



COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (CFS)

VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON FOOD SYSTEMS AND NUTRITION

AGENDA - REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS 2019



*"A world free from malnutrition in all its forms, where all people at all stages of life and at all times have access to adequate food and enjoy diversified, balanced and healthy diets for an active and healthy life". Vision for CFS work in advancing nutrition, 2016.*

## BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Combatting malnutrition in all its forms – undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity – is among the most pressing global challenges that countries face today. Urgent actions are needed to address these challenges and the negative impacts associated with malnutrition.

Fostering discussion and debate around policy and institutional reforms are key to promoting sustainable food systems that improve nutrition and enable healthy diets.

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is undertaking a policy process which will lead to the development of Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition. The preparation of the Voluntary Guidelines is informed by the scientific evidence provided by CFS High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) Report on Nutrition and Food Systems launched in October 2017.

The Voluntary Guidelines are intended to be a reference document that provides guidance to governments, as well as to specialized institutions and other stakeholders, on appropriate policies, investments and institutional arrangements needed to address the key causes of malnutrition in all its forms. They are expected to facilitate the efforts undertaken by countries in operationalizing the Framework for Action of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) under the umbrella of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025).

A comprehensive and systemic approach will be followed with a view to addressing policy fragmentation between relevant sectors with special emphasis on the food, agriculture and health sectors, while also addressing livelihood and sustainability challenges.

The Committee in 2018 endorsed the terms of reference which include the main topics and issues to be addressed by this policy process as the starting point for the preparation of the Zero Draft of the Voluntary Guidelines which is the result of an inclusive process that involved a wide range of stakeholders.

The Zero Draft is made up of four chapters. The first one provides the context, the objectives and purpose as well as indications on the nature of the Voluntary Guidelines while the second deals with key concepts concerning food systems and nutrition and guiding principles. Chapter three includes descriptive text intended to inform the preparation of the Draft One of the Voluntary Guidelines. **The language of this chapter does not represent suggested text for the Voluntary Guidelines but initial ideas regarding the issues and topics to be covered. Therefore, CFS stakeholders are not expected to provide proposals of amendments of the current text of Chapter 3 during the regional consultations. Both the current structure and content of Chapter 3 will change in the next version of the Voluntary Guidelines, based on the inputs received during regional consultations.** This will be an opportunity for CFS stakeholders to suggest the most appropriate policy areas and interventions to reshape and promote sustainable food systems that improve nutrition. The fourth and final chapter includes provisions regarding the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines and the monitoring of their use and application.

#### Regional consultations:

- ✓ Africa
- ✓ Asia and Pacific
- ✓ Europe and Central Asia
- ✓ Latin America & Caribbean
- ✓ Near East
- ✓ North-America

The Zero Draft will be discussed in the regional consultations that will be held between July and October 2019, largely funded by the generous support of the Federal Republic of Germany. The consultation outcomes will contribute to the preparation of the First Draft of the Voluntary Guidelines, which will be negotiated in spring 2020. The final version of the Voluntary Guidelines will be then presented for consideration and endorsement by the CFS Plenary at its 47<sup>th</sup> Session in October 2020.

## OBJECTIVE AND OUTCOMES

The objective of the regional consultations is to receive inputs from a broad range of stakeholders that will feed the preparation of the Draft One of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition with a view to fostering ownership among CFS stakeholders.

The regional consultations are an opportunity to get inputs, comments and suggestions on how to best align the Voluntary Guidelines with regional/national priorities and needs. The outcome of each regional consultation will be an Open-Ended Working Group Chair's summary.

## PARTICIPANTS AND PARTNERS



Based on the CFS multi-stakeholder model, the regional consultations will gather participants from governments, civil society organisations, private sector associations, agricultural research organisations, UN bodies, international financial institutions, and private philanthropic foundations. The regional consultations will be organized by the CFS Secretariat in collaboration with the decentralized offices of FAO, IFAD, WFP, WHO, UNICEF and other relevant partners.

In addition, the regional consultations will be multisectoral with the participation of actors mainly from the food, agriculture and health sectors.

## WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

Each regional consultation is anticipated to last two days and be made up of plenary sessions and break-out groups to guide the participants through the Zero Draft and obtain structured feedback to enhance the next stages of the process. Interpretation in UN official languages relevant to the region will be provided for the plenary sessions.

### Break-out Groups

Participants will be asked to form Break-out Groups in order to ensure maximum interaction among stakeholders. Each Break-out Group will nominate a Chair and a Rapporteur who will present a summary of the group discussion to the Plenary. The Break-out Groups will be facilitated by the CFS Secretariat.

The discussions in the Break-out Groups should focus on the identification of specific requirements, suggestions and national/regional perspectives, but also gaps that will emerge from the consideration of the Zero Draft of the Voluntary Guidelines (see Background Documents below).

### Plenary Sessions

Discussions in plenary will consider the outcomes of the Break-out Groups with a view to drawing conclusions on the way-forward, using the Guiding Questions (see Draft Agenda) to help shape the discussions and conclusions.



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## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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The following documents serve as background information for the regional consultations and are available on the CFS Food Systems and Nutrition web page in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian and Chinese:

**Link:** <http://www.fao.org/cfs/workingspace/workstreams/nutrition-workstream/reg/en/>

**Documents:** [Zero Draft of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition](#)  
[HLPE Report on Nutrition and Food Systems](#)  
[Terms of Reference for the preparation of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition](#)

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### DAY 1

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08.30 - 09.30	Registration
09.30 - 10.00	Welcoming remarks and introduction to the CFS policy process on food systems and nutrition
10.00 - 10.30	Presentation of the Zero Draft of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition
10.30 - 12.30	Plenary Discussion on Chapters 1 and 2 (General statements and Guiding Questions 1 and 2)
12.30 - 14.30	<i>Lunch</i>
14.30 - 17.15	Plenary Discussion on Chapters 3 and 4 (Guiding Questions 3 and 5)
17.15-17.30	Working arrangements for Break-out Groups

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### DAY 2

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09.00 – 12.30	Break-out Group sessions on Chapter 3 (Guiding Question 4)
12.30 - 14.30	<i>Lunch</i>
14.30 - 16.30	Plenary: Report of Break-out Groups
16.30 - 17.15	Plenary: Presentation and discussion of the Chair's Summary
17.15 - 17.30	Plenary: Wrap up and closing remarks

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## GUIDING QUESTIONS

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1. Does Chapter 1 adequately reflect the underlying problems that current food systems are facing today, particularly in line with Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda? Are these underlying problems a reflection of the challenges that specific regional, national and global strategies and plans seek to address?
  2. What should be the guiding principles to promote sustainable food systems that improve nutrition and enable healthy diets? What are your comments about the principles outlined in Chapter 2? Are they the most appropriate for your national/regional contexts?
  3. In consideration of the policy areas identified in Chapter 3, and the enabling factors suggested in paragraph 41 of the Zero Draft, what policy entry points should be covered in Chapter 3, taking into account the need to foster policy coherence and address policy fragmentation at regional, national, and sub-national levels?
  4. Can you provide specific evidence-based examples of effective policies, interventions, and institutional arrangements, as well as challenges, constraints, and trade-offs relevant to the three constituent elements of food systems presented in Chapter 3? In your view, what would the “ideal” food system look like in your country or region, and what targets/metrics can help guide policy-making?
  5. How would these Voluntary Guidelines be most useful for different stakeholders, especially at national and regional levels, once endorsed by CFS?
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