

CFS 47 - BRAZIL

V) Endorsement and Uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition

Thank you, Mr Chair,

First, I would like to commend the able conduction of the discussions during the negotiations of the RP of the Netherlands, Ambassador Hans Hoogeveen, Rapporteur of this policy convergence process. His comprehensive and tireless work allowed us to be here today, endorsing the Voluntary Guidelines for Food Systems and Nutrition. It is important also to recognize the work of Ms Liliane Ortega, from Switzerland, who conducted the process towards the construction of a quality document, a proper and comprehensive basis for negotiations.

Mr Chair,

Our debates showed that changes in food systems are to be encouraged in a coherent manner, in accordance and taking into account the national context and its capabilities. In addition, that a food-system approach is fundamental for a world free from hunger and malnutrition, and for achieving the SDGs. Likewise, the participation of countries in global value chains is relevant, with due regard to regional initiatives and the multilateral trade system.

The need to consider all forms of approaches, systems, instruments and innovations is recommended to support members in their efforts to reach sustainable food systems, through independent, neutral, balanced, science and evidence-based guidance.

Specifically, when regarding consumption and nutrition patterns that affect consumer choices, it is important to underline the role of food environments in shaping eating behavior and individual choices. On this issue, it is known that food choices are influenced by individual determinants (such as experiences, knowledge, personal factors, availability of resources, perception of healthy foods) and collective ones (including economic, social and cultural factors) that are associated with the conformation of the system and influence the practice of food choices.

Mr Chair,

We would like to caution against the risk of the discussions within the CFS resemble those of governing bodies of the RBAs, the ones which generate agreements and new language. If this happens, the first harm is to the policy product itself.

On the contrary, we understand the guidelines - and all CFS products - as special and powerful tools, to be used in-terrain, not only helping policymakers, but also the food system workers and all people around the world to be able to combat malnutrition.

Thank you very much.