

CFS VGFSyN
SECOND ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS – 14-18 DECEMBER 2020

**DOCUMENT WITH PROPOSALS CONCERNING SECTIONS 3.3, 3.4 AND PARAGRAPH 56 AS
DISCUSSED AT THE LAST FoC MEETING ON 3 DECEMBER 2020**

**3.3 [EQUAL AND] EQUITABLE ACCESS TO HEALTHY DIETS [THROUGH SUSTAINABLE
FOOD SYSTEMS] [*pending brackets to be discussed*]**

54. Food environments comprise foods available and accessible to people in their surroundings and the nutritional quality, safety, price, convenience, labelling and promotion of these foods. These environments should ensure that people have [equal and] equitable access to sufficient, affordable, safe and nutritious foods that meet dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life¹, 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 potential policy entry points to improve physical and economic access, and availability of healthy diets through sustainable food systems in the places where people shop, choose, and eat food. [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

3.3.1 Improving access to food that contributes to healthy diets:

- a) Governments should improve the availability of and access to safe and nutritious food that contributes to healthy diets through sustainable food systems, [including] through a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable, multilateral trading system[, and ensure that these do not have a negative impact on the right to adequate food².] [*pending brackets to be discussed*]
- b) Governments should take into consideration the guidance developed by FAO and WHO to ensure that in times of crisis (e.g. pandemics), the integrity and resilience of food systems are maintained, and adequate and safe food supplies are available and accessible for all people. Governments should recognize the importance of local smallholders and family farmers in this respect. [*Informally agreed by FoC*]
- c) In times of crisis, governments should declare food production, distribution, processing and marketing essential services [everywhere] [and] to keep trade corridors open [, including avoiding export restrictions,] [within and among nations] [in order] to ensure [the right to food and] [the] continuous functioning of critical aspects of food systems in all countries³[, while considering the national food security circumstances as well as sanitary, phytosanitary and epidemiological situations]. [*pending brackets to be discussed*]
- d) Governments should take equity and equality into consideration when acting to address food environments and ensure members of vulnerable communities, indigenous peoples and local communities, peasants, pastoralists, small-scale fisher folks, agricultural and food workers, rural and urban women and youth, people with disabilities, and people

¹ FAO. 2004. Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. Paragraph 15.

² FAO. 2004. Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

³ Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on Food Security and Nutrition. June 2020. United Nations, New York

facing constraints due to age and illness, have sufficient access to diverse food that contribute to healthy diets. [*Informally agreed by FoC*]

- e) Governments should minimize barriers so that people can grow, transport, preserve, purchase, order or otherwise access diverse types of foods, [including] [especially] fresh foods, that contribute to healthy diets [through sustainable food systems] in a given food environment. This can be done by [, inter alia, facilitating internet access and innovative service delivery or] instituting rural and urban planning policies [and providing [non-trade distortive] incentives] that encourage retail outlets to sell a variety of [safe,] affordable nutritious foods that contribute to healthy diets, [and that restrict, if necessary, the growth of retail outlets which sell an overabundance of foods high in [fat, especially saturated and trans-fats, sugars and salt/sodium] [nutrient limit],] and that promote [, as and when appropriate,] [local and seasonal] home, community, and school food production and gardens, where appropriate. [Evidence and the cost-effectiveness of such policies in the context of local socio-economic and market conditions should be considered.] [*pending brackets to be discussed*]
- f) Governments should examine measures to encourage farmers and fishers markets, mobile food retailers, street food vendors and other retailers that sell a variety of foods, both locally grown and globally sourced, that contribute to healthy diets through sustainable food systems. [*Informally agreed by FoC*]
- g) Governments, in consultation with consumer associations and local residents, can promote local food retailers and markets to increase the number, variety, and sale of sustainably produced safe and nutritious foods, both locally grown and globally sourced, that contribute to healthy diets through sustainable food systems. 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., giving special attention to those people that are most affected by hunger and malnutrition in all its forms. [*Informally agreed by FoC*]

3.3.2 Improving the availability and affordability of food that contributes to healthy diets through sustainable food systems: [*Informally agreed by FoC*]

- a) Governments [should] [may] consider measures [to support consumers] and voluntary initiatives, [including where appropriate, [fiscal policies] [and economic tools] [taxation]] to improve the affordability of healthy diets [through sustainable food systems] [and promote the purchase of nutritious foods and beverages][.] [and at the same time disincentivize the consumption of sugar and sweetened beverages and unhealthy [highly processed] food] [promote policies and programme aiming at preventing or reducing overweight and obesity]. [*pending brackets to be discussed*]
- b) Governments, with the support of intergovernmental organizations, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, should strengthen public procurement systems by ensuring healthy diets are available, accessible ,affordable and convenient in public settings and institutions, [including kindergartens and other childcare facilities, schools, hospitals, foodbanks, [workplaces,] government offices, military bases and prisons, [nursing homes] [care settings],] in line with national food-based dietary guidelines, [and

engaging with [smallholders and family farmers] [local food chains, where available]].
[*pending brackets to be discussed*]

- c) Governments should link the provision of healthy school meals through sustainable food systems with clear nutritional objectives, aligned with national food-based dietary guidelines and adapted to the needs of different age groups, with special attention to those most affected by hunger and malnutrition. [*Informally agreed by FoC*]
- d) Governments, intergovernmental organizations, private sector and other relevant stakeholders should consider promoting home grown school meals, where food served in schools and other child care facilities is procured, where appropriate, from smallholder and/or family farmers to support local communities and provide educational opportunities for students. [*Informally agreed by FoC*]
- e) Governments, intergovernmental organizations, private sector and other relevant stakeholders should facilitate the affordability of healthy diets through sustainable food systems for poor households through social protection programmes, such as vouchers for nutritious foods, cash transfers, school feeding programmes or other community meals programmes. These should be linked to clear nutritional outcomes, aligned with national food-based dietary guidelines and adapted to the needs of different age groups..
[*Informally agreed by FoC*]
- f) Governmental actors and intergovernmental organizations should promote the readiness and resilience of social protection programmes to cope with pandemics and other systemic shocks that negatively impact food security and nutrition. [*Informally agreed by FoC*]
- g) Governments, consumers, farmers and other food producers organizations should promote the availability of safe and nutritious and sustainably produced food that contributes to healthy diets including nutritious and sustainably produced food from smallholders and family farmers and fishers markets, social organizations and other community-building efforts that engage people around local food cultures. [*Informally agreed by FoC*]

3.3.3 Monitoring new technologies and promoting trends for healthy diets through sustainable food systems: [*Informally agreed by FoC*]

- a) Governments should acknowledge and monitor the influential roles of the internet, social media, and online marketing of foods, and should encourage media companies to promote nutritious, safe and sustainably produced foods that contribute to healthy diets on social media spheres. [*Informally agreed by FoC*]
- b) Governments should recognize the growing trend of food purchased online and consumed away from home (including street food) and could, as appropriate to national circumstances, promote policies to encourage restaurants and online outlets to offer prepared dishes made from nutritious, safe and sustainably produced foods that contribute to healthy diets, display information about food on menus (i.e. calories, product composition, and other nutritional content as well as other relevant information such as life-cycle assessments [or labels [certification] related to sustainable production and consumption]), avoid food loss and waste, and respect any relevant food safety regulations. [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

3.4 FOOD SAFETY ACROSS SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

55. Food safety is foundational to all parts of the food system and is critical to prevent food-borne pathogens, hazards and illness, as well as naturally occurring toxins and contaminants, residues of pesticides, [antibiotics antimicrobials] [veterinary drugs [including antimicrobials]] [and heavy metals]. Animal and plant diseases are likewise threats to the safety and resilience of food systems and to human health and nutrition. Food cannot be considered nutritious if it is not safe, and poor food safety hinders the adoption of healthy diets. [On the other hand, food processing to help ensure safe and shelf stable food has the potential to render food less nutritious due to the addition of sodium, sugars and removal of micronutrients. A careful balance and application of food safety principles while retaining nutritional qualities is important.] [Thus, measures to achieve food safety should be based on science and evidence-based assessments of the risks, in accordance with multilaterally agreed rules.] 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 recalls across coordinated networks. This section highlights the need for [global] [international] and national cooperation on food safety [and for every stakeholder to be responsible and accountable for the sourcing, handling, and quality control of food because of the potential spread of foodborne illness]. [Food safety should be promoted through effective risks assessments leading to control systems that are appropriate for different scales, contexts and modes of production and marketing.] [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

3.4.1 Strengthening national and international cooperation on food safety:

- a) Governments should promote food safety within their food systems policies and develop science-based and context-specific food safety policies and programmes that consider actions across the entire food systems - concerning production, processing, handling, preparation, storage, and distribution of food. [*Informally agreed by FoC*]
- b) Governments should develop, establish, strengthen and enforce, as appropriate, food safety control systems, including reviewing, adopting, updating and enforcing national food safety legislation and regulations to ensure that food producers and suppliers throughout the food supply chain operate safely. Governments should implement, as appropriate, and with the support of intergovernmental organizations, internationally adopted standards, in accordance with paragraph 39 of the VGFSyN. [*Informally agreed by FoC*]
- c) Governments and the FAO/WHO International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) should participate in, share and contribute [, as appropriate,] 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 [water quality,] pesticide residues, [antimicrobial residues,] residues of veterinary or phytosanitary medical products, [endocrine disrupters,] [chemical contaminants and naturally occurring toxins,] [use of unauthorized and unsafe] food additives, pathogenic bacteria, viruses, toxins, parasites, zoonoses, and fraud/adulteration of food products. [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

3.4.2 Ensuring food safety across food production systems:

- a) Governments, private sector and other relevant stakeholders should implement a One Health Approach⁴ to food safety along the entire food and feed supply chain, where appropriate recognizing the interconnection between food safety and human, plant, animal and environmental health particularly to prevent and mitigate future transmission of zoonotic and other emerging infectious diseases with pandemic potential. [*Informally agreed by FoC*]
- b) Governments, in collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, should develop and implement [science and risk-based] national plans to combat Antimicrobial Resistance in livestock, aquaculture, and in plants, including in feed production, that take into account [multilaterally] [internationally] adopted standards [relevant to WTO/SPS agreements] [CODEX and OIE], to promote and support prudent and appropriate use of antimicrobials⁵, including phasing out the use of [medically important] antimicrobials as growth promoters⁶ [in the absence of risk analysis]. [A collaborative One Health approach is necessary to reduce AMR, including awareness raising as well as developing the capacity of monitoring AMR and AMU (Antimicrobial Use) in food and agriculture.] [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

3.4.3 Protecting consumers from food safety risks in food supplies:

- a) Governments, private sector, intergovernmental organizations, development partners and other relevant stakeholders should promote and enhance traceability in food supply chains, early contamination detection, and leverage the opportunities that new technologies offer for traceability solutions. [*Informally agreed by FoC*]
- b) Investment by governments, private sector and other relevant stakeholders should support training for food producers, handlers and processors to implement national, science and evidence-based, risk-based measures that can provide safe food while retaining their nutrient content. [*Informally agreed by FoC*]
- c) Governments should acknowledge, [and regularly adapt legislations and guidelines] [monitor and evaluate] [assess and manage] [emerging] [potential] health [risks] [implications as well as possible benefits for food security and nutrition] [and manage] [of] new food products created by emerging technologies (e.g. lab grown meats, and gene [edited] [editing and modern biotechnology] products, etc.) as appropriate taking into account scientific risk assessments and Codex standards, where available, as with any new food product [in international regulatory frameworks [as well as legitimate sectors other than science (for instance consumer preferences)]. [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

3.5 PEOPLE-CENTERED NUTRITION KNOWLEDGE EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

56. It is important to consider, establish, maintain and protect the range and diversity of food cultures, social norms, relations, and traditions that contribute to healthy diets [through

⁴ 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/>

⁵ FAO Conference, [Final Report of the 41th Session \(2019\)](#), Appendix C. Paragraph 7.

⁶ FAO Conference Resolution 4/2015 on Antimicrobial Resistance. Paragraphs a and d.

sustainable food systems] without undermining progress in gender equality. This section outlines the policy entry points to promote healthy diets through supporting people to improve their knowledge, awareness, education, and the quality of information available, motivations, skills and practices empowering key actors across [sustainable] food systems. Context-specific interventions and promotion of [the healthy aspects of] traditional diets and knowledge originating from diverse food systems are vital to ensuring equal, positive and sustainable impacts on nutrition and the environment. [Social and behavior change interventions can also shift patterns around food and food consumption and empower people to make better choices for themselves and their families.] [All policies and recommendations should be evaluated by nutrition scientists and all the decisions and policies have to have a strong scientific rationale.] [*pending brackets to be discussed*]