**INPUT FROM CANADA**

**CFS POLICY PROCESS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON FOOD SYSTEMS AND NUTRITION**

**TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSIONS**

1. **Does Chapter 1 adequately reflect the current situation of malnutrition and its related causes and impacts, particularly in line with the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda? What are the underlying problems that currently hinder food systems to deliver healthy diets?**

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| Chapter 1 provides a good summary of the current situation of malnutrition, providing a succinct overview of related causes and impacts. A few suggestions: * **Paragraph 3: Micronutrients**

Elaborate on the consequences of iron deficiency (i.e. decreased productivity, negative birth outcomes). Further, mentioning iodine, folate, zinc, and vitamin A deficiency would be important here as well, as deficiencies in these micronutrients remain significant at the global level. Micronutrient deficiencies are a key challenge that affect a large proportion of the population with serious consequences on human health, well-being and development. Children under five**, [adolescent girls,]** women of child-bearing age, and pregnant women are particularly at risk of being affected by iron deficiency anaemia. Rationale**:** include specific reference to adolescent girls. Adolescent girls are at risk of iron deficiency because of rapid growth combined with menstrual losses.Ref: The Lancet. [Volume 393, Issue 10170](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/01406736/393/10170), 2–8 February 2019, Pages 447-492* **Paragraphs 2 and 4**

While obesity and overweight are globally surpassing underweight, this is highly dependent on context. Perhaps add a comment on the continued presence of underweight in older children and adolescents.Elaborate on the impact that overweight/obesity and diet-related NCDs, including diabetes, have on disability–adjusted life years and mortality worldwide and prevalence across socio-demographic characteristics such as gender, urban/rural and socio-economic status (equity dimension). Consider adding a point about the double or multiple burden of malnutrition specifying that all of these problems can occur at once, at the individual, household, and country levels. This will reinforce the approach outlined in later sections. * **Paragraph 11: Most vulnerable to malnutrition:** ADD – groups migrating or displaced due to conflict or natural disasters/ land tenure issues.

**Additional suggestions:** * A disproportionate focus is placed on nutrition/malnutrition. Consider framing nutrition/malnutrition under the broader topic of food systems to provide a more holistic background and rationale for the piece.
* Consider linking food systems and nutrition to SDG #2, specifically SDG 2.2 and the impact that food systems have on the achievement of Agenda 2030 and other SDGs (1,3,4,5,6,8,10,12). This information could be moved from the second half of #16.
* Consider including the global context of hunger and the reversal of trends over last 4 years whereby hunger has reached levels equivalent to those seen over a decade ago.

**Paragraph 7**. Consider separating this point into two: (1) conflict, peace and security, and (2) climate change. Consider the following language “Fragility and susceptibility to the impacts of climate change and disaster risks pose….”**Paragraph 8**. Consider including the global context of hunger and the reversal of trends over the last 4 years whereby hunger has reached levels equivalent to those seen over a decade ago. **Paragraph 10**. Consider changing “…accessing healthy diets” to “accessing healthy foods to better support the uptake of healthy diets.” **Paragraph 15**. Consider the inclusion of another paragraph that describes global actions towards the transformation of food systems to ensure that both food systems and nutrition are adequately addressed. **Paragraph 16**. Consider moving second half of this point on SDGs to Background and Rationale to improve clarity.**Paragraph 17.** Makes reference to “…effective policies, investments and institutional arrangements that will address malnutrition in all its forms.”. Consider replacing “malnutrition in all its forms” with “broken food systems in order to address nutrition/malnutrition”.**Paragraph 18**. Makes reference to “the objective of the VGs is to contribute to reshaping or promoting food systems to ensure that the food that contributes to healthy diets is available, affordable, acceptable, safe…” This is the vocabulary that should be used throughout the document, because it is the reshaping/promotion of healthy food systems that will contribute to healthy diets and improved nutritional outcomes. **Paragraph 19**. Address policy fragmentation with special emphasis on the food, agriculture and health sectors,” but should also consider including the food systems links to other key systems (energy system, trade system, health system, etc.) and sub-systems (farming system, the waste management system, the input supply system, etc.) all of which link directly back into the larger food system itself.**INDIGENOUS ISSUES**While Canada recognizes the intention to align Chapter 1 with the Voluntary Guidelines’ focus on global agricultural systems and retail consumption, the section does not adequately reflect the unique challenges malnutrition poses for Indigenous populations. Specifically, the Chapter lacks reference to Indigenous food systems and the related importance of food sovereignty in Indigenous communities. These concepts are relevant to many countries striving to meet Sustainable Development Goal 2 of the 2030 Agenda: to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. We echo our feedback from May 2019 aimed at strengthening Chapter 1’s Indigenous content by leading with a reference to SDG Goal 2, adding Indigenous peoples to the list of relevant stakeholders (para. 26), and emphasizing the connection between sustainable food systems and the protection of traditions, cultures, and ways of life (para. 21). These recommendations align closely with the FAO Indigenous Peoples Team’s comments on the unique qualities of Indigenous food systems, which serve to distinguish them from traditional, mixed, and modern food systems. With regard to the second question posed above (on underlying problems hindering food systems to deliver healthy diets), Indigenous and Northern food systems face similar challenges to those of global Indigenous populations (e.g., threats from climate change, ongoing legacies of colonialism, the cost of traditional harvesting practices, and increased exposure to environmental contaminants). In the Arctic and Northern context, these challenges are exacerbated by the impacts of the region’s remote geography and lack of physical and telecommunications infrastructure on the Arctic food value chain. These conditions have contributed to: a general overreliance on raw food exports; bottlenecking of distribution points; and limited innovation in primary and secondary product development. |

1. **What should be the guiding principles to promote sustainable food systems that improve nutrition and enable healthy diets? What are your comments about the principles outlined in Chapter 2? Are they the most appropriate for your national/regional contexts?**

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| The principles are appropriate, and indeed are well-aligned with the guiding principles under the Food Policy for Canada (<https://www.canada.ca/en/campaign/food-policy.html>), but could further emphasize the special attention required by for indigenous peoples in certain contexts, in relation to factors such as, increased vulnerability to food insecurity, traditional knowledge, and distinct food procurement and community distribution practices (see additional comments regarding indigenous peoples below). * **Paragraph 36.** These guiding principles are:

g) Elaborate on capacity building e.g. capacity building to integrate nutrition in other sectors (health, agriculture, labour, trade, gender, social protection, industry); and capacity building of governance mechanisms to enable nutrition considerations in the coordination of multi-sectoral nutrition action at country-level.**Paragraph 16**. Consider moving second half of this point on SDGs to Background and Rationale to improve clarity.**Paragraph 17**. Makes reference to “…effective policies, investments and institutional arrangements that will address malnutrition in all its forms.”. Consider replacing “malnutrition in all its forms” with “broken food systems in order to address nutrition/malnutrition”.**Paragraph 18**. Makes reference to “the objective of the VGs is to contribute to reshaping or promoting food systems to ensure that the food that contributes to healthy diets is available, affordable, acceptable, safe…” This is the vocabulary that should be used throughout the document, because it is the reshaping/promotion of healthy food systems that will contribute to healthy diets and improved nutritional outcomes. **Paragraph 19**. Address policy fragmentation with special emphasis on the food, agriculture and health sectors,” but should also consider including the food systems links to other key systems (energy system, trade system, health system, etc.) and sub-systems (farming system, the waste management system, the input supply system, etc.) all of which link directly back into the larger food system itself.**Paragraph 24**. a) biophysical and environmental should include sustainability. d) socio-cultural drivers or e) demographic drivers should include population health. **General**:The title of the section: “2: Guiding principles for reshaping or promoting sustainable food systems” suggests the focus is on “sustainable food systems” (which it may be, however, the overarching title focuses on “food systems and nutrition”). The preceding section provides definitions for both “sustainable food systems” and “food systems” suggesting they are distinct; we suggest that there be a stronger narrative for the reader that acknowledges the focus is on “sustainable food systems” (if that is the intent) or an adjustment in the language for consistency with the title of the Voluntary Guidelines. [In Section 1, it would be useful to have a clear positioning of the relationship between sustainable food systems (as the goal) and addressing malnutrition in all its forms.]**Paragraph 35** – the concepts in this paragraph are not clearly articulated in the Objective (para 18); we suggest the objective could be strengthened to be more clear on the intentions of the Voluntary Guidelines. **Some additional suggestions:**1. It is suggested that “systemic and holistic” and “evidence-based” approaches be separated into two points.
2. It is suggested that “coherence” and “context” specific policies be separated into two points.

We suggest that consideration be made to include definitions for food security, malnutrition, undernutrition and overnutrition to ensure consistency across key concepts concerning food systems and nutrition.**INDIGENOUS ISSUES**We echo feedback from May 2019 that the principles in Chapter 2 should be strengthened to better align with food security and food sovereignty issues facing Indigenous communities within Canada and the broader global context. Specifically, we would recommend the following: * **Paragraph 26:** Indigenous peoples should be included in the list of stakeholders in that the following reference should be included in the draft’s guiding principles:
* **Paragraph 36.** These guiding principles are:
1. *Systemic and holistic and evidence-based approach*. Promote a systemic, holistic, and evidence-based approach that considers food systems in their totality, **[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 integration of Indigenous knowledge within sustainable food systems is integral to Indigenous food systems and will also help to maximize opportunities in commercially-based food-producing markets. This will necessitate collaboration with Indigenous partners where new systems can be co-designed in ways that support and maximize these opportunities.**Paragraph** 36(c): “healthy people, healthy planet” should include a reference to the promotion of ethical and environmental values. These areas are of particular relevance to Arctic and Northern Communities, and are core to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Adding to the urgency to act in an ethical and environmentally conscious way are the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report[[1]](#footnote-1)[1] that calls for global action to limit global warming to no more than 1.5 °C by 2030. Specific to food production, the combination of different post-harvest stages in the food value chain such as packaging, retail, transport, processing, food preparation and waste disposal represents approximately 5-10% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and are expected increase if the post-harvest stages are not well-managed[[2]](#footnote-2)[2]. Achieving the IPCC target will require a cross-sectoral approach that implicates food systems. Technological advancement and digital food production technologies will play a major role but will also require a paradigm shift in relation to the needed skills of Arctic and Northern residents. This will be especially significant to small and medium sized enterprises and entrepreneurship opportunities particularly around the circular economy and industrial biotechnology.  Different regions will have their own assets and challenges which require appropriate responses in order to maximize the opportunities locally and globally. These and other socio-environmental drivers require a transformational response. Such a response should be place-based, challenges led, research driven, and have global influence.**Paragraph 36(f):** “Realization of the Right to Food” currently acknowledges a right to *diverse* food systems. This language could be strengthened to acknowledge a right to diverse and *culturally-relevant* food. In developing this principle, drafters may wish to refer to the language of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), Article 20: “Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems or institutions, to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of **subsistence** and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities.”These changes would help to better align the Voluntary Guidelines with the submission from the FAO Indigenous Peoples Team, which has emphasized the need for an explicit reference to Indigenous food systems. This document highlights the presence of distinct characteristics that set Indigenous food systems apart from the This could be introduced as a key concept following sustainable food systems at para. 29.**Additional comments:**Generally, the concept of cultural appropriateness of diets, recommendations and communications in the context of Indigenous populations is not really addressed (i.e. p. 7 – Healthy Diets – the WHO definition may not be appropriate for Northern traditional diets, P.8 Realization of the right to food – no mention of cultural appropriateness of food and more generally when the document speaks to education and programmes that they be culturally appropriate for Indigenous populations).There isn’t a lot of emphasis on poverty as a reason for food insecurity and poverty-reduction as a guiding principle. Some other factors could include that are not mentioned but are relevant to the Indigenous context include lingering impacts of colonization, including on perceptions of governments actions to encourage healthy eating, as well as the very limited commercial availability of traditional foods in communities where people are increasingly participating in jobs, which does not leave time for traditional harvesting.In the context of Indigenous populations, several factors undermine food security.  These include: poverty; environmental contamination and changes affecting traditional food harvesting and consumption; unsustainable harvesting/food production practices; lack of access to the land; loss of cultural identities, traditional knowledge and traditional food practices; geographic isolation; and the unreliable supply, quality, and high prices of market food in remote and isolated communities. [Power, E. (2007). Food Security for First Nations and Inuit Background Paper. Prepared for the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, Health Canada.] |

1. **In consideration of the policy areas identified in Chapter 3 and the enabling factors suggested in paragraph 41 of the Zero Draft, what policy entry points should be covered in Chapter 3, taking into account the need to foster policy coherence and address policy fragmentation?**

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| * **Paragraph 43 Production Systems** (policy-relevant areas) :

h) Investing in research and innovation is important but so is **scaling-up and bringing to market**  crops that have been found to lead to improvements in access to more nutritious foods while minimizing environmental impact.* **Paragraph 45 (a) – Practices and technologies to protect and add nutritional value along food chains**

We suggest that the recommendation not specifically speak to adding micronutrients, i.e. fortification, during processing, which raises concerns about the types of foods being fortified, but instead to speak to the nutritional quality of the food overall. Please consider instead revising the statement to: “Policies, programmes and approaches can be put in place to preserve or **~~add micronutrients into foods~~** **enhance the nutritional profile of food** during processing…”* **Paragraph 48:**  Include reference to micronutrient supplementation as an important public health intervention for certain high-risk groups in specific contexts. For example, in areas where the anaemia prevalence is high, iron supplementation is a recommended as a public health intervention for adolescent girls and women, with extra caution in malaria endemic regions. Rationale: WHO has published guidelines on iron supplementation for certain at-risk population groups (e.g. infants and children, pregnant women, adolescent girls).

**INDIGENOUS ISSUES**Where possible, the Voluntary Guidelines should seek to align with existing national and regional efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. For example, recent Canadian policy initiatives such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy and the forthcoming Arctic and Northern Policy Framework were developed with specific consideration of the Sustainable Development Goals in mind. The Committee on World Food Security may wish to have stakeholders and participating countries identify relevant national strategies and policy initiatives where food systems and nutrition could be highlighted for subsequent policy actions. To facilitate these connections to the Canadian context and increase overall policy coherence, NAO recommends two additions to the enabling factors set out in paragraph 41:* “promotion of Indigenous food systems.” This addition will align with the comments of the FAO Indigenous Peoples Group and help for increased alignment with national governments and Indigenous stakeholders. For example, in the Canadian context, Inuit continue to rely heavily on local plants and wildlife, such as berries, caribou, fish, and sea mammals. These foods are nutrient dense and their harvesting encourages traditional practices, including food sharing, which help to strengthen community resilience and self-reliance. A study in 43 Arctic communities found that on days when people ate both traditional and market foods, their diets had increased nutrient intake. (Kuhnlein et al. (2004).
* “poverty reduction and inclusive growth.” This addition will serve to highlight the connection between poverty, inequality, and malnutrition. As referenced in NAO’s May 2019 feedback, a greater focus on poverty reduction will allow the document to address issues related to Indigenous peoples, as well as gender, and align more closely with the 2030 Agenda.

MSF supports the Guiding Principles for Reshaping or Promoting Sustainable Food Systems as proposed with the following exceptions:1. It is suggested that “systemic and holistic” and “evidence-based” approaches be separated into two points.
2. It is suggested that “coherence” and “context” specific policies be separated into two points.

MSF would also like to note that these guiding principles are well-aligned with Canada’s guiding principles under the Food Policy for Canada. In addition, MSF suggests that consideration be made to include definitions for food security, malnutrition, undernutrition and overnutrition to ensure consistency across key concepts concerning food systems and nutrition.Canada proposes a few changes to the categorization of the policy entry points as per below. It is also proposed that an additional and overarching category be created to encompass cross-sector food system policies, which are broader than supply chain, food environment, and consumer-oriented policies.Cross-sector food system policies* Nutrition-sensitive trade policies
* Social protection programs
* Governance
* International assistance
* Labour policies are not mentioned but constitute an important component of food systems.

**PART 1: FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS*** It is proposed that an additional category be added under food supply chains for ‘Research and Development’ to reflect recommendation #7 of the HLPE on improving data collection and knowledge-sharing on food systems and nutrition, and to underscore the importance of supporting the capacity of actors across food supply chains to adapt to changing consumer demand and food habits as noted under Part 3 – Consumer Behaviour.

**1. Production systems**b) Agricultural policies and strategies* In addition to promoting healthy and sustainable production models, national policies and public investments should reflect the various food system transitions taking place using integrated and coherent approaches that include, but that go beyond raising the profile of nutrition. For example, traditional, mixed, and modern food systems are increasingly under pressure to shift toward climate-smart agriculture, equitable production systems that empower women, and nutrition-sensitive agriculture in order to support food security and to meet the increasing global demand for healthy food products.
* Public sector support should take these multiple pressures and ongoing transitions into consideration to support supply chain actors at different scales in transitioning and diversifying their production, particularly the most vulnerable producer groups and sectors.

c) Promotion and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity; ande) Diversity of genetic resources* Maintaining traditional seed varieties, for example through seed banks, can also help support agrobiodiversity as well as resilient and culturally-diverse agricultural systems.

d) Sustainable use of forest, wildlife, aquatic resources* It is proposed that sustainable land and water management in agriculture be added to this category.

g) Women producers’ livelihoods* Canada strongly supports gender-transformative approaches in agriculture (GTAAg).

h) Agricultural research, innovation and development for healthy diets* It is proposed that this be moved into a separate category named ‘Research and development’ under ‘Food supply chains’ since research and development can apply to any activity or process along food supply chains. It is important to orient all of the steps along food supply chains toward health and sustainability.

i) Climate change adaptation and mitigation* It is proposed that climate-smart agriculture (CSA) be highlighted as an approach for climate change adaptation and mitigation. In addition to supporting climate change adaptation and mitigation, CSA can also increase productivity, which can have a positive impact on livelihoods and food security for smallholder farmers, and women farmers in particular.

**2. Handling, storage, and distribution*** The policy area of food recovery and redistribution could be added to this category and removed from Part 3 – Consumer Behaviour, as this is a supply chain process that focuses on storage and distribution.

a) Food loss and waste* It is proposed that this category encompass food loss only since this is a supply chain issue, and since food waste happens at the consumer level.

**3. Processing and packaging*** It is proposed that sustainable packaging be added as a third policy area under this category.
* An opportunity exists for innovations in product packaging, aimed specifically at displacing single use plastics.

**4. Retail and markets**a) Support to smallholders* Setting up and supporting centralized regional distribution hubs with adequate storage facilities, and with adequate road infrastructure, could be another approach to supporting smallholders in reaching markets.

b) Supply of nutritious foods* It is proposed that this category be broken up into two categories to capture both (1) encouraging retailers to supply more nutritious food items, and (2) encouraging retailers to support local economies through procurement of locally produced foods.

**PART 2: FOOD ENVIRONMENTS****1. Availability and physical access (proximity)**a) Food deserts and food swamps* It is proposed that this category be broken up into multiple categories that represent various policy entry points to address food deserts and food swamps, as these are issues as opposed to policy solutions. New categories could include: 1) Zoning and spatial planning policies, 2) Infrastructure and mobile markets, and 3) Financial incentives for businesses to increase availability and access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

c) Systemic food assistance* Is it proposed that this entry point be moved to a new overarching category related to cross-sector food system policies. Food assistance goes beyond improving food environments domestically and internationally as it addresses more systemic issues in access to adequate amounts of nutritious food. Humanitarian assistance policies can also have a scope beyond food systems, but should be aligned with food system and nutrition objectives.

**2. Economic access (affordability)**a) Nutrition-sensitive trade policies* It is proposed that the heading of this entry point be reframed as ‘trade-related bans and restrictions’, and that another category for nutrition-sensitive trade policies be created under the overarching category of ‘Food system policies’. The HLPE report on nutrition and food systems refers to this policy solution as ‘Promote healthier diets through discriminatory trade policies’ and provides examples of import bans in Fiji and Samoa for products with high fat contents which had previously been ‘dumped’ on their market.
* Nutrition-sensitive trade policies, as they are described in the document, can go beyond food environments and economic access/affordability. This approach to trade would be a broader system-level policy which could affect supply chains, food environments, and consumer behaviour.

b) Fiscal and pricing policies* It is noted that subsidies and other types of government support systems of health-promoting and sustainable crops and food products are not mentioned as an example in this category. Such supports could reduce prices of healthy options for consumers and increase affordability.
* When recommending taxes on unhealthy food products, it is important to consider differential effects on low-income populations, who may not have access to healthier alternatives, in which case taxes could impose a financial burden on low-income consumers.

c) Social protection programmes leading to improved nutritional outcomes* It is proposed that social protection programmes be moved to a new category of food system policies. Social support is needed to address the social determinants of health such as income, which goes beyond food environments and affordability of food. Alternatively, the heading of this category could be changed to ‘Nutrition standards for social protection programs’ if it is intended to refer to the quality of food provided through the programmes as opposed to the provision of these programs itself.

d) Food waste* It is proposed that this category be removed from the *Food Environments* category as it is already listed under *Food* *Supply Chains* as ‘food loss and waste’. Food recovery and redistribution is a supply chain activity; it is also proposed that it be added as an additional category under ‘Handling, storage, and distribution’.

**3. Promotion and advertising*** It is proposed that this category be named ‘Promotion, advertising, and information’ since some of it pertains to information provided to consumers on labels, which does not necessarily constitute promotion or advertising.

**PART 3: CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR****1. Food and nutrition education and information**c) Nutrition education* The opportunity exists for food literacy and food systems literacy be included under this heading. Food literacy is extremely important and should consider including components of food and diet that go beyond nutrition. For example, learning about how food is produced, the environmental sustainability of various types of foods, socio-cultural norms around how food is prepared and consumed, food skills training, learning how to minimise food waste, as well as minimizing costs while purchasing healthy and sustainable food.
* An opportunity also exists for food waste awareness to be included as a fourth policy area under this category as food waste occurs at the consumer level and education and awareness are critical to reducing consumer-level food waste.

**2. Social norms, values, and traditions**a) Evolving food habits* This policy area notes an issue/trend, however, this does not provide a solution to the potential positive and negative consequences of evolving food habits.
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1. **Can you provide specific examples of new policies, interventions, initiatives, alliances and institutional arrangements which should be considered, as well as challenges, constraints, and trade-offs relevant to the three constituent elements of food systems presented in Chapter 3? In your view, what would the “ideal” food system look like, and what targets/metrics can help guide policy-making?**

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| We recommend including within the policy-relevant areas the need to work with the private sector (including SMEs) to increase the availability and access to safe and nutritious foods. Guidelines should include how to effectively work with the private sector and manage conflicts of interest within the food system.Moreover, we recommend considering:* Examples from Chile (new food law)
* New initiatives from Canada, e.g.,
	+ *Food Policy for Canada* (2019)<https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/aafc-aac/documents/20190614-en.pdf> -- it sets a foundation for increased integration and coordination of food-related policies and programs. Its vision is that “all people in Canada are able to access a sufficient amount of safe, nutritious, and culturally diverse food. Canada’s food system is resilient and innovative, sustains our environment and supports our economy.”
	+ *Canada’s Dietary Guidelines* (2019)<https://food-guide.canada.ca/en/guidelines/> -- These Guidelines promote healthy eating and overall nutritional well-being, and support improvements to the Canadian food environment, including by providing advice on the elements of food environment awareness (e.g. food marketing), food literacy and skills, socio-cultural dimensions of healthy eating, and environmental concerns about sustainability and food loss/waste.

**INDIGENOUS related policies/interventions**In the Canadian context, there are several policies and interventions that support local and “traditional food cultures” as set out in the section listing social norms, values and traditions (paragraph 56b). The new Food Policy for Canada (referenced above) has an emphasis on local and Indigenous food systems, and provides funding for local food projects and Indigenous harvesters, for example, through the Local Food Infrastructure Fund, the Harvesters Support Grant, and the Northern Isolated Community Initiative Fund.In the Canadian Northern context, engagement with communities affirmed that Northerners see an “ideal” food system as having three essential elements: Country/traditional food (food that is locally harvested, hunted, and trapped); locally produced food (food grown in a community, despite harsh conditions); and market food (food shipped from elsewhere and purchased from a retailer or supplier).Ongoing discussions related to an Arctic Foods Innovation Cluster(AFIC) may provide lessons for development of sustainable food systems going forward. The Government of Canada has been working with domestic and international partners to explore the appropriateness and strategic usefulness of establishing an AFIC under the auspices of the Arctic Council’s Sustainable Development Working Group. The AFIC would pull together relevant people in the Arctic food value chain for a cluster-based approach to food production and regional economic development. We understand *food production* to encompass traditional, artisanal, and industry-scale production of natural resources into food for own, national, and international consumption. We understand *food innovation* to encompass 1) new modes of production and consumption patterns (e.g., the introduction of hydroponics or aquaponics farming); and 2) new production and consumption of non-food products (e.g., using waste products from the seafood sector to produce medicine or fabrics or seaweed production as both food source and CO2 sequestration.)A cluster-based approach to food innovation would draw together Arctic food producers with governments, Arctic Indigenous communities, universities, research centers, vocational training providers, and industry associations and youth. Overall, it would seek to respond to global challenges of food production while seeking to define the Arctic’s role and contribution to the changing climate and issues of food security locally and around the world.  The AFIC will create opportunities for entrepreneurship and innovation in the food and drink industry and supply chain, while strengthening the Arctic’s position at the international scale.The objective of the AFIC will be to create added value for Arctic Communities by connecting northern entrepreneurs, southern-based investors, research centers, businesses and bio-technology developers that have knowledge and interest in the Arctic food industries.  The AFIC would be motivated by the combined efforts to respond to global challenges such as food security and climate change. |

1. **How would these Voluntary Guidelines be most useful for different stakeholders, especially at national and regional levels, once endorsed by CFS?**

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| The guidelines would benefit from having clear outlined actions to help different stakeholders implement – or to reference relevant resources (e.g. the Compendium of Actions for Nutrition (FAO/REACH) and existing tools from SUN).To support implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines, governance is key. Governance in support of policy coherence, for example national-level horizontal food system and nutrition committees, task forces, or councils composed of multiple sectors across society and government that could support the development of country-specific implementation plans for the Voluntary Guidelines.Include examples of successful integration, policy coherence.Illustrate how the CFS aligns with existing international agreements, targets and indicators to minimize duplication which could reduce concern that implementation will take significant additional resources .**INDIGENOUS ISSUES**Once endorsed, the CFS should ensure documents are disseminated to Indigenous governments and political organizations at the regional, national, and international levels. In the Canadian context, First Nations, Inuit, and Métis governments and organizations continue to play a significant role in the national policy discourse through the development of subject-specific policy documents such as national frameworks and implementation strategies. The active engagement of Indigenous partners within the implementation process will allow the Guidelines to achieve their stated purpose to help guide actors toward “effective policies, investments and institutional arrangements that will address malnutrition in all its forms,” which account for the unique factors arising from the cultivation and stewardship of Indigenous food systems. |

1. [1] <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [2] Garnett, T., Smith, P., Nicholson, W., & Finch, J. (2016). Food systems and greenhouse gas emissions (Foodsource: chapters). Food Climate Research Network, University of Oxford. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)