

**Philippine Statement**  
**Agenda Item V : Endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems**  
**and Nutrition (VGFSyN)**  
**47th Session of the FAO Committee on World Food Security, 8-11 February 2021**

The Philippines is pleased to have actively engaged in the crafting of this historic set of guidelines, in pursuit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs, along with relevant global, regional and national aspirations.

We laud the exemplary leadership of the current Chairperson, Ambassador Hans Hoogeveen, and the previous Chairs, the patience and efficiency of the Secretariat, and the tenacity and collective spirit of all the participants, including Member States, civil society, private sector, international organizations and concerned stakeholders in the negotiations.

We wish to highlight a few important features and application of the guidelines:

1. It recognizes diversity and complexity of food systems and diets, as well as national capacities and priorities. Many Asian diets follow a distinct pattern based on centuries-old customs and traditions and on the availability, affordability and accessibility of foods from local and other sources. In the Philippines, for instance, coconut and coconut products are regarded as healthy sources of medium-chain saturated fats, which is plant-based and different from animal-based ones. We therefore urge the fair treatment and reporting of risks and benefits of all nutrients, based on evolving science, research and evidence.
2. It should be able to support and strengthen the involvement in the food systems and value chains of vulnerable sectors, notably rural population, infants and young children, the youth, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, fisherfolk, pastoralists and smallholders and family farmers, including in the context of the UN Decade of Family Farming (2019-28), and those urban population that can apply urban agriculture to improve their food security and nutrition in line with the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-25).
3. It should help accelerate and scale up actions to enhance the resilience and adaptive capacity of food systems, including through the mobilization of financial and human resources as well as capacity building and transfer of technologies to developing countries, including low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

In this light, we endorse the CFS VGFSyN and enjoin everyone to utilize this instrument in realizing our goals of eradicating poverty, ending hunger, achieving food security, and improving nutrition from a food systems perspective, leaving no one behind.

Thank you.