

CFS

Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition

FAO intervention

10 February 2021

- FAO aligns itself with the remarks previously made by UN Nutrition.
- In addition, FAO would like to highlight the importance of the Voluntary Guidelines for the improvement in food systems needed to ensure that the more than 690 million individuals who are hungry today will not be hungry tomorrow; to ensure that the more than 2 Billion individuals with malnutrition today will not be malnourished tomorrow; to ensure that the roughly 3 Billion individuals who cannot afford a healthy diet today can afford a healthy diet tomorrow; and to ensure that these positive changes are durable for **all generations to come**.
- FAO fully supports the ambition of the Voluntary Guidelines to provide an “approach to achieving healthy diets through sustainable food systems by addressing policy fragmentation with a special emphasis on the food, agriculture and nutrition sectors, while also addressing economic, social, and environmental sustainability”¹.
- FAO appreciates the timeliness of the Voluntary Guidelines to support the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition by increasing the visibility, coordination and effectiveness of policy and action across food systems for better nutrition recognizing the interconnectedness with better environment, better production, and better lives.

¹ as stated in paragraph 33

- Recognizing that good nutrition starts with what we eat and, as the UN specialized agency in food and agriculture, FAO applauds the goal of the Voluntary Guidelines “to provide science and evidence-based guidance to help countries and other relevant stakeholders operationalize the ICN2 Framework for Action”², and has been actively supporting throughout the process for the fruition of this goal.
- FAO stresses the importance of strengthening these guidelines with science and evidence based recommendations previously included in other multi-laterally agreed documents³ given that as a result of compromises, the agreed languages in some sections has diluted specific recommendations despite evidence for the policy and actions described there within. In that respect, FAO, as a member of UN Nutrition, is committed to working with the CFS secretariat to prepare a dissemination platform of all supporting evidence that can be accessible to users of the Voluntary Guidelines.
- FAO encourages the use of the Voluntary Guidelines in conjunction with other specialized science and evidence based standards, guidelines, and recommendations that provide further explanation and detail for action; and FAO stands ready to support Members in doing so.
- FAO congratulates the Open Ended Working Group on Nutrition for its commitment and effort to develop the Voluntary Guidelines and anticipates their roll-out, uptake, and success for serving all Members, but especially the most vulnerable, who look to the Committee on World Food Security for collaboration and leadership to drive the collective success of humanity.
- Thank you, Mr. Chair.

² as is stated in paragraph 30

³ Examples include removing the reference to “subsequent relevant WHA resolutions” in the description of efforts to support breastfeeding and implementation of the Code of Marketing Breastmilk Substitutes; the removal of reference to the elimination of use of antimicrobials for growth promotion as is described in CODEX text that “responsible use of veterinary antimicrobial drugs in food-producing animals [...] does not include use for growth promotion” ([Codex text on AMR / CAC/RCP 61-2005](#)); and removing stronger language to “avoid inappropriate marketing and *publicity* of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children” as stated in [the Rome Declaration on Nutrition](#) and inserting weaker language that does not include publicity.

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