

Dear CFS Secretariat,

Thanks for your mail of 22 January, attaching the Draft Zero of the CFS inputs to the 2021 HLPF, and asking for CFS B/AG comment. I see of course that this draft draws directly on the HLPE-COVID paper of last September. But the letter from the President of ECOSOC indicates a broader HLPF focus than in that CFS-HLPE paper.

That ECOSOC letter notes that the HLPF in 2021 will discuss 9 of the SDGs. This draft of 22 January ignores 3 important SDGs in that ECOSOC list: SDG 2 on zero hunger, 3 on good health and well-being, and, 13 on climate action. I think that does not do CFS justice for the work and documents we have produced. SDGs 2 & 3 have been brought into even sharper focus thanks to COVID, and this omission is especially eye-catching since the opening section of this draft has the title 'The COVID-19 pandemic is undermining efforts to achieve SDG 2'. I propose an additional CFS recommendation number 2, below, to link to SDGs 2 & 3.

This year confronts the next climate change COP26, and a heightened political focus (not least with the change in the US Administration); CFS should not be silent on climate change in this submission. I propose including SDG 13 by modifying/adding to the recommendation 6 in the Draft Zero. Many authors have commented on the complementarity between actions necessary to combat FSN-COVID issues, and those to confront FSN - climate change challenges.

I read the Bureau decision in our 11 & 12 January meeting minutes: "CFS Bureau members requested that the Secretariat avoid including concepts or language in the draft that is likely to result in lengthy debate and negotiation." Fully understood in view of the tight time scale we have this year to provide our input to HLPF. For this reason in the modifications I recommend below, I cite the origin in our existing CFS papers. I also see on the second page of the ECOSOC letter that inputs 'do not need to be negotiated texts' -again because the ECOSOC deadline would otherwise be unattainable.

I see that the 'Specific recommendations' bullets in this Draft Zero use verbatim the bullets in the HLPE - COVID issues paper of last September, so I have not changed those except where stated here. The proposed changes to the Draft Zero are as follows. The new recommendation 2:

**2. Adoption of policies to transform agri-food systems to address hunger and malnutrition (linkages to SDGs 2 & 3).**

This necessitates moving from a focus on increasing food supply to making fundamental changes that diversify food systems, empower vulnerable groups, and promote sustainability across all aspects of food supply chains, from production to consumption. As is clear from the nature of the food security and nutrition impact of the pandemic, increased food production alone is not sufficient to address this crisis. SDG 2 & 3 indicators showed a lack of progress on meeting hunger and health targets; the COVID-19 pandemic has made the situation more critical. A greater understanding of the complex interaction of different forms of malnutrition needs further research, including not just hunger and under-nutrition, but also obesity and micronutrient deficiencies. The pandemic has made the need for this work abundantly clear, as those experiencing malnutrition—in any form—are more vulnerable to the disease. Specific recommendations include:

1. Raise public awareness about the importance of diversified production systems that integrate livestock, aquaculture, cropping and agroforestry, as appropriate, for sustainable production, healthy diets and resilient livelihoods.

2. Facilitate the supply of a culturally-acceptable, diverse basket of foods of both plant and animal origin to ensure sustainable diets (i.e. both healthy and environmentally sustainable).
3. Establish and/or improve nutrition and food system education at all levels and promote nutrition awareness campaigns to foster behaviour change.
4. Governments should, where appropriate, budget for and integrate nutrition objectives into their national agricultural and other relevant policies to achieve healthy diets through sustainable food systems.
5. Strengthen policy instruments and coherence for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture and support the important past, present and future contributions of producers for the development, conservation and improvement of biodiversity,.
6. Promote innovative and integrated approaches to human, animal, and environmental health, such as the One Health approach, to enhance resilience and prevent outbreaks of zoonotic diseases and pandemics.
7. Take measures to reduce food losses and waste by at least half.
8. Measures must tackle the distinct challenges that arise in diverse types of rural and urban contexts, including support for small-scale farming systems as well as support for access to healthy foods in urban areas.

All of this derives from our existing CFS or CFS/HLPE documents, with appropriate editing to fit the points together. The opening paragraph here derives from the text on pages 10 &11 of the HLPE COVID issues paper of last September. The numbered 'specific recommendations' (for ease of reference numbered here – they can then revert to bullet points) derive as follows: HLPE FSN narrative to 2030 for numbers 2,3, 7 and 8; the 'agroecological and other innovations' zero draft, page 8 (from the discussions last year, I do not think these are likely to be controversial) numbers 1, 5 and 6; the current draft of VG FSyN paragraph 3.2.3 for number 4.

For Draft Zero recommendation 3 - to become 4 (linkages to SDG10), I would add two bullets from HLPE FSN narrative to 2030, page 18:

- a. Support diverse food production and distribution networks, including territorial market arrangements.
- b. Take responsible trade measures to maintain food price stability, especially in situations of public health and food emergencies.

The title for Draft Zero recommendation 6 ( to become 7) is 'support more resilient food production systems.....' and the bullets follow those in the HLPE- COVID paper – no reference to climate change. Here I add 3 bullets at the beginning of the bullets list, taken from our two policy convergence texts, which echo recommendation 5. of the HLPE report 15, FSN narrative to 2030 ( R 5 title: "ACCELERATE ACTIONS TO ADDRESS THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, NATURAL RESOURCE DEGRADATION AND NATURAL DISASTERS ON FOOD SYSTEMS"), and edit the existing ones:

'7. Support more resilient food production systems based on agroecology and other sustainable forms of food production (*linkages to SDG12 and 13*)

Specific recommendations include:

- Mainstream climate adaptation and mitigation across sustainable agri-food systems

- Support transitions to resilient, diversified and integrated agriculture and food systems through agroecological and other innovative approaches: recognizing resilience, diversification, and integration as key foundations of sustainable agri-food systems that may cope with climate change.
- Support more research and training to support a transition to more agroecological production systems that can build food system resilience ; and Invest in more agroecological research-action projects.
- Support the development of an agroecology curriculum at schools of agriculture in a range of countries.
- Given that the majority of agricultural development assistance projects support conventional or high-input agricultural approaches, work to support more projects that encourage agroecology and other more sustainable forms of agriculture.
- Include support for individual and community responses, such as home and community gardens.

Ensure sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, as well as animal production and forestry, are integrated in policy responses to COVID-19 so as to reap their full potential in terms of nutrition and livelihoods. ‘

If these additions lead to concern about length of this draft, we could perhaps economise in the opening page by cutting the phrases from ‘At least 25 countries.....to ‘in order to achieve SDG 2.’

I hope that you find these thoughts useful as you finalise the Draft Zero.