

## **V. Food systems and nutrition (continued)**

### **Chairperson**

Now, continue on item five. We have a list of speakers outstanding from when we were forced to adjourn the morning session because of time and I will immediately give the floor, the standing use is one minute. We will listen from Switzerland, Argentina and Canada in that order, for one minute. Please?

### **Switzerland**

Thank you, Chair. I will try to keep it short and get to our points we want to make in terms of this important topic. First, in order to be in line with the SDGs, nutrition aims to be healthy for humans as well as healthy for the planet and is, therefore, based on sustainable agriculture production and food systems. Only then can the implementation of these guidelines add true value towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals as globally agreed in the 2030 Agenda. The consumption side cannot be addressed in isolation from the production side. We will not achieve the transformation to sustainable food systems without sustainable diets.

Following the discussions held in the open-ended working group, we welcome that the CFS Secretariat, in collaboration with FAO and WHO will propose a definition of sustainable and healthy diets to be included in a draft one of the voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition.

Second, we agree that nutrition education is key to empower and equip people with the information and skills necessary to adopt healthy eating habits and that school nutrition programmes play an important role herein. However, we would like to reiterate the fact that the choice individuals are able or not able to make is, to a large degree, influenced and defined by the food environment. Therefore, the importance of an enabling environment that facilitate consumers choice towards healthy and sustainable diets needs to be strengthened in draft one. Thank you, so much.

### **Chairperson**

Thank you, Switzerland. Argentina, please?

### **Argentina**

Thank you, Chair. The Republic of Argentina believes that the voluntary guidelines constitute a useful instrument to support countries in addressing current hunger issues through intersectoral policies and multi-disciplinary policies which contribute to sustainable development.

On the document itself, for Argentina, it is important that the issues relating to trade policy addressed by that document should be in line with multilateral trade rules to ensure that they do not become arbitrary, unjustified discrimination or limits on trade in food. We should have a list such as buying locally, which would overcome the idea that local products are less nutritious than other comes which are imported from elsewhere.

We also think it is important to include the idea of reducing food waste and loss in the document. We are ready to join the regional consultation which is going to be held in Latin America and the Caribbean and to work together in working out these guidelines next year. Thank you.

### **Chairperson**

Thank you. We were talking about the 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> of this month in Panama. Canada has the floor.

### **Canada**

Thank you, Chair. Canada is very supportive of the approach taken by the voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition. We are encouraged by the work presented today on the regional consultation process. We look forward to the results of the North American consultation and thank CFS and our US colleagues for making these consultations possible.

We would like to echo the comments made by the panellists just before the lunch break regarding the voice of women, girls and grandmothers that need to be heard in these voluntary guidelines. Furthermore, the panellists made important reference to indigenous knowledge. Indigenous people are vulnerable to food insecurity, have distinct food procurement and distribution practices and are important partners in the development of food systems approach.

This year, Canada launched its first ever food policy which takes a similar approach to working across food systems, from production to consumption and to disposal. Thank you for your attention.

### **Chairperson**

Thank you, Canada. France has the floor.

### **France**

Thank you, Chairman. France supports the statement made on behalf of the European Union by Finland. France welcomes the work of the open working group and supports the voluntary guidelines. We feel this is a major project by the CFS which will involve everyone in the necessary transition towards healthy and sustainable systems. We believe that the three Rome-Based Agencies have a major role to play in all of this. We need a crosscutting systematic approach. We need to address governance issues to take account of local and national contexts as well and also take account of issues affecting this such as climate change. We need ambitious guidelines and we feel that the multi-party platform has to be used to feed the discussions within the CFS and this will all then be forwarded to the Secretariat of the forthcoming weeks. Thank you.

### **Chairperson**

Thank you, France. Japan now has the floor.

### **Japan**

Thank you, very much, Mr Chairman, for allowing us to take the floor. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the open ended working group on nutrition, led by Doctor Liliane Ortega, the technical team and the CFS Secretariat for pushing this important process ahead. Mr Chairperson, allow

us to remind that the Government of Japan will host the Tokyo nutrition for growth summit 2020 late next year and, in this regard, this guideline will be a very timely and prominent output that will serve as a major thrust towards the objectives of the United Nations decade of action, some movements and other key nutrition initiatives.

To this end, we would like to express our continued and active participation to the process of the guidelines towards its adoption at CFS47. Based on the outcomes of the initiative that we are leading for Africa by the name of initiative for food and nutrition security for Africa.

Finally, Mr Chairperson, let us conclude by informing that the Government of Japan, in collaboration with partners will host nutrition related side event later today at 6.00 p.m. at red room. All the CFS participants are cordially invited. Thank you, very much.

### **Chairperson**

Thank you, sir. New Zealand, please?

### **New Zealand**

Thank you, Chair. We just want to express our thanks for the update on the preparation process towards the development of the CFS voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition.

Given the issues raised yesterday, and no doubt to be raised at the World Food Day tomorrow, on the significant challenges to address growing rates of malnutrition and over nutrition globally and as we work towards a food system summit in 2021, this is an essential piece of work coming at the right time. The HLP report forms a valuable basis for the development of an effective, evidence based guidelines that are useful for member countries and the wide variation of country contexts.

New Zealand has submitted comments to clarify some areas in the current draft, highlighting areas for future refinement, as have many others from Governments, the private sector and civil society and we look forward to contributing to further drafts and we would encourage the Steering Committee to fully take these comments on board as the guidelines are further developed for CFS approval next year. Thank you, Chair.

### **Chairperson**

Thank you, sir. We have two speakers and the list is closed, Norway and Spain. Norway?

### **Norway**

Thank you, Mr Chair, for giving us the word. We want to state that Norway supports the development of these guidelines and that this approach is now included in our foreign and development policies with our new action plan on sustainable food systems.

That said, we hope that the guidelines will reflect the different types of food systems as HLPE report recognizes. We think this is a little vague in the zero draft. We also hope that contradictive and competing interests in food systems will be addressed in the guidelines. For example, both farmers and private sectors want to develop the system as part of their business and prospect of increased income. Various Governments want the system to make healthy food more accessible for all, including the poor rural and urban consumer. These are possible conflicts of interest and they are also other topics that should be addressed in the guidelines.

We want to emphasise the important value of aquatic food in the food systems. Thank you.

### **Chairperson**

Thank you, Norway, and now the last speaker on the list, Spain.

### **Spain**

Thank you, for giving me the floor, Mr Chairman. Spain fully supports what has been said by the European Union and its member states. Spain sees this issue as a clear example of how the SDGs have to be implemented and supported. We are working towards a future that must be sustainable if it is to be at all and we need to achieve sustainable food security with balanced, healthy diets which fully respect the environment.

The major challenge is to achieve SDG-2, linked to SDG-12 and reducing by half food waste by 2030 could also be a key towards greater food security. We have to make efforts in the most developed countries from the consumer point of view and the last part of the chain as in developing countries. In this case, in respect of the first part of the food chain, in other words, in the fields and in industry, local producers with short marketing chains will have a fundamental role to play.

In the case of Spain, as elsewhere, over the last few years we have seen the population moving away from traditional diets. But, you can count on the support of Spain to bring about the necessary development of these guidelines. Thank you.

### **Chairperson**

Thank you. I think we can now move to the second part of item five. This is the progress report on follow-up to the second international conference on nutrition, held five years ago. That gave rise to the Rome Declaration on nutrition and the framework for action to allow these goals to be achieved. I have a whole lot of notes here which are very useful and which have been drawn up to introduce this theme but, the Secretariat is begging me, given the fact that we are behind, that we should all work together in order to speed up our work so that, at the end of this afternoon's work, we will be able to wrap up on those statements relating to item two. So, I will do without the introduction to this as such and I will give the floor to Anna Lartey, Director of Nutrition at FAO, and her WHO counterpart, Francesco Branca. Anna, you have the floor.

### **Ms Anna Lartey, ESN**

Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I am presenting here, follow-up on the second international conference on nutrition, including implementation of the United Nations decade of action on nutrition. This presentation will be jointly presented by myself and Dr Francesco Branca, the Director of Nutrition at WHO.

The United Nations decade of action on nutrition proclaimed, through Resolution 70/259, provides all stakeholders with a unique, time bound opportunity to strengthen efforts to implement the ICN2 commitments and to reach the global nutrition and diet related non-communicable targets and also to contribute to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

CFS is acknowledged in the Resolution as a global coordination mechanism and is called upon to play an important role in supporting the implementation of the nutrition decade. It is a pleasure to present briefly some key points from the second progress report on the follow-up to the second international conference

on nutrition, including the implementation of the United Nations decade of action on nutrition. This report presents the progress made since CFS44.

Acting through joint FAO and WHO Secretariat, the nutrition decade encourages Governments to set and achieve specific measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound commitments. Smart commitments for agent investment, action and collaboration at national and local levels.

In 2017, Brazil, Ecuador and Italy officially submitted their smart commitments to the nutrition decade Secretariat. In order to support the implementation of the nutrition decade, FAO and WHO jointly released a guide for countries to translate the policies and actions recommended in the ICN2 framework for action into country specific commitments.

Another modality of engagement within the nutrition decade, action networks, to share experiences, exchange good practices and illustrate successes and challenges among countries. Several global and regional action networks have been convened by countries. The most recent ones are the global action network on nutrition labelling established by France, Australia and Chile in February 2019 and a global action network on traditional healthy and sustainable diets launched by Italy during the World Health Assembly.

Concerning the engagement of stakeholders induced by the nutrition decade, the Secretariat has convened quarterly teleconferences with civil society mechanism and the ICN2 civil society Organizations liaison group, since December 2018 and to share information on the decade and to discuss civil society contributions to the implementation of the decade.

The global panel on agriculture and food systems for nutrition pledged its support to the nutrition decade in February 2019. In May 2019, the international food and beverage alliance committed to eliminate industrially processed trans-fat from global food supply by 2023. I would like to emphasise that the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Resolution 72/306 in July 2018, recognizing the progress made in advancing the nutrition decade's implementation, while also expressing concerns that the world was off track to achieve the global nutrition targets and called upon Governments and their partners to intensify efforts and scale-up commitments and investments for nutrition under the decade's work programme.

At this point, I will give the floor to my colleague, Dr Francesco Branca, to talk to us about the mid-term review.

### **Mr Francesco Branca, WHO**

Thank you, Dr Lartey. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished delegates. As Anna was saying, we have had a United Nations General Assembly Resolution 72/306 and this Resolution was looking a little bit more into the future and noted the intention of convening open and inclusive dialogues at mid-term, which is 2020 or 2021 and I must say this is also a customary practice for decades, as per ECOSOC Resolution 1989/84.

The objective of the mid-term review of the decade would be to assess and evaluate the achievements in individual policy areas for the ICN to frame a fraction over the period of 2016-2020. We would basically look at what has been achieved under six action areas of the decade's work programme. As we have already done once we will be producing a progress report to the General Assembly. This is what we do, WHO and FAO work together, prepare a report to send to the office of the Secretary-General who then transmits to the General Assembly. This year, we would like to have a much more inclusive report, so we have asked different groups, different constituencies to share with us their progress, their achievement. So, we would build on what has already been submitted to the governing bodies of WHO, the World Health Assembly and to the FAO, the FAO Assembly and we will add the reports from civil society, private sector, the scaling up nutrition movement.

We think that the mid-term review would also be a forward looking opportunity. We working on a paper that will highlight areas for future focus where scaled up actions will be essential for achieving the global nutrition targets and related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. As you heard, there is a lot more that needs to be done, that can be done, to be put it back on track. This will also coincide with several processes of analysis of food system that several academic groups are doing at the moment. So, it is a good time to look forward.

We envisage that the review process will lead to a revision of the work programme of the decade which, as you know, is an open ended document and identify focus areas for priority action for the second phase of the nutrition decade. We would like to see more commitment from all actors to further the policy areas of the decade. The most important input into the work programme will be the views of the different constituencies. We met yesterday with the civil society mechanism. We will meet on Thursday with the private sector mechanism and we will create opportunities to discuss with different groups the progress achieved and, above all, what we could do together in the next five years. In particular, we envision to consult on the new focus of the work programme with member states. For this purpose, delegates from representatives in Rome and permanent missions in Geneva, possibly could be brought together through video conferencing facilities as we did for the ICN2 and the preparation of the decade.

This entire process would then culminate into a high-level meeting which could take place during the middle of next year and we think that this could happen in New York, possibly around the time of the high-level political forum in July 2020. I would like to conclude by cordially inviting all members of the Committee of Food Security to engage and contribute to this mid-term review process or the nutrition decade. We are aware that a lot has been happening, many new policy areas, many new investment initiatives and we would really like member states to share all this wealth of information with us to understand where we are. The Committee of Food Security is crucial in fighting hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition worldwide and in convening dialogues among its members to make the nutrition decade a success. Thank you, for your attention.

## **Applause**

## **Chairperson**

Thank you, very much indeed, to both of you, Anna and Francesco, for those presentations which have shown us the progress made since that conference held five years ago. Given our severe time constraints, we are not going to be able to have a round of interventions from the floor. The Secretariat, however, is going to explain what possibilities are open to us.

## **Secretary**

As we have three items remaining this afternoon, closing item two on SOFI which was have a list of about 15 members, for the first time we are posting those statements at the request of delegations on the CFS website. If anyone would take the opportunity to send us, by e-mail, their statements in lieu of a three minute or five minute intervention, that will help save us time to get to the remaining agenda items. Thank you for those who choose that option.

## **Chairperson**

Dr Lartey has said that although she is fully aware of the major problems we have with time, she was asking if we could maybe open the floor just for a few very brief moments. We will close the list of

speakers with Germany, Russia and Brazil who have asked for the floor. I would ask you to take no more than one minute each, please. Germany first.

### **Germany**

Thank you, Mr Chair. Germany was and is a strong support of the United Nations decade of action on nutrition and a partner in achieving improved nutrition for all. With our national action plan, the German national initiative to promote healthy diets and physical activity, we strive to make the healthy choice the easy choice within the different settings.

As indicated by the SOFI Report, school environment is one of the most important settings for improving nutrition sustainably. Germany, therefore, intends to establish a world coalition on the provision of health school meals within the United Nations decade of action on nutrition. This world coalition is supposed to expand the coverage of school feeding programmes and especially ones to improve the quality of provided school meals worldwide. It will bring countries together by developing a shared understanding of the policies and programmes that can tackle both undernutrition and overweight in school children. Countries will learn from each other how to improve nutrition in the context of school meals.

Germany stands ready to contribute with this action and work to the ICN2 commitments and the United Nations decade of action on nutrition. We warmly invited everybody to join the world coalition on the provision of healthy school meals. Thank you, Mr Chair.

### **Chairperson**

Thank you, Germany. Russia, please? One minute.

### **Russian Federation**

Distinguished Chair, thank you, very much, for giving us the floor and the possibility to speak. We wanted to point out a few technical matters and put them to the CFS Secretariat and partly for the CFS bureau on the document that has been submitted for discussion, CFS2019\46\3. This document is being considered as the second biennium report of FAO and WHO on progress in the implementation of decisions and recommendation on second nutrition conference. When it comes to the content of the second biennium report, it does not correspond to the second biennial report that was earlier discussed in June of this year, during the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the FAO Conference and which was well received. What is more, in the presented to the CFS for discussion, references are made to a concept which has not been agreed on by consensus by FAO member states, that is sustainable diets and here we would ask the Secretariat of the CFS to clarify which of the two second biennium reports of the FAO and WHO we should regard as definitive and has this version of the document been agreed on by the Secretariats of the FAO and WHO and also to explain the reasons behind the introduction of changes to the June report. Thank you.

### **Chairperson**

Thank you, Russia. Brazil, please? One minute.

### **Brazil**

Thank you, Mr Chair. I would like to thank Mrs Lartey and Mr Branca for their presentation. I will make it very short. On a nation perspective, Brazil would like to convey its satisfaction with a good performance of the regional networks which have been able to strengthen the national agendas and the regional and inter-regional cooperation on nutrition reaching up to 40 countries in one single network. We thank all the support that the FAO and the WHO PAHO have been giving to action networks and believe that their increased engagement would be beneficial to the strengthening of the networks around the globe. We find ourselves in the end of the first half of the decade of action on nutrition and would like to invite all like-minded countries to take part in the action networks in which Brazil participates. Thank you, very much.

### **Chairperson**

Thank you. France.

### **France**

Thank you, Chair. Just very quickly, in order to inform you that in February, in Paris, France and Australia, together with the support of the Secretariat for the decade on nutrition, some information with support of 19 countries from our continents. This will enable to us to support our countries giving high quality information on nutrition to the consumer and to protect their health. This is what the nutri-score programme offers in France and other European countries. There is webinars, a common platform for sharing knowledge, the support of labelling for better nutrition in countries and, also, conforming to the SDGs. Thank you.

### **Chairperson**

Thank you. The very, very, very last speak now, Japan?

### **Japan**

Thank you. I just want to make a very, very short comment. Japan welcomed the progress written in the progress report. In updating this progress, we appreciate goal setting, monitoring and evaluation. In this regard, Tokyo Nutrition Summit 2020 will provide a good opportunity for all stakeholders to update progress and review further action. Thank you.

### **Chairperson**

Thank you, Japan. I will ask Dr Lartey and Mr Branca to briefly answer those questions which have been asked by Plenary.

### **Ms Anna Lartey, ESN**

Thank you, very much, Russia, for your question. Yes, FAO submitted a report to FAO Conference and WHO also submitted a report to their Conference. Even though, generally, the two documents will have similar information but not identical because we are submitting to FAO Conference, we highlighted substantially the work of FAO and then WHO also did similar. There are some areas that we work on together and then that will also show in the document. With the CFS document, this is a singly document



of the two Organizations coming to CFS. So, it has got more expanded information compared to just going to FAO alone or WHO alone. Maybe Francesco, you may have the word?

**Chairperson**

Thank you, very much indeed, Drs Lartey and Branca and thank you to all of you for having discussed item five which is now concluded.

The Chair's summary will be in line with what we have just agreed. In other words, it will indicate the fact that we have these presentations under item five and then it will point out that there will be a transcription on the Committee's website.