

**166<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council**  
**Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members - original version**  
Item 12 - Report of the 47th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (8-11 February 2021)

Member Name	Comments
<b>Zimbabwe – Member</b> (Wed 14/04/2021 09:37)	<p>Zimbabwe welcomes the Report of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), which highlights the work of multiple stakeholders in identifying the challenges faced globally in attaining food security and in prescribing requisite solutions. The all-encompassing platform affords multiple stakeholder participation, which is critical, for it is collaborative action that is required to end hunger, through the provision of sustainable, adequate and nutritious food. Efficient food systems and nutrition are essential for achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p> <p>Zimbabwe commends the due attention given to important issues in the Report, <i>inter alia</i>: the food security situation in protracted conflict, given that in most cases, conflict exacerbates already precarious situations brought on by climate induced droughts or floods and cyclones; the work of the Committee to combat the negative impacts of COVID-19; and the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition and their critical contribution to the UN Food Systems Summit.</p> <p>Zimbabwe particularly welcomes the ongoing work to establish Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition, scheduled to be presented for endorsement by the 50th Session of the CFS. Disadvantaged women and girls play a critical role in food systems and it is important to recognize that they bear the brunt in this sector and to give them all the support they require.</p> <p>Zimbabwe supports the endorsement of the conclusions and recommendations of the 47th Session of the Committee of World Food Security as outlined in document C 2021/20.</p>
<b>Dominican Republic – Member</b> (Wed 14/04/2021 16:00)	<p>República Dominicana acoge con satisfacción el informe del 47º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y felicita a Thanawat Tiensin, Presidente del Comité, por el éxito alcanzado en la plenaria. El resultado más sobresaliente ha sido la aprobación de las Directrices voluntarias sobre los sistemas alimentarios y la nutrición, en apoyo del decenio de las Naciones Unidas de Acción sobre la Nutrición (2016-2025) que se traducirá en un aporte valioso a la Cumbre sobre Sistemas Alimentarios 2021.</p> <p>Resaltamos la gran labor llevada a cabo por los facilitadores del Grupo de Composición Abierta para estos fines, y alentamos a las partes interesadas del CSA a apoyar y promover a todos los niveles, y en colaboración con otras iniciativas y plataformas pertinentes, la difusión, el uso y la aplicación de las Directrices, reconociendo la diversidad y la complejidad de los sistemas alimentarios.</p> <p>En relación con la aprobación del mandato para la elaboración de las Directrices voluntarias del CSA sobre igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de mujeres y niñas en el contexto de la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición, expresamos interés en continuar brindando aportes a la negociación de dicho documento.</p>

	<p>Valoramos el acto temático mundial relativo al Marco de acción del CSA para la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición en crisis prolongadas, tema que República Dominicana lideró durante su presidencia del Consejo de Seguridad de Naciones Unidas en abril de 2020, a fin de poner de relieve el Marco de acción en una sesión especial para abordar los vínculos entre la inseguridad alimentaria y los conflictos. Hacemos un llamado a los miembros y a otras partes interesadas a sensibilizar acerca del Marco de acción en otros foros, y a que se promueva su aplicación y uso.</p> <p>Reconocemos la importancia global del CSA como plataforma abierta e inclusiva, sobre todo en el contexto del ODS-2, a la vez que compartimos la profunda preocupación por el alarmante incremento del número de personas afectadas por la subalimentación crónica y la malnutrición, que amenaza con revertir décadas de avances a nivel mundial.</p> <p>Destacamos que el CSA puede aportar de manera positiva para lograr resultados en la lucha contra las repercusiones adversas de la pandemia de covid-19 en la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición. En este contexto se hace menester situar la seguridad alimentaria en el nivel más alto de la agenda política, con lo cual República Dominicana está firmemente comprometida.</p> <p>Sumamos nuestra voz a la solicitud de que los tres organismos con sede en Roma continúen dividiendo en partes iguales los costos del presupuesto de la Secretaría del CSA.</p>
<b>The United States of America</b> (Wed 14/04/2021 16:56)	<p>The Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition are the endpoint of an enormous effort by the Committee on World Food Security to reach consensus on a set of recommendations to improve performance across food systems for nutrition.</p> <p>The Guidelines lay the foundation for a “sustainable food systems” approach to food security and nutrition that recognizes the complexity of food systems and the fact that decisions made at one point in a system can reverberate throughout the system. This approach seeks to balance the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and recognizes the need to assess and manage tradeoffs. The balanced, holistic sustainable food systems approach outlined in the Guidelines provides a strong foundation for our efforts to build more sustainable food systems and for the UN Food Systems Summit.</p> <p><b><i>U.S. Explanation of Position:</i></b></p> <p>Paragraph 3.2.4(d) of the Guidelines: We interpret the comment on “agreed relevant international and national standards” to mean that the Guidelines should be complementary to standards adopted by international standards setting bodies and adapted to national contexts, given that national standards do not need agreement from outside parties. We emphasize that specific recommendations contained in the Guidelines should be considered as one option out of many possible tools depending on local contexts.</p> <p>Paragraph 40 of the Guidelines: The Guidelines should be applied consistent with other instruments only as far as each of these instruments are relevant and applicable and as far as they have been agreed, acknowledged and/or endorsed by respective Member States and without prejudice to prevailing international agreements. The United States underscores that paragraph 18 of the 2030 Agenda calls for countries to implement the Agenda in a manner that is consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law. We further note that the 2030 Agenda is non-binding and does not create or affect rights or obligations under international law, nor does it create any new financial</p>

commitments. We also highlight our mutual recognition that 2030 Agenda implementation must respect and be without prejudice to the independent mandates of other processes and institutions, including negotiations, and does not pre-judge or serve as precedent for decisions and actions underway in other forums.

Paragraph 44 of the Guidelines: Economic sanctions, whether unilateral or multilateral, can be a successful means of achieving foreign policy objectives. In cases where the United States has applied sanctions, we have used them with specific objectives in mind, including as a means to promote a return to rule of law or democratic systems, to insist on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, or to prevent threats to international security. We are within our rights to deploy our trade and commercial policy as tools to achieve our objectives. Targeted economic sanctions can be an appropriate, effective, and legitimate alternative to the use of force.

Paragraph 45 of the Guidelines: The United States would like to note that the negotiations to eliminate agricultural export subsidies referenced in paragraph 45 of the Guidelines, were finalized during the Tenth World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference (MC10). The United States maintains that it is incorrect to imply that the Doha Development Round negotiations were concluded on these issues, and any reference to the Doha Development Agenda should be avoided.

Paragraph 65 of the Guidelines: It is our view that the CFS must respect the independent mandates of other processes and institutions, including trade negotiations, and must not involve itself in decisions and actions in other forums, including at the WTO. This includes calls that undermine incentives for innovation, such as technology transfer that is not both voluntary and on mutually agreed terms. The United States would also like to note that implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines should be consistent with paragraph 18 of the 2030 Agenda, which “emphasizes that the Agenda is to be implemented in a manner that is consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law.”

Paragraph 66 of the Guidelines: We note that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for action by all. We regret that language was inserted into these voluntary guidelines that seeks to selectively highlight different elements of the 2030 Agenda that are not broadly germane to the topic at hand and distract from its focus. This language should not be seen as a precedent for future documents. We underscore here that recalling selective paragraphs from the 2030 Agenda does not change their meaning or application, and paragraph 66 of the Guidelines indicates that they are recalled only to the extent relevant. For example, by recalling paragraph 12 of the 2030 Agenda, which reaffirms all the principles of the Rio Declaration, it should not be understood that all of the principles of the Rio Declaration are applicable to the range of issues addressed in these guidelines. Furthermore, with respect to the quoted footnote language on common but differentiated responsibilities, we note that the 2030 Agenda only reaffirmed that principle as it was set out in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, where it was explicitly limited to certain types of global environmental degradation. Recalling paragraph 12 of the 2030 Agenda in this context does not imply, and the United States does not accept, that this principle has relevance or application to the broad range of issues addressed in these voluntary guidelines, the 2030 Agenda, food security or to sustainable development as a whole.

Paragraphs 3.1.1(c) & 3.3.1(a) of the Guidelines: The United States would like to note its concern on two references to multilateral trade: paragraph 3.1.1(c) and paragraph 3.3.1(a). In both paragraphs, the language appears to blend references from the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with references to multilateral trade under the World Trade

	<p>Organization (WTO). We are concerned that blending voluntary commitments from the SDGs, with legally binding obligations agreed to by WTO Members, creates confusion around the scope of what has been agreed to in the WTO. For greater clarity, these two sentences should reference "...a rules-based, open, non-discriminatory, transparent, and predictable multilateral trading system...", to reflect concepts that have been agreed to by WTO Members and are foundational principles of the multilateral trading system. These two sentences should exclude "universal" and "equitable", terms used in the context of voluntary commitments.</p> <p>Paragraph 3.1.4(a) of the Guidelines: The United States reaffirms its support for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. As explained in our 2010 Statement of Support, "the United States recognizes the significance of the Declaration's provisions on free, prior and informed consent, which the United States understands to call for a process of meaningful consultation with tribal leaders, but not necessarily the agreement of those leaders, before the actions addressed in those consultations are taken.</p>
<b>Argentina – Member</b> (Wed 14/04/2021 16:58)	<p><u>A.- Punto II "Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutrición: construyendo una narrativa global hacia el 2030"</u></p> <p>La Argentina desea reiterar la necesidad de atender adecuadamente las necesidades de América Latina y el Caribe (LAC), puesto que se trata de una de las regiones más afectadas por el COVID-19 con efectos devastadores en materia inseguridad alimentaria y alimentación.</p> <p>Como fue expresado oportunamente, los efectos de la crisis ya son visibles en los sistemas alimentarios de LAC, puesto que la vulnerabilidad de los trabajadores ha crecido y los precios internos de los alimentos, en algunos casos, han trepado abruptamente desestabilizando el acceso a la canasta de productos básicos. Esta tendencia, en consecuencia, ha generado que muchas personas no puedan adquirir suficientes alimentos y que muchas otras tengan que optar por productos más baratos y de menor calidad nutricional.</p> <p>Frente a esta difícil coyuntura, nos gustaría resaltar, nuevamente, el papel central del comercio internacional de alimentos (equitativo y sin barreras distorsivas) ya que, gracias a él, se podrá facilitar el acceso a alimentos variados, seguros, asequibles y de bajo costo para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria regional y global, a la vez que se impulsará la creación de empleos a lo largo de las diferentes cadenas de valor que abastecen los mercados en distintas escalas.</p> <p><u>B.- Punto III "Marco de Acción del CSA para la Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutrición en Crisis Prolongadas"</u></p> <p>Deseamos enfatizar que el Marco de Acción, a través de sus guías y recomendaciones, fundamentalmente en los Principios 1, 2, 5, 7, 9 y 10, contiene una serie de buenas prácticas y guías sumamente útiles que permiten a los Gobiernos diseñar acciones concretas, de acuerdo a sus capacidades y circunstancias específicas, para generar resiliencia y abordar apropiadamente las causas subyacentes de las crisis prolongadas.</p> <p>Vemos con preocupación que las crisis prolongadas, más allá de sus múltiples causas, aún mantienen una presencia nítida en distintas regiones y están afectando de manera diversa alguna de las cuatro dimensiones de la seguridad alimentaria, con especial énfasis en la disponibilidad y el acceso a los alimentos. Por ese motivo, insistimos en la relevancia de actualizar las consultas regionales a fin de contar con información actualizada sobre las necesidades de los diferentes países.</p>

Luego, sobre la implementación de planes basados en contextos específicos, es importante tener en mente que para poder llevar a cabo programas que ataquen las causas de las crisis prolongadas, es crítico contar con mecanismos adecuados de cooperación internacionales y financiación multilateral para poder cambiar las realidades de los países afectados. Sin estos instrumentos, será imposible plasmar en el terreno soluciones de cambio duraderas.

C.- Punto IVb “Términos de referencia para las Directrices Voluntarias sobre Igualdad de Género y Empoderamiento de la Mujer en el Contexto de la Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutrición”

La Argentina desea reiterar su apoyo y profundo compromiso con esta línea de trabajo del CSA. Entendemos que resulta clave diseñar un documento que aborde, de forma holística, las distintas problemáticas que enfrentan las mujeres rurales. En nuestro país, la temática de género, y especialmente los aportes de las mujeres rurales e indígenas, así como el colectivo LGBTIQ+ son valorados como elementos esenciales para alcanzar mecanismos producción sostenibles de alimentos y, en consecuencia, para la seguridad alimentaria.

Como expresamos durante los debates de los términos de referencia, nosotros entendemos que el contenido de las directrices debería centrarse en el diseño e implementación de políticas públicas para el fortalecimiento de la autonomía económica y para eliminar brechas de género en la producción. Consideraremos que es muy importante incorporar, en los futuros debates, la necesidad de diálogo entre los Gobiernos y las organizaciones sociales y sindicales para la articulación de estrategias para el fortalecimiento de la igualdad en contexto de los sistemas alimentarios.

Finalmente, queremos reiterar que el Ministerio de las Mujeres, Géneros y Diversidad de la Argentina está en condiciones de compartir contribuciones sustantivas sobre líneas conceptuales fundamentales para abordar las políticas de prevención, asistencia y erradicación de las violencias por motivos de género.

D.- Punto V “Directrices Voluntarias sobre Sistemas Alimentarios y Nutrición”

Creemos que las “Directrices Voluntarias sobre Sistemas Alimentarios y Nutrición” constituyen un documento válido y necesario, no sólo en materia de recomendaciones sobre gestión de sistemas productivos y estrategias nutricionales.

El documento, entendemos, recoge una visión amplia, plural y consolidada sobre las diversas realidades, contextos, capacidades y prioridades nacionales que establecen los marcos de referencia dentro de los cuales funcionan los Sistemas Alimentarios. Por su puesto, el objetivo que debemos perseguir es mejorar y fortalecer nuestros esquemas de producción de alimentos, teniendo en cuenta que no existe un modelo único para abordar estos procesos y que es clave impulsar el desarrollo equilibrado de las dimensiones económica, social y medioambiental de los Sistemas, como lo marca la Agenda 2030.

Consideramos fundamental abordar el análisis de los Sistemas Alimentarios a partir esquemas conceptuales y terminologías técnicas que cuenten con el acuerdo multilateral de los Estados. Esta metodología nos permite entender los contenidos y alcances de las recomendaciones del documento, facilita la comprensión de los eventuales usuarios de las Directrices y, en todo caso, establece bases sólidas a partir de las cuales se podrán iniciar futuros debates, quizás en la Cumbre de Sistemas Alimentarios, sobre nociones o valoraciones que guardan relación con los mecanismos productivos agropecuarios.

Referencia especial merece el reconocimiento del documento al rol esencial que cumplen las cadenas medianas y largas de abastecimiento y el comercio local, regional e internacional de alimentos (transparente, equitativo y sin barreras

	<p>distorsivas), en función de su contribución clave para facilitar el acceso a canastas de productos variados, inocuos y a precios accesibles. En el contexto del COVID19, el comercio internacional ha demostrado con creces su capacidad de adaptación y resiliencia y ha sido un elemento fundamental para contener el aumento de la inseguridad alimentaria global. Por ello, celebramos su destacada inclusión.</p> <p>También la visibilización que realiza el documento sobre el rol principal que tienen las mujeres rurales e indígenas, los jóvenes y los campesinos en los Sistemas Alimentarios es un elemento que queremos resaltar. Si queremos pensar la forma de alcanzar más sostenibilidad y mejor resiliencia, es primordial incluir a estos grupos en las discusiones y brindarles oportunidades para su empoderamiento, autonomía y poder decisorio en marcos estratégicos para la seguridad alimentaria.</p> <p>Por último, interpretamos que es vital entender las propuestas y recomendaciones del documento en sinergia con esquemas de cooperación y mecanismos de transferencia de recursos, creación de capacidades y desarrollo de tecnologías que hagan posible llevar las Directrices al terreno en países en desarrollo. En este sentido, el principio de responsabilidades comunes pero diferenciadas recogido en la Declaración de Río, los mecanismos de cooperación sur-sud y el espíritu de la Agenda 2030 juegan un papel central para que las Directrices sean realistas y aplicables y no se conviertan en un documento más donde solo se recopilan buenas intenciones.</p>
<b>Australia – Member</b> (Wed 14/04/2021 17:09)	<p>Australia notes the conclusions and recommendations of the 47th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). We applaud the commitment of all CFS stakeholders, and acknowledge the significant amount of work which has been undertaken on a wide range of food security and nutrition topics. In our current operating environment, we appreciate the importance of this work in relation to managing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as supporting the UN Food Systems Summit. We respectfully highlight the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the importance and value of the data-collection and analysis work stream in the CFS Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW), noting the necessity of data to support robust evidence-based policy guidance is well understood and is instrumental in our collective efforts to deliver against the 2030 Agenda;</li> <li>• the importance of not overloading the work program and the value of dedicated attention to one work stream at a time in order to encourage and maximise fulsome engagement of Members;</li> <li>• the value of integrating cross-cutting issues, such as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, for consideration in existing work streams so as not to create additional resource burden and adverse funding implications; and</li> <li>• the importance of CFS operating within its mandate and the importance of the Committee augmenting, not duplicating, existing work.</li> </ul>

**European Union - Member** (Wed 14/04/2021 23:10)

I am honoured to address you on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. We welcome the comprehensive discussions at the 47th Committee on World Food Security (CFS) plenary session in February 2021 and we take this opportunity to reiterate our support and commitment to the CFS as a unique multi-stakeholder platform to discuss food security and nutrition issues and an important example of multilateralism and inclusiveness.

We welcome the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSSyN), that will contribute with valuable inputs to the preparation for the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 and pre-Summit, as well as in its follow-up. We emphasise the need for the wide dissemination and implementation of those important voluntary guidelines. Inclusivity is of key importance for the CFS and for the process of preparation of its products. The EU and its Member States regret Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSM) withdrawal at the end of Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition negotiations, not being able to endorse it during the last CFS session and expect that CSM would finally join the consensus regarding these guidelines. We urge the CFS and its members to engage and improve the dialogue with the CSM as it represents an invaluable contribution for our discussions on food security and nutrition, including for the Food Systems Summit. We would also like to commend the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) for its important expert work and support to the CFS. In this regard we would like to emphasize its role in providing valuable science- and evidence-based inputs for the CFS discussions.

Advancing gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment is critical to achieving food security and nutrition for all and ending hunger, as well as for achieving all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of Agenda 2030. Therefore, the EU and its Member States welcome the endorsement of the Terms of Reference for the preparation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition. We look forward to engaging in the inclusive consultative process that will follow.

We welcome the updated Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2020-2023 and we stress the need to include, besides the medium- and long-term objectives, the bases for the CFS reaction and adaptation of its response to current and future crises. With these comments, we endorse the CFS 47 Report.

<p><b>Japan – Member</b> (Thu 15/04/2021 14:32)</p>	<p>Japan welcomes the report from the Committee on World Food Security. Nonetheless, we would like to make the following points.</p> <p>We recognize that the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN) will be an essential input for the discussion and following-up process of the United Nations Food System Summit 2021. Japan also would like to support the dissemination and use of the VGFSyN. Besides, since the culture and lifestyles of each country vary, it is vital to take an approach that allows adjusting to the characteristics of each region when disseminating and using the VGFSyN.</p> <p>To realize a sustainable food system, it is necessary to transform to an environmentally friendly agricultural production system while maintaining and improving producer's income. For that purpose, it is important not only to introduce and strengthen regulations on production activities but also to substantially promote investment that contributes to the transformation to sustainable food systems such as smart agriculture. Also, there is no 'one size fits all' solution, as it varies greatly depending on each country's geographical and socio-economic conditions. It is important to implement various approaches, including the proper application of fertilizers and pesticides, by utilizing digital agriculture, according to each country or region's conditions. At that time, it is crucial to protect intellectual property rights adequately.</p> <p>Concerning ESG investment, to build the resilience of food systems, it is necessary to look into a mechanism that can promote resource mobilization from the private sector. It should be encouraged by proactively evaluating the environmental burdens derived from production activities and applying technologies that have positive impacts on the environment, including the conservation of ecosystems and the efforts made by the food processing industry. It is also important to increase private investment, which can lead to the protection of the environment, human rights, etc., to promote innovation, such as smart agriculture. Such innovation and efforts should lead to the transformation of production forms (e.g., digitalization and application of agriculture-related technology) and GHG reduction.</p>
---	---

**Thailand on  
behalf of the Asia  
Regional Group**  
(19 April 2021  
15:01)

The Asia Regional Group welcomes the Report of the 47th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and appreciates the continued efforts of CFS members and stakeholders towards achieving food security and related SDGs.

We commend the prompt action taken by CFS to address the challenges and impacts posed on food systems by the COVID-19 pandemic. In Asia, we have been seriously impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic on food insecurity and malnutrition, and related disruptions of the global food supply chains. The Covid-19 crisis has particularly affected family farmers, small holders, and vulnerable people that we need to build resilience for those people and bring back better livelihoods for all.

We welcome the 15th Report of the **CFS High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (CFS HLPE)** entitled '*Food security and nutrition: building a global narrative towards 2030*' and the proposed two new dimensions of food security – namely “agency” and “sustainability”. We highlight the importance of putting people at the center of sustainable development at local level to achieve global food security and nutrition.

We welcome the adoption of the **Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN)**. We underline the valuable inputs the VGFSyN will provide to the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 discussions and follow-up processes. We encourage their uptake and implementation taking into due consideration different national capacities, levels of development, policies and priorities as well as individual circumstances, in particular its climate and natural environment. We encourage all members and stakeholders to share lessons learned from using the VGFSyN and to disseminate the VGFSyN to the widest possible audience.

We welcome the updated **CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2020-2023** with its six thematic workstreams and request the Rome-based Agencies to honor their verbal agreement to share equally the costs of CFS Secretariat budget as a symbol of effective Rome-based Agencies collaboration.

With this statement, Asia Regional Group endorses the report of the 47th Session of the Committee on World Food Security.