

Statement of the United States of America on the Forum on the Uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition

Discussions on food systems are extremely important right now as the world continues to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic and its social and economic repercussions. This crisis underscores the need for us to come together and act urgently to end hunger and poverty, combat climate change, and build more sustainable and resilient food systems.

The Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN) that were painstakingly negotiated, lay the foundation for a “sustainable food systems” approach to food security and nutrition that recognizes the complexity of food systems and the fact that decisions made at one point in a system can have reverberating effects. This approach seeks to balance the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and recognizes the need to assess and manage tradeoffs. The balanced, holistic approach outlined in the Guidelines provides a strong foundation for our efforts to build more sustainable food systems and can inform the outcomes of the UN Food Systems Summit.

As President Biden announced last month at the UN General Assembly, the United States is committing ten billion dollars to end hunger and invest in food systems in the U.S. and around the world.

The United States is committed to developing innovative, inclusive, science-based solutions to food systems transformation. We are committed to leveraging the power of well-functioning local and international markets to strengthen food security and sustainable food systems by expanding income opportunities, stabilizing food supplies and prices, reducing food loss and waste, and improving dietary diversity and nutrition outcomes.

Building sustainable food systems requires work in all three dimensions of sustainable development – social, economic, and environmental. More efficient food systems are critical for alleviating poverty, meeting the world’s food needs, and shrinking agriculture’s environmental impact. Helping all the components of food systems adapt to a warming planet and reduce global emissions through climate-smart agricultural practices is also critical to ensure long-term food and nutritional security.

As mentioned in CFS 47 when the United States endorsed the VGFSyN, there remain issues in the Guidelines that the United States does not fully support, and we would like to reference the Explanation of Position issued at the time.