regional and sub-regional alliances have a key role in promoting the adoption of policies, establishing appropriate legislative and regulatory frameworks, raising awareness and promoting dialogue among relevant stakeholders, and allocating resources for the implementation of laws and programmes dealing with food systems and nutrition.

4.2 BUILDING AND STRENGTHENING CAPACITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

53. Governmental actors, supported by donors and financing institutions, need to mobilize adequate financial, technical and human resources to increase the human and institutional capacity of countries to implement the VGFSyN and to identify priorities toward their operationalization and monitoring at the national and local levels. Technical agencies of the UN, bilateral cooperation agencies, and other financing mechanisms development partners can assist in this regard. The organization of multistakeholder workshops and training, as well as the development of user-friendly and technical guides, deployed via extension services and digital means, are important to aid in contextualizing approaches and adapting to local contexts. Governments are encouraged to use rigorous evidence-based monitoring and evaluation approaches focused on learning what works and adaptation to achieve maximum results.

54. Donors, financing institutions and other funding-relevant entities are encouraged to apply the VGFSyN when formulating their policies for loans, grants and programmes to support both rights holders and duty bearers implementing agencies’ endeavour efforts. The VGFSyN should can contribute to the design of investments that aim to increase the production, affordability, and access to diverse and nutritious food, as well as to promote the integration of nutrition and health dimensions into agriculture and food sector investment plans, as well as to promote and the integration of sustainable agriculture and food system dimensions into nutrition and health investment plans.

55. Development partners, technical agencies of the UN, including the Rome-based Agencies, and regional organizations are encouraged to support efforts by Governmental actors to implement the VGFSyN. Such support could include research and technical cooperation, financial assistance, the provision of evidence-based policy advice, institutional capacity development, knowledge sharing and exchange of experiences and assistance in developing national and regional policies. Actions should could be taken to improve partners’ capacity to design, manage and participate in multistakeholder partnerships, to ensure transparency and accountability and promote good governance for effective results. Moreover, UN interagency coordination mechanisms for nutrition could be leveraged to support the uptake of the VGFSyN at country level.

56. National and international research organizations, academic institutions, and universities should are invited to provide the contribute knowledge, innovation, science, and evidence on all dimensions of food systems (including citizen/consumer demand and behaviour change) to enable governmental

actors and other food systems stakeholders to examine the evidence, prioritize issues to be considered, evaluate impacts, and address potential trade-offs.
57. The dissemination and uptake of the VGFSyN can be facilitated through the identification of “champions” and “change agents”, especially among civil society organizations that could raise awareness and organize advocacy campaigns across sectors and different governmental levels, and the organization of advocacy campaigns at different levels of government.

4.3 MONITORING OF THE USE AND APPLICATION OF THE VGFSyN

58. Governmental actors that choose to implement the VGFSyN, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, should define national policy priorities and related targets, indicators and establish or strengthen existing monitoring and reporting systems in order to assess the efficiency, cost effectiveness of laws, policies and regulations, and implement appropriate remedial actions in case of negative impacts or gaps. Governments are encouraged to use rigorous evidence-based monitoring, and evaluation approaches focused on learning what works and adaptation to achieve maximum results.

59. By implementing the VGFSyN, governmental actors are expected to contribute to the achievement of the six Global Nutrition Targets (2025-2030) endorsed by the WHA in 2012 and its diet related NCD targets. The VGFSyN should support countries in defining priority actions and formulating “SMART” commitments in order to achieve nutrition objectives as well as to promote the creation of informal coalitions of countries to accelerate and align efforts around specific topics linked to one or more action areas of the Nutrition Decade and the 2030 Agenda. This can be done through advocating for policies and legislation, allowing the exchange of practices and experiences, highlighting successes and lessons learned, and providing mutual support to accelerate implementation.

60. CFS should include the VGFSyN in its ongoing work on monitoring, relying as much as possible on existing mechanisms. CFS should organize a Global Thematic Event where all relevant stakeholders can learn from the experiences of others in applying them and assess their continued relevance, effectiveness and impact on food security and nutrition.

Commented [USG179]: The section on monitoring is quite weak, which is a shame given the importance of the subject. We suggest this addition to emphasize the importance of evidence-based monitoring, evaluation and adaptations.

Commented [USG180]: This should not be part of the VGFSyN. Too specific and will soon be dated and irrelevant. Wouldn’t it be more appropriate for CFS to do regular reporting out on implementation of the guidelines rather than organize a one-off global event?

https://www.who.int/ncds/take-action/targets/en/
In the context of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and ICN2 follow-up process, country commitments for action should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound. [https://www.who.int/nutrition/decade-of-action/smart-commitments/en/](https://www.who.int/nutrition/decade-of-action/smart-commitments/en/)