

PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS CONCERNING CFS THEMATIC WORKSTREAMS

PROPOSAL L

Dialogue and Uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition

a) Proponents

Supported by WHO, FAO, UNSCN, and others (tbc)

b) Outputs associated with the proposed thematic workstream

The workstream is intended to contribute to Output 1.1 (inclusive discussions) as well as to Output 3.1: (Conclusions of follow-up and review sessions)

c) Rationale for including the proposed thematic workstream, based on the prioritization criteria and building on CFS main comparative advantages, as described in Annex B of the CFS Evaluation Implementation Report

The Committee has embarked on a policy process which is expected to lead to the development of Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition to be presented for endorsement in October 2020. The preparation of the Voluntary Guidelines is informed by the findings and scientific evidence provided in the HLPE Report on Nutrition and Food Systems. The Voluntary Guidelines aim to provide guidance mainly to governments, as well as to their partners and other stakeholders, on appropriate policies, investments and institutional arrangements needed to address the key causes of malnutrition in all its forms. They will help countries operationalize the recommendations in the Framework for Action of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), in support to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security and the achievement of the aims of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) and the Agenda 2030.

CFS provides a platform for greater policy coherence as well as space for dialogue and experience sharing among governments and other stakeholders on Food systems and nutrition. The proposed workstream is intended to leverage the convening power of CFS to provide the platform for CFS members to engage in the dialogue on the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition.

Moreover, within the framework of the CFS monitoring mechanism, the Voluntary Guidelines are intended to include guidance on the evaluation of their uptake and implementation. The proposed workstream will therefore also support to foster, follow up and review the uptake, and sharing of experiences and best practices on the use and application of this CFS product.

Given the attention paid to the matter by the outcomes of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025), this represents a critical next step to be taken by CFS to continue its vital role in supporting the Nutrition Decade. The General Assembly in its resolution titled 'Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025)' (document A/72/L.63) reiterated the important role of CFS in supporting the implementation of the Nutrition Decade.

d) Expected results and how they will contribute to the achievements of the CFS MYPoW Strategic Objectives and FSN-relevant targets of the 2030 Agenda

A high-level event will generate visibility around the need for action on food systems and nutrition by providing a platform that brings together governments and a wide range of stakeholders to discuss the policy implications of the VG, and to make voluntary SMART commitments to implement the policy guidance provided in the VG. The concrete result would be the number of voluntary SMART commitments made, and later on, the voluntary reporting on their implementation.

Moreover, the high-level event will generate momentum and foster dialogue and potential networking between stakeholders around priority action.

Furthermore, this workstream will ensure continuous dialogue and mutual support among CFS members on transforming food systems supporting healthy diets and improved nutrition.

e) Potential activities that could be considered after the adoption of the CFS policy product to promote its use and application

Suggested is a high-level forum that provides the opportunity to discuss and mobilize political commitments from governments, donors, civil society, private sector, and UN systems for the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition. This will further help to translate the commitments made through the Rome Declaration on Nutrition into SMART commitments for action, in the context of national food system and nutrition related policies, and in dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders.

Moreover, the dissemination, use and application of the voluntary guidelines will be actively pursued through the organization of learning and lessons sharing session and providing the platform for the voluntary reporting on the implementation of the voluntary SMART commitments. This could be started with a CFS dialogue about the countries' baseline status of the implementation of policies and actions addressed in the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, linked to the continuation of the presentation and discussion of biennial progress reports on the implementation of the Nutrition Decade.

f) Budget estimate, human resources and timeline

2021-2022-2023

g) Indications on whether the preparation of a HLPE report is foreseen and its potential contribution to the proposed CFS thematic workstream

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