

## 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry

### Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members (English version)

#### Item 9.2 Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition

Member Name	Comments
Switzerland (25 September)	<p><b>Swiss Intervention</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Switzerland thanks the Secretariat for document COFO/2020/9.2 containing the Draft Vision and Strategy for FAO's work in nutrition. The Document is very comprehensive and recognizes the crucial role of nutrition for sustainable food systems.</li> <li>We also note that the document focuses on healthy diets. This is very important, in particular for individuals. But it is not enough in the face of today's challenges humanity is confronted with. Diets need to be healthy for the individual, the society and for the planet. <i>We propose therefore to refer to "sustainable and healthy diets" throughout the document.</i></li> <li>In addition, concerning the description of terms starting on page 10, food safety is missing. Food safety is a prerequisite for nutrition. Otherwise, the consumption of contaminated food will lead to food-borne diseases, which will negatively affect the consumer's health. Unsafe food is no food. We are therefore of the view that food safety should be explicitly included in the "Draft Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition" with the relevant definition from the Codex Alimentarius: <i>"Food safety is the assurance that food will not cause harm to the consumer when it is prepared and/or eaten according to its intended use." Codex General Principles of Food Hygiene CAC/RCP 1-1969.</i></li> <li>Finally, we would like to share two specific suggestions for the text of the draft Vision and Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>In Para 1, <u>SDG 12</u></b> (sustainable production and consumption) should be added</li> <li><b>In Paragraph 2,</b> we would like to add a reference to <b>safe food</b> in the second sentence: One immediate determinant of nutritional status is diet. While numerous other factors are critical determinants of nutritional status, such as <b><u>safe food</u></b>, good health, clean water, sanitation, education, and women's empowerment; healthy diets are the cornerstone of good nutrition for today and for future generations.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
USA (25 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The United States takes note of the nutrition strategy as a continuation of FAO's efforts to end malnutrition in all its forms.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The United States is pleased to see that the Nutrition Strategy emphasizes the importance of an integrated, multi-stakeholder approach that includes the private sector in addressing the complex challenges of malnutrition.</li> <li>• We also believe that it is important that the nutrition strategy take into account national circumstances and adapt to fit the local context. We therefore think that the inclusion of an implementation plan that is adapted to country and ultimately local levels will be an important part of FAO's efforts.</li> <li>• We feel that adapting the nutrition strategy to local circumstances will be especially key as the forestry sector differs from other sectors in important ways. For example, the forestry sector is marked by especially long timelines, spanning decades, making sustainability and conservation especially important.</li> <li>• We are equally pleased to see the emphasis the nutrition strategy places on data and how that is incorporated into the activities and the outcomes. Data is critical to the identification and pursuit of comprehensive, cost-effective, evidence-based policies.</li> <li>• We also agree with FAO on the importance of innovation. However, this principle did not seem to be as well incorporated into the list of activities in the Nutrition Strategy as other principles. We would like to hear more about how FAO sees innovation fitting with the fifteen identified activities as well as the role that innovation could play in the implementation plan.</li> </ul>
Indonesia (26 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We appreciate reports on the Vision and Strategy for FAO's work in Nutrition that was developed in response to recommendations of FAO's Council in 2019.</li> <li>• Indonesia supports the draft Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition.</li> </ul>
Brazil (26 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brazil notes with satisfaction the central role that diets play within the Draft Vision and Strategy and the attentive regard to the multiple dimensions that constitute a "healthy diet"- which go beyond the mere biological intake of nutrients, encompassing the social, cultural and geographical aspects of eating.</li> <li>• In this sense, we welcome the comprehensive and detailed definition of "healthy diets" brought by this version of the document.</li> <li>• We view that the key to advance in nutrition is the development of more "sustainable food systems for healthy diets" and thus note with satisfaction that this is also the spirit of the Vision and Strategy for FAO's work in nutrition outline by the document.</li> </ul> <p>Brazil would like to submit the following punctual suggestions and request for clarification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the scope of the Strategy, paragraph 10, we believe the following changes would improve clarity: "The Strategy GUIDES FAO's work to INCREASE ITS CONTRIBUTION to improve nutrition FOR ALL, recognizing the central role of nutrition for the SDGs";</li> <li>• In the header of outcome 5, in paragraph 23 ("Outcome 5. Building internal capacity for delivery. All relevant personnel in FAO understand, and appreciate their role in, and have the capacity to contribute to ensuring food systems</li> </ul>

	<p>enable healthy diets including in emergency preparedness and resilience building.”), we propose deleting the words “, and appreciate ”;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regarding the implementation plan that should complement the Strategy, we would like to request clarification on the steps and timeline for its development and approval. We believe that such process should be inclusive and transparent, providing for broad participation of FAO Members. Information on that matter should be included in the text of the Strategy.</li> </ul>
Argentina (26 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In reference to the document cited above submitted by FAO, Argentina would like to highlight section D: Vision and Mission: paragraph 15. In terms of the reference made to “healthy diets”, we would like to stress that there is not just one sole healthy diet. It is therefore important to take into account geographical and demographic factors that influence dietary habits, which are adopted by any given community.</li> <li>• Transforming food systems should not ignore this diversity nor attempt to standardize productive patterns. Each food system is faced with obstacles and challenges that are unique, which is why not all of them need to go through a process of transformation.</li> <li>• We therefore suggest that paragraph 15 should read as follows (additional text in bold): “<i>FAO’s vision for nutrition is a world where all people are eating healthy diets, <b>according to geography, demographics, society and culture that relate to specific community groups</b>, from sustainable food systems that protect human health and wellbeing and are resilient to shocks.</i>”</li> </ul>
European Union (28 September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am honored to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.</li> <li>• We take positively note of the Vision and Strategy for FAO’s work in Nutrition and support the work done so far in this field of those policy actions.</li> <li>• We noted the relevant role of forests in nutrition providing food and food preparation as referred to under Agenda Item 9.1. The Committee on World Food Security has already recognized in 2017 the important role of sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition. This important role should be promoted through improved policy coordination within the diverse policies aimed at enhancing forest ecosystem services.</li> <li>• We note that the provision of nutrition from forests also provides additional jobs and income, especially in rural areas, ensuring livelihoods, while also increasing the value of forests and the need for their sustainable forest management. Overall, we share the vision of sustainable forestry as an important sector to improve resilience to the problems of food shortage.</li> <li>• In several EU Member States the nutrition role of forests benefits from an enhanced attention by consumers on natural, wild, organic products and products based on local value chains and those coming from mountain, remote and protected areas. These trends should also be supported at global level as well as the demand for foraging, the development of traditional and new agroforestry systems.</li> <li>• Special attention should be paid to improve coordination of policies on forests for food and food quality, providing adequate attention to quality assurance of health and nutrition of forest products.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We underline, that the EU is leading at international level initiatives towards reducing the role of so-called embedded deforestation and forest degradation, as stated in our statement on Agenda Item 7.1.</li> <li>• The enhancement of the nutrition role of forests and agroforestry systems can be proper alternatives to the conversion of forests to farmland and pastures, always highlighting the need for sustainability of all land management, including wildlife hunting and plant gathering in forest ecosystems, especially of endangered species.</li> <li>• In this context, we emphasize the role that forests can play in supplying food resources and maintaining the value of the natural capital and a constant flow of regulating services.</li> <li>• To conclude, the EU and its Member States underline, that improving the nutritional services of forests should be understood and promoted not only as a component of a strategy to reduce malnutrition and food shortage, but also as a way to improve the quality of human diets and, at the same time, contributing to income generation of forest owners and local people.</li> </ul>
Peru (28 September)	<p><b>1. <u>Paragraph 12</u></b></p> <p>Given that the executive Summary states that forests and trees contribute in diverse ways to enhance human diets and reduce malnutrition, ¿at what point does the document reflect the main emphasis on forestry activities? ¿Will the promotion of agroforestry systems be considered as part of the forestry activities to be implemented?</p> <p>Do the sectors mentioned in the document (crop and livestock production, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture), correspond to “agricultural sectors” or to the “farming sector” (<i>sector agrario</i>)?</p> <p><b>2. <u>Paragraph 16</u></b></p> <p>In order to achieve this vision and mission, have small, medium and large-sized producers been considered for inclusion along with their respective associations?</p>
Mexico (1 October)	<p><b><u>Comments:</u></b></p> <p>We recognize the importance of eliminating hunger and all forms of malnutrition, both to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to reduce the impact of new diseases on the most vulnerable populations.</p> <p>Today, more than ever, efforts to strengthen access to nutritious food and a healthy environment are of vital importance, we therefore support the assessment to include in the FAO Nutrition Strategy the six points made in the COFO/2020/9.2 document, page 3, paragraph 11:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) to include food from forests and trees as an integral part of sustainable food systems that support healthy diets;</li> <li>2) to empower forest communities including many indigenous peoples as leaders of change in the implementation of the Strategy;</li> <li>3) to learn from traditional knowledge and continue filling data and information gaps through collaborative research across countries and regions;</li> <li>4) to develop cross-sectoral policies that integrate forests, agriculture and food security and nutrition objectives in ways that recognize the direct (e.g. fuel and food) and indirect (e.g. services and labour) contributions of forests;</li> </ol>

	<p>5) to convene cross-sectoral dialogues among global, regional, national and local stakeholders to build and strengthen partnerships to bring about transformative actions in support of the successful implementation of the Strategy; and</p> <p>6) to develop the capacity of government institutions and of local communities to enable policies, innovations and actions towards enhancing the contributions of forests and trees to food security and nutrition.</p> <p>Mexico endorses the recommendation to the Committee to provide guidance on the strategy to support countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 14 and 15.</p> <p>We also support the review of the draft and the formulation of proposals to improve the Strategy in order to achieve the potential of forestry to enhance diets and prevent malnutrition.</p> <p>We recognize the important contribution of forests and trees to a healthy diet, through the provision of nutritious food, income, employment, energy and ecosystem services, and the role to be played by FAO in achieving the Strategy's goals.</p>
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