



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States

CFS 49 - Committee on World Food Security

(11 - 14 October 2021)

Item 3: Forum on uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN)

Mr Chair,

1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
2. The importance of sustainable and resilient food systems that ensure food security and healthy diets for people's lives, health and well-being cannot be overestimated. They have a critical role to play in achieving progress across all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is particularly important in view of global challenges currently on the rise, including hunger and all forms of malnutrition, poverty and inequality, climate change, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss.
3. The third biennial progress report of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) has shown that continued efforts are needed to achieve more resilient and sustainable food systems that will provide safe, healthy and nutritious diets for all. This requires cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder efforts and a holistic approach, as underlined by the report, and also, importantly, by the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN).
4. The Voluntary Guidelines do not only remind us to look at the entire value chain from production, processing and trade to consumers and disposal. They also encourage us to consider the interrelations among food systems and to take into account their impact on people and global health, and on the environment and ecosystems. Sustainable food systems cannot be achieved solely by increasing efficiency. Many other aspects need to be addressed, including food loss and food waste, food safety, balanced and healthy diets, socio-cultural aspects and education, labelling and marketing.

5. The UN Secretary General's Summary and Statement of Action on the UN Food Systems Summit rightly identifies the importance of CFS products in steering policy-making in relation to the transformation of food systems. The Voluntary Guidelines can indeed be an important vector to support the Summit follow-up process and other initiatives and actions already ongoing in the framework of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, in particular the FAO Nutrition Strategy and the upcoming Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit.
6. The EU and its Member States, guided by the European Green Deal and the EU's Farm to Fork Strategy, pledge to continue promoting sustainable and resilient food systems for healthy diets for all. Continuing to promote the uptake and implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines and other CFS products is an integral part of that commitment. We call upon the RBAs and all other stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, academia and local authorities, to do the same.

Thank you, Mr Chair.
