

STATEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE OCCASION OF THE 49TH SESSION OF THE CFS

Agenda Item 3: Forum on Uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN)
delivered by: Dr. Azucena M. Dayanghirang, Assistant Secretary and Executive Director, National Nutrition
Council of the Philippines

October 13, 2021

The Philippines appreciates and urges the exchange of views for the Voluntary Guidelines. We manifest our support for its approval as this will become a policy tool with a holistic 'food systems' lens.

The Philippine government will sustain its commitment to end hunger and malnutrition through the implementation of the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition, or PPAN 2017-2022 and beyond, as part of the Philippines' Food Systems Transformation Pathway. PPAN is the country's framework of action for nutrition improvement which is anchored on the Philippine Development Plan. The current PPAN complements nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive programs and demonstrates the link to the Voluntary Guidelines as it recognizes food insecurity as one of the underlying causes of malnutrition.

The successor PPAN will focus on strengthening the nutrition program of the local government units under the ambit of the food system. Our country will take off from the gains of the policies that support the PPAN, such as the National Food Policy through its roadmap for achieving zero hunger. We will leverage on the provisions of the First 1000 Days Law to build a policy environment where all stakeholders will contribute to efforts that save and protect lives from devastating effect of malnutrition and uphold the right to food adequacy of individuals, their families and society. We will continue to assist the formulation of local nutrition action plans focused on the first 1000 days following a results-oriented approach guided by the nurturing care framework to address the multi-dimensional causes of malnutrition.

The Philippines will ensure that alliances and partnerships will be utilized in the promotion of the uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines through the Scaling Up Nutrition or SUN Movement. The Philippines have already organized the SUN networks at the national and part of the sub-national levels and will endeavor to organize in all sub-national levels to avoid fragmented actions among multi-stakeholders and ensure collective effort to fight malnutrition on a context-specific measure on the ground.

The country will develop the National Nutrition Information System which shall harmonize all existing national and local nutrition databases to identify individual, groups, and localities with the highest magnitude of hunger and malnutrition. The NNIS can serve as a platform to promote uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines by providing available, updated, and accessible data on food systems and nutrition, especially on food consumption that can aid in making predictive decisions and fostering data-supported innovation in nutrition.

Ultimately, we are putting our confidence in this policy tool that considers the food systems in its totality and looks at the multi-dimensional causes of malnutrition.