



THIRD ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS

TITLE, to be decided at the end of negotiations

[PART 1 - INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

1. Hunger and malnutrition in all its forms – undernutrition, including wasting and stunting, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight, and obesity – are major challenges that countries face and are a potential result of food insecurity¹ and unhealthy diets along with many other factors and causes. Malnutrition, in at least one of its forms, affects every country in the world and most countries are affected by multiple forms. The number of people who suffer from hunger has increased in the last years, and obesity is on the rise in almost all countries². The impacts of malnutrition have profound consequences on people's health and wellbeing, physical and cognitive development, and livelihoods throughout their lifetime and across generations. (agreed ad ref)

2. Hunger and malnutrition in all its forms are major challenges to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security and for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). (agreed ad ref)

3. The heavy health, social and economic impacts of hunger and malnutrition in all its forms are transmitted across generations. Undernourished women are more likely to have low-birth-weight babies who are at an increased risk of becoming malnourished as children – and into adulthood - as well as overweight or obese as adults. Maternal obesity poses short- and long-term risks for maternal and child health and wellbeing including poor cognition and increased risk of neurodevelopment disorders early in life, and an increased susceptibility to overweight in school-age and pre-school age children and obesity and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in adult life. Malnutrition in children may result in reduced stature, diminished physical and mental health, and poor school performance, reduced economic productivity in adulthood, and increased vulnerability to NCDs and other chronic diseases in all stages of life. These diseases may lead to early death and increased

¹ "Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, economic and social access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life". FAO, 1996. Rome Declaration on World Food Security and World Food Summit Plan of Action.

² FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2020. [The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020. Transforming food systems for affordable healthy diets](#). Rome, FAO.

morbidity and disability which require higher spending on health care, and place significant burdens on national health care systems and economies. (agreed ad ref)

4. Malnutrition in all its forms has many interrelated and underlying causes that need to be addressed simultaneously. The causes of malnutrition manifest differently and affect people in different ways depending on their gender, age, wealth, or any other social factors. These causes can include, amongst others, the lack of stable access to adequate, safe, sufficient and nutritious food and healthy diets³, lack of information concerning dietary recommendations, inadequate infant and young child-caring and feeding practices, poor sanitation, and hygiene and insufficient access to safe drinking water, insufficient access to quality education and health services, low socio-economic status, gender inequality, marginalization, insufficient support to vulnerable local producers as well as smallholders and family farmers as well as lack of access to markets, trade, and innovations and technologies. Basic causes of poor nutrition are systemic and interdependent, and include the economic and societal structures that prevent the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security⁴, perpetuate poverty and deepen already existing inequalities, and fail to make healthy diets readily accessible, limiting or denying the access to essential resources and services for achieving adequate nutrition and health. [*informally agreed by FoC*]

5. Those most affected by malnutrition in all its forms typically include those living in poor and marginalized communities, people with increased nutrient requirements and those who have less control over their dietary choices. This includes, amongst others, young and school-aged children, youth, pregnant and lactating women, women of reproductive age, and adolescent girls, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, as applicable. In addition indigenous peoples and local communities, seasonal informal workers, subsistence farmers, peasants, urban and rural poor, landless, pastoralists and fisher folks, food and agriculture workers, upland and remote communities, migrants, refugees and displaced people, among others, are particularly vulnerable to malnutrition in case of their persistent or temporary poverty and marginalization. [*informally agreed by FoC*]

6. Malnutrition in all its forms are associated with various forms of ill health and increased mortality. Undernutrition is a major cause of death among children under the age of five years, and a source of increased susceptibility to infectious diseases and NCDs in adulthood. Wasting, also known as acute undernutrition, poses a significant risk of increased morbidity and mortality in children. Stunting, largely a result of chronic malnutrition, is associated with delays in both physical growth and cognitive development.

³ Healthy diets are as described in paragraphs 17 and 18.

⁴ As noted in the Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security, human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated and interdependent.

Undernutrition, stunting and wasting represent significant challenges to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. (agreed ad ref)

7. Micronutrient deficiencies related to the inadequate intake of food rich in iron, vitamin A, iodine, folate, vitamin D, and zinc, and other essential nutrients, affect a large proportion of the global population with serious consequences on health, well-being, and development. Nutritional needs vary across the lifecycle. Children under the age of five years, youth, women and girls, women of childbearing age, and pregnant and lactating women are particularly vulnerable to micronutrient deficiencies, including among others, iron deficiency anaemia, which is one of the most prevalent micronutrient deficiencies in the world. Also referred to as “hidden hunger,” micronutrient deficiencies increase a person’s vulnerability to infection, birth defects, impaired development, and lower life expectancy. [*informally agreed by FoC*]

8. Overweight and obesity represent major and increasing risk factors globally for diet-related NCDs such as some forms of cancer, cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes type II. Undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies are still the main forms of malnutrition among children under the age of five years globally but overweight and obesity are increasingly prevalent among young and school-aged children, adolescents and adults, and increasing in every region, with rural areas catching up to urban settings. In addition, as with undernutrition, optimum growth in the first 1,000 days is essential to the prevention of overweight; children who suffered from undernutrition are more susceptible to become overweight or obese later in life. (agreed ad ref)

9. Poverty and inequalities at the global, regional and national levels are important underlying causes of hunger and malnutrition in all its forms. Insecure employment, and underemployment, informal employment, low wages and incomes, and decreased purchasing power, and lack of access to land and other natural resources and assets, have negative consequences on nutrition and health outcomes. International, regional and national negative economic trends and political factors limit the capacity of national governments to deliver essential services linked to nutrition, such as amongst others social services and health care. In this context, inequality in income and asset distribution as well as in access to nutrition-relevant services contributes to marginalization and social exclusion, and further increases vulnerability to malnutrition. Under-resourced and unequally distributed food assistance programmes, nutrition relevant services, and other social services and health care further contribute to poor nutrition and health outcomes. (agreed ad ref)

10. Complex and protracted crises⁵ also have short, medium and long-term adverse consequences on the nutritional status of impacted populations, particularly children under five, pregnant and lactating women, women of reproductive age, and adolescent girls, as applicable. Conflicts, fragility and susceptibility to natural disasters, climate change, epidemics, pandemics, and other cyclical health crises, are also serious factors that affect food systems preventing the availability and access to nutritious foods for healthy diets through sustainable food systems. At the same time, malnutrition and food insecurity in specific cases can be important drivers of social unrest and migration. [*informally agreed by FoC*]

11. Zoonotic and other pathogenic infectious diseases, and epidemics and pandemics, such as COVID-19, and the strategies adopted to reduce their transmission can significantly worsen global food insecurity and malnutrition even when these are not transmitted via food or food packaging. Without multisectoral, multilevel and evidence-based coordinated actions and policies, including mitigation measures, in accordance with paragraph 39, such crises have the capacity to disrupt food systems, impacting all actors, especially the most vulnerable and food and economically insecure people, reducing incomes among small-scale producers, including family farmers, negatively impacting food access due to loss of critical income sources, lockdowns, closure of markets and disruption of food environments. Disruption to food markets and supply chains, can increase extreme price volatility, and creating and increasing market distortions which affect food security and nutrition of the poorest populations, cause fluctuations in high-value commodity markets and food loss and waste. Furthermore, measures like lockdowns and school and other child care facilities closures, impede access to school meals for children and may increase food insecurity and hunger for children. (*agreed ad ref*)

12. To prevent and reduce negative impacts to food systems as a result of a crisis or pandemic, governments have a leading role in collaboration with private sector, civil society and all other relevant stakeholders, to ensure food supply chains and food systems continue to function, the rights and health of all people with particular focus on food system workers are protected, the most vulnerable have access to social protection programmes, and that humanitarian assistance and food safety are prioritized. (*agreed ad ref*)

13. Climate change, agriculture, food systems, diets and nutrition are interconnected. Climate change affects temperature and precipitation, as well as the frequency and severity of weather events. Increases in temperature, heat waves, droughts, floods, cyclones, forest fires and land degradations negatively impact agriculture, including through amongst

⁵ Protracted crisis situations are “characterized by recurrent natural disasters and/or conflict, longevity of food crises, breakdown of livelihoods and insufficient institutional capacity to react to crises”. [2010 State of Food Insecurity in the World Report](#). FAO. 2010

others decreased crop yields and livestock productivity, as well as declines in fisheries and aquaculture and agroforestry production in areas already vulnerable to food insecurity. Climate change also affects all the dimensions of food security, as well as food quantity, quality, safety and ultimately food prices, with significant implications for the availability of and access to healthy diets. Climate change can also contribute to changing nutrient composition of major staple crops, including decreases in proteins, and some essential minerals and vitamins. [While agriculture is not the [only or] preeminent [emitter] [source] of GHG emissions,] agricultural and food production and consumption as well as current [fashion] dietary trends [and distorting subsidies and incentives for food production] contribute, at different levels [in accordance with article 4 of Parties Agreement and Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration], to the total emissions of greenhouse gases and other environmental [impacts, including on water availability and quality and biodiversity through land conversion] [degradation such as fresh water use and land use changes]. On the other hand, [it is a sector that has the potential to reduce significantly its emissions.] Agricultural and forestry activities of [sustainable] food systems can contribute to the sequestration of carbon in the soil and to the maintenance of healthy ecosystems and biodiversity. [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

[**CHAIR'S PROPOSAL FOR BRACKETED TEXT IN PARA 13:** While agriculture is not the preeminent emitter of GHG emissions, agriculture and food production as well as consumption and current dietary trends contribute, amongst others, to the total of greenhouse gases and other environmental impacts, including on water quality, quantity and availability, biodiversity and land use changes. Agricultural and forestry activities of sustainable food systems can contribute to the sequestration of carbon in the soil and to the maintenance of healthy ecosystems and biodiversity]

14. Agricultural biodiversity is important as a safeguard against hunger, a source of nutrients for improved dietary diversity and quality, and strengthening sustainable food systems. [In the long term, [Enhancing the sustainability of food systems and their resilience is thus a precondition for healthy diets [for all].] [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

15. The process towards achieving sustainable food systems, recalling that transformation of food systems should be encouraged in a coherent manner, as appropriate and in accordance with and dependent on national contexts and capacities⁶, to enable healthy diets and improve nutrition for all should be inclusive, equitable, and resilient, and should contribute to, among others, enhancing the livelihoods of farmers and food system workers, the sustainable management and use of ecosystems, natural resources, water and biodiversity, and minimize food loss and waste. (*agreed ad ref*)

⁶ FAO Council, [Final Report of the 164th Session \(2020\)](#), paragraph 15k.

16. Profound dietary changes, both positive and negative, are occurring due to a variety of socioeconomic and environmental factors, including people migrating to urban centers, changing food systems and food environments, increasing purchasing power and preferences of newly middle-class consumers and changing consumer choices and lifestyles, informed amongst other factors by the level of nutrition knowledge. (agreed ad ref)

1.2 KEY CONCEPTS⁷(agreed ad ref)

17. Healthy diets are those diets that are of adequate quantity and quality to achieve optimal growth and development of all individuals and support functioning and physical, mental and social wellbeing at all life stages and physiological needs. Healthy diets are safe, diverse, balanced, and based on nutritious foods. They help to protect against malnutrition in all its forms, including undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity and lower the risk of diet-related non-communicable diseases. The exact make-up of healthy diets varies depending on an individual's characteristics (e.g. age, gender, lifestyle and degree of physical activity), geographical, demographical, cultural patterns and contexts, food preferences, availability of foods from local, regional and international sources, and dietary customs. Healthy dietary practices start early in life – breastfeeding fosters healthy growth and improves cognitive development and has long-term health benefits. WHO publishes guidance for healthy diets⁸. National health authorities may publish specific dietary guidance [and regional health organizations, where applicable, may publish [documents in this regard], [specific dietary advice] [specific dietary guidance]]. *[pending brackets to be discussed]*

[CHAIR'S PROPOSAL FOR BRACKETED TEXT IN PARA 17: National health authorities may publish specific dietary guidance and regional health organizations, where applicable, may publish documents related to healthy diets and specific dietary advice as well.]

18. Healthy diets and sustainable food systems are interlinked in complex and multidimensional ways. The key concept of healthy diets through sustainable food systems entails the following elements. Sustainable food systems⁹ provide food and enable healthy diets, while achieving the three dimensions of sustainable development, for current and future generations. Sustainable production, including sustainably managing and using natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems, while at the same time improving economic and social conditions and livelihoods of farmers, can support and contribute to

⁷ This section provides background information on key concepts that appear throughout the document. This section does not define these concepts and for many of them different definitions have been used internationally.

⁸ WHO guidance for a diet to be healthy [are available at https://www.who.int/who-documents-detail/healthy-diet-factsheet394](https://www.who.int/who-documents-detail/healthy-diet-factsheet394)

⁹ As described in paragraph 21.

healthy diets. Advancing innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production, in accordance with paragraph 38, significantly contribute to sustainable food systems. Context-specific changes, in line with national priorities and relevant international obligations, are needed across multiple sectors and policy areas in the process towards achieving sustainable food systems and improved nutrition for all. (agreed ad ref)

19. Nutritious foods are safe foods that contribute essential nutrients such as vitamins[,] [and] minerals (micronutrients), fibre and other components to healthy diets that are beneficial for growth, health and development, such as vegetables, fruits, whole grains [including rice,] and cereals legumes, dairy, plant and animal-based [and] protein foods. [In nutritious foods, the presence of nutrients [to limit] of public [health] concern is minimized.] [the need to continue research on underutilized crops and foods] *[pending brackets to be discussed]*

[CHAIR'S PROPOSAL FOR PARA 19: Nutritious foods are safe foods that contribute essential nutrients such as vitamins and minerals (micronutrients), fibre and other components to healthy diets that are beneficial for growth, health and development, such as vegetables, fruits, whole grains and cereals (*footnote*), legumes, dairy, plant and animal-based protein foods. In nutritious foods, the presence of nutrients of public health concern is minimized.

(footnote: grains and cereals include rice)]

20. Unhealthy diets are a major risk factor of multiple forms of malnutrition and poor health outcomes globally. Unhealthy diets include those of insufficient quantity and quality [of nutrients] and are a driver of hunger, micronutrient deficiency and undernutrition. [Furthermore, unhealthy diets relate to the excessive intake of food and beverages high in fat, [especially saturated¹⁰ and trans-fats, sugars and salt/sodium¹¹,] which lead to an

¹⁰ [Nutrition science is constantly evolving[, including regarding properties and risks associated to saturated fats]. [According to a study by DebMandal and Mandal [in 2011], coconut, although rich in saturated fats, have high lauric acid, a medium-chain fatty acid which allows to be direct[ly] absorbed and to be rapidly metabolized for energy production.]] [alt: It is noted that coconut oil, although rich in saturated fats, has high lauric acid, a medium chain fatty acid which allows to be directed absorbed and to be rapidly metabolized for energy production (DebMandal and Mandal, 2011) while results of recent systematic reviews suggest that both lauric acid (Mensink, 2016) and coconut oil (Neelakantan et al, 2020) increase LDL cholesterol, a well-accepted biomarker for cardiovascular diseases.] [alt: Nutrition science is constantly evolving. Emerging evidence has shown that saturated fats is not a homogenous entity, and that different saturated fats can have differential effects on biomarkers associated with disease. In addition, the food source should be considered when making recommendations to limit SFA. Among recent scientific studies in this regard, include the re-assessment of food-based recommendations on saturated fats and health (ASTRUP et al, 2020) and on the medium-fatty acid content of coconut oil, which allows to be directly absorbed and to be rapidly metabolized for energy production (DebMandal and Mandal, 2011).]

¹¹ [Rome Declaration on Nutrition](#), ICN 2 (2014) – paragraph 7.

increased prevalence of overweight, and to higher susceptibility to obesity and diet-related NCDs.] *[pending brackets to be discussed]*

[CHAIR'S PROPOSAL FOR PARA 20: Unhealthy diets are a major risk factor of multiple forms of malnutrition and poor health outcomes globally. Unhealthy diets include those of insufficient quantity and quality of nutrients and are a driver of hunger, micronutrient deficiency and undernutrition. Furthermore, unhealthy diets relate to the excessive intake of food and beverages high in fat, including saturated (*footnote 1*) and trans-fats, sugars and salt/sodium (*footnote 2*), which lead to an increased prevalence of overweight, and to higher susceptibility to obesity and diet-related NCDs.

(footnote 1: Nutrition science is constantly evolving, including regarding properties and risks associated to saturated fats.)

(footnote 2: [Rome Declaration on Nutrition](#), ICN 2 (2014) – paragraph 7.)

21. Food systems shape people's dietary patterns and nutritional status. Food systems are complex and multidimensional webs of activities, resources and actors involving the production, processing, handling, preparation, storage, distribution, marketing, access, purchase, consumption, and loss and waste of food, and the outputs of these activities, including social, economic and environmental outcomes. Food systems are constantly being shaped by different forces, drivers and structural changes and decisions by many different stakeholders. [When these factors [converge] [are] in favor [of society, especially the most vulnerable], food systems [are enabled to produce] [enable] healthy diets needed for optimal nutrition and other public objectives of food systems.]

Sustainable food systems have a fundamental role to play in promoting healthy diets and improving nutrition [and enabling other public objectives of food systems]. Sustainable food systems are food systems that enable food safety, food security and nutrition for current and future generations in accordance with the three dimensions (economic, social and environmental) of sustainable development. Sustainable food systems must be inclusive, equitable and resilient. *[pending brackets to be discussed]*

[[Some of the] current [global] food systems, characterized by [unhealthy diets,] [long distribution chains, and] [use of chemical products,] [excessive consumption] [food loss] and waste [patterns] [food supply chains, food environments, and consumer behaviour], are unsustainable.] *[pending brackets to be discussed]*

[CHAIR'S PROPOSAL FOR PARA 21: Food systems shape people's dietary patterns and nutritional status. Food systems are complex and multidimensional webs of activities, resources and actors involving the production, processing, handling, preparation, storage, distribution, marketing, access, purchase, consumption, and loss and waste of food, and the

outputs of these activities, including social, economic and environmental outcomes. Food systems are constantly being shaped by different forces, drivers and structural changes and decisions by many different stakeholders that could affect their sustainability. Sustainable food systems have a fundamental role to play in promoting healthy diets and improving nutrition and enabling other public objectives of food systems. Sustainable food systems are food systems that enable food safety, food security and nutrition for current and future generations in accordance with the three dimensions (economic, social and environmental) of sustainable development. Sustainable food systems must be inclusive, equitable and resilient.]

22. Agriculture includes crops, forestry, fisheries, livestock and aquaculture¹². Agriculture and food systems encompass the entire range of activities involved in the production, processing, storage, marketing, retail, consumption, and disposal of goods that originate from agriculture, including food and non-food products, livestock, pastoralism, fisheries including aquaculture, and forestry; and the inputs needed and the outputs generated at each of these steps¹³. (agreed ad ref)

23. The functionality of food systems and their ability to deliver healthy diets is influenced by a number of drivers which indicate that, in order to ensure food security and improve nutrition, context specific changes are needed not only in agriculture and food policies, but also across multiple sectors and policy areas that address, for example, national development priorities, economic policies, and social norms¹⁴. These context specific changes may require tailoring approaches to address the different drivers of poverty and inequities across populations. (agreed ad ref)

24. The process towards achieving sustainable food systems that meet the dietary needs of populations, recalling that transformation of food systems should be encouraged in a coherent manner, as appropriate and in accordance with and dependent on national contexts and capacities, require policy, institutional and behavioural changes which are context-specific among food system actors. Food system-related policies should focus on their direct and indirect economic, social, environmental, cultural, nutritional, and health impacts, paying special attention to the poorest and most vulnerable to all forms of malnutrition and addressing barriers they face in accessing food for healthy diets through sustainable food systems. [*Informally agreed by FoC*]

25. Changes are needed within and across food systems, and their constituent elements - food supply chains, food environments, consumer behaviour - to generate positive

¹² [UNGA Resolution A/RES/74/242](#) .Paragraph 20

¹³ [CFS Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems](#) (CFS RAI), 2014. Paragraph 2

¹⁴ HLPE. 2017.

outcomes along the three dimensions of sustainable development – social, economic, and environmental, with inclusive approaches for all relevant stakeholders. (agreed ad ref)

26. Coordinated policies and processes are required to enhance policy coherence and coordination in addressing policy fragmentation across sectors such as health, agriculture, education, environment, water, sanitation, gender, social protection, trade, employment, and finance – all of which impact on food systems and nutrition outcomes, along the three pillars of sustainable development. (agreed ad ref)

27. The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) has undertaken a policy process to produce Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems for Nutrition* (VGFSyN). The preparation of the VGFSyN is informed by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition's (HLPE)¹⁵ Report on Nutrition and Food Systems, additional literature as well as an inclusive consultation process that took place between May and November 2019 which involved the participation of CFS stakeholders¹⁶. (agreed ad ref)

28. Food systems and nutrition are receiving increased attention from the global community, including the United Nations (UN) and its Member States, and are recognized as essential co-determinants for achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In 2014, at the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), members of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) committed to ending hunger and malnutrition in all its forms¹⁷. In 2016, the General Assembly of the UN (UNGA) proclaimed the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025)¹⁸ and called upon FAO and WHO to lead its implementation, in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), using coordinated mechanisms such as UN Nutrition and multistakeholder platforms such as the CFS in line with its mandate. In 2017, the UNGA proclaimed the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028)¹⁹. Specific attention to nutrition has been given by a number of UNGA Resolutions²⁰, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)²¹, the UN Environment Assembly²², the World Health Assembly (WHA)²³, the CODEX Strategic Plan

¹⁵ The HLPE is the science-policy interface of CFS and provides a structured evidence base to inform CFS policy discussions drawing on existing research and knowledge, experiences, and policies at different scales and in different contexts.

¹⁶ With meetings in Italy, Ethiopia, Thailand, Hungary, Egypt, Panama, and the United States of America, as well as through an electronic consultation.

¹⁷ FAO/WHO. 2014. ICN2, [Rome Declaration on Nutrition](#).

¹⁸ UNGA Resolution [A/RES/70/259](#) - The [Work Programme of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition](#)

¹⁹ [UNGA Resolution A/RES/72/239](#).

²⁰ UNGA Resolutions, on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases [A/RES/73/2](#), on global health and foreign policy [A/RES/73/132](#), and on agriculture development, food security and nutrition [A/RES/73/253](#).

²¹ [Ministerial Declaration of the 2018 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#)

²² [Ministerial Declaration of the 2019 United Nations Environment Assembly](#)

2020-2025²⁴, and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food ²⁵, UNGA Resolution on the Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (A/RES/73/2, October 2018).
(agreed ad ref)

[NEW PARA 28.bis]In 2021 the UN Food Systems Summit will provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to discuss more inclusive and sustainable food systems for healthy diets for all. Likewise, the 2021 Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit will represent an opportunity to discuss how to strengthen the link between diets, food systems and health.
(agreed ad ref)

29. The VGFSyN are expected to contribute to and complement these international initiatives with a view to promoting policy coherence, coordination and convergence across different domains. They provide science and evidence-based guidance to help countries and other relevant stakeholders operationalize ICN2’s Framework for Action²⁶ recommendations in support of the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security, [the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health²⁷], [right of development [footnote: UNGA Resolution 41/28 (1986),] and to achieve the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

[CHAIR’S PROPOSAL IS TO DELETE TEXT IN BRACKETS]

PART 2 – OBJECTIVES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

2.1 – OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE

30. The objective of the VGFSyN is to contribute to the process towards achieving sustainable food systems and improved nutrition, recalling that transformation of food systems should be encouraged in a coherent manner, as appropriate and in accordance with and dependent on national contexts and capacities, in accordance with the three dimensions of sustainable development. The aim is also to present a set of guidelines that help ensure that diets needed for adequate nutrition are accessible, available, affordable, safe and of adequate quality and quantity, conforming with beliefs, culture and traditions, dietary habits, and preferences of individuals, in accordance with national and

²³ The World Health Assembly has endorsed the [Comprehensive implementation plan for maternal, infant and young child nutrition](#), and the [WHO Global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013-2020](#), which delineate policy options for the prevention of malnutrition in all its forms and the promotion of healthy diets.

²⁴ [Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025](#), Codex Alimentarius - FAO, WHO

²⁵ [A/71/282 “Interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food”](#) and [A/RES/74/149 “The Right to Food”](#).

²⁶ FAO/WHO. 2014. ICN2, [Framework for Action](#).

²⁷ [General Comment N.14](#) of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2000).

international laws and obligations²⁸. The VGFSyN are intended to provide guidance mainly to governments as well as specialized institutions and other stakeholders on appropriate policies, responsible investments and institutional arrangements needed to address the key causes of malnutrition in all its forms from a food systems perspective. The VGFSyN contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security for all, particularly for the most vulnerable and affected groups. [*informally agreed by FoC*]

31. The VGFSyN present a comprehensive, systemic, and science and evidence-based approach to achieving healthy diets through sustainable food systems by addressing policy fragmentation with a special emphasis on the food, agriculture, and nutrition sectors, while also addressing economic, social and environmental sustainability issues and direct and indirect impacts. The VGFSyN consider the diversity and complexity of food systems with the aim of promoting policy coherence and coordination, considering benefits, costs and trade-offs, while recognizing national capacities and priorities, and fostering and guiding an inclusive dialogue among different institutions, sectors and all relevant stakeholders in the food system. [*informally agreed by FoC*]

32. The VGFSyN are intended to be global in scope and to provide guidance to governments and relevant stakeholders when designing context-specific policies, laws, regulatory frameworks, strategies, plans and programmes. They take into consideration different national realities, capacities, and levels of development, as well as different types of food systems and the many drivers impacting them. (*agreed ad ref*)

33. The VGFSyN recognize that shocks, economic, social and environmental crises and pandemics present strong challenges to the functioning of food systems, and emphasize the importance of sustainable and resilient food systems [, for example through [a range of sustainable, innovative approaches including agroecology, sustainable intensification, non-till farming and all other innovations and technologies to promote sustainable food systems [CL/164,Rev, para 15.h]] [agroecological and other innovative approaches]]. The VGFSyN provide guidance to minimize potential negative impacts on food systems and food security and nutrition. [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

[*CHAIR'S PROPOSAL: the reference to 'including agroecological and other innovative approaches' is mentioned in three paragraphs, this one, 3.2.1.b and 3.2.2.c.*]

Internationally we have 3 sets of agreed languages referring to agroecology:

- agroecological and other innovative approaches (CFS)
- a range of sustainable, innovative approaches including agroecology, sustainable

²⁸ FAO/WHO. 2014. ICN2, [Rome Declaration on Nutrition](#). Paragraph 5.b.

intensification, non-till farming and all other innovations and technologies to promote sustainable food systems (FAO: CL/164,Rev, para 15.h)
- including agroforestry, agroecology, conservation agriculture, water management schemes, drought- and flood-resistant seeds and sustainable livestock management (UNGA Resolution A/c.2/75/L.31, November 2020)]

34. The VGFSyN take evidence from a range of rigorous studies, based on scientific, interdisciplinary, traditional, indigenous and local knowledge, sustainable practices and experience, including those resulting from dialogues on different forms of knowledge - at global, regional and national levels - and apply the evidence through a broad lens.²⁹ Much of the evidence in the VGFSyN comes from the HLPE 2017 report, various UN technical documents, and peer-reviewed scientific literature. (agreed ad ref)

2.2 – NATURE, SCOPE AND INTENDED USERS

35. The VGFSyN are voluntary and non-binding. (agreed ad ref)

36. The VGFSyN are intended to be interpreted and applied consistently with existing obligations under relevant national and international law, with due regard to voluntary commitments under applicable international and regional instruments. Nothing in the VGFSyN should be read as limiting or undermining any legal obligations to which States may be subject under international law³⁰. (agreed ad ref)

37. The VGFSyN are intended to be interpreted and applied in accordance with national legal systems and their institutions. They should be implemented within countries and at regional and global levels, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities³¹. (agreed ad ref)

38. The VGFSyN are intended to build upon and complement the work and mandate of other international bodies, and related guidance contained in other policy products developed by CFS as well as by other institutions, including:

- Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development (2015);
- United Nations Rio Declaration on the Environment and Development (1992);
- Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of the national food security (2004);

²⁹ Because situations can vary widely, the generalizability of evidence to other situations is often important, but not always available, for food system actions that address diets and nutrition. Additional research is needed to contribute to the evidence-base of policymaking. The VGFSyN bring together evidence from different methodologies: some of which is experiential that holds promise for real-world relevance, some comes from the evaluation of programmes and policies that provide guidance on implementation in specific settings and contexts.

³⁰ CFS RAI, paragraph 13

³¹ CFS RAI, paragraph 14, and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, paragraph 21.

- CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security – VGGT (2012);
- CFS Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition - GSF (201[7]);
- WHA Six Global Nutrition Targets for 2025 (2012);
- CFS Policy Recommendations on Investing in Smallholder Agriculture for Food Security (2013); [[FAO/WHO] International Code of Conduct on Pesticides Management 2013);]
- CFS Principles for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems – RAI (2014);
- CFS Policy Recommendations on Food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems (2014);
- CFS Policy Recommendations on Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition (2014);
- FAO/WHO Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), Rome Declaration on Nutrition (2014);
- FAO/WHO Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), Framework for Action (2014);
- FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (2014);
- CFS Framework for Action for food security and nutrition in protracted crises – FFA (2015);
- CFS Policy Recommendations on Water for food security and nutrition (2015);
- CFS Policy Recommendations on Connecting smallholders to markets (2016);
- CFS Policy Recommendations on Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition: what roles for livestock? (2016);
- FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management (2017);
- Political Declaration on the Third High Level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (2018);
- WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases 2013-2020;
- FAO Ten Elements of Agroecology (2019);
- [FAO] International Code of Conduct for the Sustainable Use and Management of Fertilizers (2019);
- United Nations Environment Assembly Ministerial Declaration on Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production (4, 19). (agreed ad ref)

39. The VGFSyN are intended to be applied, in accordance with the following instruments [as far as each of these instruments are relevant to and binding for their respective

parties:] [as far as each of these instruments are relevant and applicable to their respective parties:]

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights – adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948 and human rights treaties which are binding for the respective State Parties;
- International Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights;
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP);
- [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDRDP);] United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development;
- ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work;
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD);
- Convention on Biological Diversity;
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- International Plant Protection Convention;
- International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;
- FAO/WHO International Code of Conduct on Pesticides Management;
- Standards, guidelines and recommendations adopted by the Codex Alimentarius, World Organization for Animal Health, OIE and the IPPC;
- Relevant international multilateral trade instruments, including WTO agreements such as WTO Technical Barriers to Trade agreement (TBT) and WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS). [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

40. The VGFSyN are intended to support governments, including relevant ministries and national, sub-national, and local institutions and authorities, and parliamentarians, to develop processes for the design and implementation of holistic, multisectoral, science and evidence-based and inclusive public policies as well as to be used in policy discussions and implementation processes by relevant stakeholders such as:

- a) Intergovernmental and regional organizations, including specialized UN agencies;
- b) Civil society and non-governmental organizations, [including] indigenous peoples and local communities, vulnerable groups, rural women and young people, smallholders³² [/peasants], family farmers, fisher folks, pastoralists, landless and food system workers³³;
- c) Farmers, rangers, pastoralist and fisher folks as well as their organizations, cooperatives and networks;

³² “Smallholders, including those that are family farmers – women and men – include those that are small-scale producers and processors, pastoralists, artisans, fishers, community closely dependant on forests, indigenous peoples and agricultural workers”, CFS policy recommendations on Connecting Smallholders to Markets (2016).

³³ Smallholders, fisherfolks, pastoralists are included in the civil society when they retain the complex status as food producers, workers and consumers

- d) Private sector organizations, including but not limited to small and medium enterprises, agribusiness, food and beverage manufacturers, food retailers including supermarkets, food service providers, industry trade associations, food wholesalers, food distributors, traders, and the advertising and marketing sector³⁴;
- e) Research organizations, academic institutions, and universities;
- f) Development partners, including international financial institutions;
- g) Private donors, foundations, and funds;
- h) Consumer associations. [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

41. The VGFSyN support States' obligations regarding the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security, and all intended users' responsibility to respect human rights³⁵. [*Informally agreed by FoC*]

42. In implementing the VGFSyN governments are urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries³⁶. (*agreed ad ref*)

43. In implementing the VGFSyN governments are urged to correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round³⁷. [*pending clearance*]

2.3 – GUIDING PRINCIPLES

44. The VGFSyN include six guiding principles³⁸ that emerged from the consultation process as foundational when considering the different actions that should be followed to contribute to the process towards achieving sustainable food systems and improved nutrition for all. (*agreed ad ref*)

45. Food systems serve and support multiple objectives within the three dimensions of sustainable development. While food systems might differ greatly, they offer different opportunities for public policies, mechanisms, instruments and investments that aim to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. (*agreed ad ref*)

³⁴ The private sector is made up of many different types of companies with a wide range of sizes, scales, human and financial resources, as well as varying reach into local, domestic and international markets.

³⁵ CFS RAI, paragraph 21.

³⁶ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, paragraph 30. [UNGA Resolution A/RES/70/1 \(2015\)](#).

³⁷ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, paragraph 2.b

³⁸ These guiding principles are consistent with already agreed international documents and tools, such as the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action of ICN2 and the 1996 World Food Summit Declaration.

46. These principles draw on the need to ensure human dignity, equality, non-discrimination, participation, accountability, transparency, empowerment, and the rule of law in order to contribute to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. (agreed ad ref)

- a) Systemic, multisectoral, science- and evidence-based approach. Promote a systemic, multisectoral, and science and evidence-based approach that considers food systems in their totality and varied cultural dimensions, appropriately integrates indigenous and traditional forms of knowledge, seeks to maximize outcomes across all sustainable development dimensions, and looks at the multidimensional causes of malnutrition in all its forms. (agreed ad ref)
- b) Coherent, coordinated, context-specific and inclusive policies. Contribute to the formulation and implementation of coherent, coordinated, context-specific and inclusive policies and related responsible investment through coordinated actions among different actors and across all relevant sectors at international, regional, national, subnational, and local levels. (agreed ad ref)
- c) Accountability, transparency and participation. Support efforts in strengthening governance, including accountability mechanisms, fostering citizen and stakeholder participation in national debates on food security and nutrition and on food systems, and transparent and inclusive decision-making processes, which are based on transparent rules of engagement including safeguards for the identification and management of potential conflicts of interest. (agreed ad ref)
- d) Healthy and prosperous people, healthy planet. Promote policies and actions that enhance the livelihoods, health, and well-being of the population, as well as sustainable food production and responsible consumption of safe, diverse and nutritious foods to enable healthy diets and to protect and promote sustainable use of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems, and support mitigation and adaptation to climate change, as appropriate. (agreed ad ref)
- e) Gender equality and women's empowerment. Promote equitable access to sufficient, safe and nutritious foods that meet dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life independent of their social or demographic factors such as race, gender, income or geographic region. Promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment, and respect, protect and fulfill their rights in the context of food security and nutrition, creating the conditions for women's involvement in decision-making as well as their participation in all economic, political and social sectors and strong engagement in shaping sustainable food systems that improve nutrition, recognizing their critical role in care, education, agriculture, health promotion and food production and consumption. This may entail targeted

strategies to support women in their existing roles in areas such as care, education, agriculture, health promotion and food preparation, production, consumption and preservation of indigenous, traditional and local knowledge. However, it also requires changes in business as usual to actively engage men and boys to promote nutrition as a joint household responsibility. [pending clearance]

- f) Youth empowerment and engagement. Promote strategies, policies and investments aiming at strengthening education and capacity building programmes for youth, enabling their autonomy, decision-making and empowerment, increasing their access to decent work opportunities including in rural areas, living wages and social protection, and innovative practices as well protecting them from hazardous and inappropriate work, as ways to stimulate their roles as change agents towards sustainable food systems for current and future generations. (agreed ad ref)

PART 3 – THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON FOOD SYSTEMS FOR NUTRITION

47. With the aim of fostering the achievement of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, the VGFSyN provide a framework to promote policy coherence and coordination and to bring various stakeholders who are involved in food systems to work together to achieve healthy diets for everyone through sustainable food systems. (agreed ad ref)

48. To achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and its Sustainable Development Goals, [and taking into account relevant World Health Assembly (WHA) resolutions and decisions,] as well as to fulfil national commitments to end malnutrition in all its forms [while respecting planetary boundaries,] [in accordance with the three dimensions of sustainable development,] [, while safeguarding limited natural resources,] a [sustainable] food systems approach is needed that recognizes that the various parts that make up food systems are interconnected; that any action or decision to address one aspect of a food system will likely impact other aspects, and that food systems respond and are impacted by other systems, situations, and contexts. [Thinking systematically and interdisciplinarily about [the transformation of unsustainable food systems and achievement of sustainable food systems] [the process towards achieving sustainable food systems, recalling that transformation of food systems should be encouraged in a coherent manner, as appropriate and in accordance with and dependent on national contexts and capacities]] can foster that challenges are tackled from multiple perspectives. Thus, the VGFSyN provide guidance on a mix of science and evidence-based policy actions spanning the diversity of food supply chains, food environment and [consumer behavior]

[responsible consumption], as well as the drivers and people that shape those actions.
[*pending brackets to be discussed*]

[**CHAIR'S PROPOSAL FOR PARA 48:** To achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and its Sustainable Development Goals, taking into account other international obligations and commitments, amongst others relevant World Health Assembly (WHA) resolutions and decisions, as well as to fulfill national commitments to end malnutrition in all its forms, in accordance with the three dimensions of sustainable development, a food systems approach is needed that recognizes that the various parts that make up food systems are interconnected; that any action or decision to address one aspect of a food system will likely impact other aspects, and that food systems respond and are impacted by other systems, situations, and contexts. Thinking systematically and interdisciplinarily about the process towards achieving sustainable food systems, recalling that transformation of food systems should be encouraged in a coherent manner, as appropriate and in accordance with and dependent on national contexts and capacities, can foster that challenges are tackled from multiple perspectives. Thus, the VGFSyN provide guidance on a mix of science and evidence-based policy actions spanning the diversity of food supply chains, food environment and responsible consumption, as well as the drivers and people that shape those actions.]

49. During the consultation process, CFS stakeholders identified a number of cross-cutting factors that are relevant for improving diets and nutrition that determined the seven focus areas around which the VGFSyN are structured: i) transparent, democratic and accountable governance; ii) sustainable food supply chains to achieve healthy diets [and in the context of climate change [, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation]]; iii) [Equal and equitable] access to healthy diets [through sustainable food systems]; iv) food safety across sustainable food systems; v) people-centered nutrition knowledge, education and information; vi) gender equality and women's empowerment across food systems; and vii) resilient food systems in humanitarian contexts. [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

50. The first focus area, the governance of food systems, which establishes the foundation of the remaining policy recommendations of the VGFSyN, is interwoven across the six other areas. Three focus areas (ii, iii, and v) cover the main components of food systems while an additional area (iv) is based on the recognition of the increased importance of collective action in addressing food safety. Special attention is focused on women because of the vital role they play in food systems (focus area vi). The humanitarian context serves as a standalone focus area (vii) because it will continue to be a significant global issue in the context of climate change, protracted crises, conflict and migration. (*agreed ad ref*)

51. The guidance is principally addressed to governments who should consider it in relation to national and sub-national priorities, needs and conditions, and assess the

relevance of the policy in each food system contexts, paying due attention to all direct and indirect costs or benefits of economic, social and environmental impacts. It is important for countries to implement a diagnostic lens to their food systems in a systematic and holistic way. This would entail, amongst others, understanding the types of food systems that exist, the make-up and complexity of their food systems, and the major drivers for change, disruption, exclusion/inclusion and growth. With the aim to achieve sustainable food systems and healthy diets in accordance with the Agenda 2030, Governments are encouraged to systemically analyze and monitor costs, benefits, trade-offs, and impacts of their actions, across sectors and actors within their own context of economic, socio-cultural and environmental conditions and objectives. [pending clearance]

3.1- TRANSPARENT, DEMOCRATIC AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE

52. This section lays out the importance of governance mechanisms, leadership and accountability across the range of actors, at global, regional, national and local levels, within food systems. Governments are responsible for developing sound, science and evidence-based, coherent and coordinated, context-specific public policies, and regulatory and legislative frameworks that govern food systems, promote awareness, and set priorities for impactful action. Governments also should develop transparent mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the distribution of transition costs, cost and benefits of policy actions across sectors and actors, manage conflicts of interests, safeguards against power imbalances, and other safeguards to put public interests before other interests. (agreed ad ref)

3.1.1 Promoting policy coordination and coherence by integrating food systems and nutrition into local, national and regional development:

- a) Governments should foster policy coordination and coherence across sectors and agencies to reduce all forms of malnutrition from a food systems perspective. These sectors and agencies may include those impacting health, agriculture, education, environment, water, sanitation, gender equality, social protection, trade, employment, and finance. Governments should include the sustainability of food systems as a priority in order to effectively align relevant sectors around a common set of goals. (agreed ad ref)
- b) Governments should integrate sustainable food system strategies that enable healthy diets[*] and improved nutrition into national and local development, health, economic, agricultural, climate/environment, and disaster risk and pandemic diseases reduction policies. Governments should consider increased and improved budgetary allocations, where appropriate, to food system activities, assessing and taking into account all positive and negative environmental, economic and social impacts of the various food systems [activities], [including externalities, unintended consequences and hidden costs,] [including direct and indirect] considering, as appropriate, indicators of the

2030 Agenda, with clear and transparent objectives of improving diets and nutrition, [with disaggregated indicators to track and assess [direct and indirect] impacts of measures taken] to address malnutrition in all its forms, [including its economic, social and environmental impacts] [, as well as to address inequalities]. [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

- c) Acknowledging that a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable, multilateral trading system will promote agriculture and rural development in developing countries and contribute to achieving food security and improving nutrition³⁹. Also, governments, intergovernmental and regional organizations should implement national, regional and international strategies to promote the inclusive participation of farmers and fishers and fish workers, including small-scale farmers, indigenous peoples and local communities, peasants and other small-scale food producers, food systems workers, including women, in community, national, regional and international markets⁴⁰. [*pending clearance*]
- d) Governments should identify opportunities within food systems to achieve national and global food security and nutrition goals, monitor and measure progress against targets, and indicators set out by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁴¹ and the WHO 2025 Global Nutrition targets⁴². (*agreed ad ref*)

3.1.2 Strengthening multisectoral, multistakeholder and multilevel coordination and actions:

- a) Governments, intergovernmental organizations and development partners, across sectors at all levels, should work to enable healthy diets and improved nutrition through sustainable food systems, strengthened policy and legal frameworks and institutional capacities that address the multiple causes and consequences of malnutrition in all its forms and food-related economic, social and environmental challenges. This coordination should establish and/or strengthen multisectoral, multilevel and multistakeholder mechanisms⁴³ that oversee the design and implementation of evidence- and science-based, context specific policies, strategies, and interventions respecting cultural diversity that contribute to improved nutrition outcomes at national, sub-national and local levels. (*agreed ad ref*)
- b) Governments and intergovernmental actors should facilitate an inclusive and transparent dialogue ensuring the participation of all relevant stakeholders and actors in the food system, giving special attention to small-medium enterprises and

³⁹ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, paragraph 17.10

⁴⁰ UNGA resolution A/c.2/75/i.23, paragraph 31.

⁴¹ https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

⁴² <https://www.who.int/nutrition/global-target-2025/en/>

⁴³ Further information about multistakeholder partnerships can be found in expert publication [HLPE report on Multistakeholder partnerships to finance and improve food security and nutrition in the framework of the 2030 Agenda \(2018\)](#).

smallholder producers and to the most affected by hunger and malnutrition in all its forms. This dialogue should include all dimensions of sustainable development in food systems. (agreed ad ref)

- c) Governments, intergovernmental organizations, and civil society organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities should encourage increased commitment to action with responsible investment⁴⁴ from the public and private sectors, and donors to support sustainable food systems that enable healthy diets, while considering synergies and trade-offs with other policy priorities. (agreed ad ref)

3.1.3 Creating accountability mechanisms and tools for, monitoring and evaluation:

- a) Governments should establish or strengthen science- and evidence-based, regulatory and context-specific policy frameworks to guide private and public sector activities related to food systems and nutrition. They should institute effective, inclusive and transparent accountability mechanisms that promote good governance, public deliberation, independent bodies that monitor compliance and performance, individual complaint procedures, actions to improve accountability, identify and manage conflicts of interest and vested interests, safeguards against power imbalances, and capacity to settle and remediate disputes that may undermine public health and wellbeing. Governmental actors should ensure that dialogue with all stakeholders is transparent and follows clear roles and responsibilities for engagement to safeguard the public interest. (agreed ad ref)
- b) Governments, also in partnership with research organizations and intergovernmental organizations, with increasing research projects, where appropriate, should work to strengthen existing national statistical and monitoring systems that capture, harmonize and disaggregate data by key sociodemographic characteristics, and where possible use, and improve the availability and quality of existing indicators, including within SDGs, across all aspects of food systems and outcomes related to food security, diets⁴⁵, food composition, food safety, nutritional status⁴⁶, and gender and other relevant social factors, for improved policy development and accountability, and better targeting of public programmes. Governments and other stakeholders should properly safeguard personal and collective data on food systems. (agreed ad ref)
- c) Governments should invest in research and sharing of knowledge on the interconnections between food, nutritional, behavioral, economic, social, and environmental dimensions and market dynamics, to better enable the assessment of the cross-sectional impacts of the policies and programmes implemented and the complexity of the interactions between supply and demand at different scales throughout the whole supply chain. (agreed ad ref)

⁴⁴ In line with the CFS Principles for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems, RAI (2014).

⁴⁵ Particularly dietary intake, dietary diversity and dietary quality.

⁴⁶ Including the measurement of micronutrient deficiency status and anthropometry.

- d) Governments, with the support of all relevant stakeholders including intergovernmental organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, as appropriate, should promote investment in human, system, and institutional capacity to analyze food system information in a comprehensive manner to support the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of programmatic actions, taking into account the need of developing interdisciplinary approaches embracing technical, economic and social issues. (agreed ad ref)

3.1.4 Strengthening participation and inclusion of indigenous peoples and local communities in food systems:

- a) Governments and relevant stakeholders should strengthen full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, in particular women, girls, marginalized groups and peoples with disabilities, in the governance of food systems and nutrition by means of dialogue, through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent under the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as appropriate, consultation, and by strengthening community mechanisms for inclusive participation at local, sub-national, national and regional level. (agreed ad ref)
- b) Governments and relevant stakeholders should support capacity building and strengthen capacities including those of indigenous peoples and local communities so that they can fully and effectively participate in formulating policies and strategies regarding food systems. (agreed ad ref)

3.2 SUSTAINABLE FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS⁴⁷ TO ACHIEVE HEALTHY DIETS [IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE] [BIODIVERSITY LOSS AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION] [AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC [AND ENVIRONMENTAL] SUSTAINABILITY] [ALT: AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY] [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

53. [Food supply chains play a crucial and structural role in health[, environmental sustainability,] [, resilience and regeneration [of food systems] [as well as social and economic sustainability] [social, economic and] environmental sustainability.] [Food supply chains play a crucial and structural role in [health,] social, economic and environmental sustainability and resilience [and ecosystem regeneration].] Food supply chains - from production, storage and post-harvest handling, processing and packaging, distribution, and marketing [and consumption] [and market access] - operate at multiple and assorted scales, structures, and levels, from simple to highly complex, from local to global, involving many food system actors. The decisions made by the actors at any stage

⁴⁷ As described in paragraphs 17 and 18.

have implications on the availability, affordability, accessibility, acceptability and safety of nutritious food for healthy diets⁴⁸. This section complements the goals outlined in the UN Decade of Family Farming and highlights the importance of promoting nutrition across the food supply chain, and suggests ways to create sustainable and resilient food supply chains and sustainable consumption and production in the midst of climate change and natural resource degradation, recalling the need to simultaneously take into account the economic, environmental, and social dimensions of sustainability and the health of individuals, animals, plants and ecosystems in a One Health Approach. [The VGFSyN should [provide tools to] strengthen the involvement of vulnerable local producers as well as smallholders and family farmers in the food supply chain and whenever appropriate and possible.] [The VGFSyN should [serve the purpose of] strengthen[ing] vulnerable local producers as well as smallholders and family farmers, whenever appropriate and possible.] [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

3.2.1 Mainstreaming climate adaptation and mitigation across sustainable food supply chains:

- a) Governments, development partners, civil society and non-governmental organizations and private sector should collaborate with food producers and their organizations for them to achieve decent livelihoods and to enhance the resilience of food supply chains to climate change impacts by managing risk and building preparedness and resilience and by mitigating food supply chains negative impacts on the environment. This can include building on local knowledge and innovation and increasing access to finance, extension services, insurance, weather forecasting, early warning systems, capacity development, knowledge sharing and information dissemination and assistance through service application. It could also include protecting crops, livestock, and fisheries and overall production systems, in terms of nutritional content and productivity from the anticipated impacts of climate change in the form of pests, diseases, and weather-related shocks. This could entail disseminating good practices of resilient farming and locally adopting varieties resistant to drought, frost, heat, pests, or diseases caused or exacerbated by climate change as well as reducing post-harvest and other food losses and developing productive-asset creation initiatives. (*agreed ad ref*)
- b) Governments, intergovernmental organizations, private sector, civil society and other relevant stakeholders should promote sustainable agriculture [, agroecology and other innovative approaches] at different scales [in the process towards achieving] [in order to achieve] sustainable food systems that enhance food security and nutrition. They also should collaborate with and support farmers and other food producers to reduce the environmental impact of food systems, enhancing also biodiversity and recognizing

⁴⁸ As described in paragraphs 17 and 18.

the positive efforts of farmers that adopt sustainable practices. This could be done by fostering the adoption of appropriate sustainable technology and on-farm management practices to optimize the efficiency of crop production yields and to [promote responsible and sustainable] [reduce the] use of pesticides and [chemical] fertilizers. Governments should promote optimization of agricultural outputs per unit of water, soil, energy, labor and land, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity loss, and natural resource degradation (including deforestation), in accordance with their Nationally Determined Contribution to the Paris Agreement, and other relevant national planning instruments. [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

- c) Governments should institute, where appropriate, monitoring systems (including early warning systems), quality indices (e.g. integrated diversification and agro-biodiversity targets, soil health, water quality, farm income and food price) and other food system and dietary metrics as part of the environment and climate-related target setting policies to monitor changing conditions and the effectiveness of policy responses. (agreed ad ref)
- d) Governments, research organizations, academic institutions, and universities should promote the generation and use of science and evidence-based knowledge, including indigenous, and traditional and local knowledge, that demonstrate climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience strategies for sustainable food systems and enabling healthy diets [and, where possible, research should avoid conflicts of interests]. Research should [be independent, neutral, balanced and science and evidence-based] [including through safeguards for the identification and management of possible conflicts of interest] [and open to local and traditional knowledge][avoid possible conflicts of interest and] focus on potential interventions and policy entry points to ensure sustainable agricultural production and productivity [in terms of yields and nutrition] [in terms of nutritional impacts], including practices that enhance the resilience of food supply chains, improve livelihoods and promote carbon sequestration, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture, processing and packaging, retail and markets, [[non-discriminatory] market access] and responsible consumption, contribute to [mitigate and are adaptable to] climate change, [disasters and other disruptions] [mitigation and adaptation] [as well as potential interventions and policy entry points], [as well as to reduce environmental [footprint] [impact] and protect, conserve, sustainably manage and use natural resources. [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

3.2.2 Promoting sustainable use and management of natural resources in food production:

- a) Governments, farmers and their organizations, private sector and other relevant stakeholders should address soil health as central to agricultural production systems, with due attention to the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management. Governments should encourage the use of integrated soil fertility and nutrients

management practices as well as ecosystem services productivity for sustainable production, and promote the use of sustainable land management services and agricultural practices to maintain soil biodiversity and nutrient balance, reduce soil erosion, improve water management, and promote carbon storage and sequestration.

[informally agreed by FoC]

- b) Governments should promote and improve the sustainable management and sustainable use of water resources for agriculture and food production through, where appropriate, improved regulation, integrated water resource management at watershed scale, inclusive and participatory approaches, and enhanced water cooperation approaches that involve civil society organizations, farmer organizations, peasants and other small-scale food producers, indigenous peoples and local communities, private sector, and other relevant stakeholders, that take into account the variety of water needs across different sectors. These approaches should foster irrigation systems that use water resources sustainably, the reduction of water wastage, support the systematic use of appropriate water saving technologies, minimize water pollution stemming from agriculture, promote the multiple safe and environmentally-sound uses and re-use of water for domestic and productive purposes without compromising the ability of farmers and food producers to grow sufficient nutritious foods, while recognizing the crucial importance of access to water for all people living and working in rural areas for personal and domestic use]. *[informally agreed by FoC]*
- c) Governments and other relevant stakeholders should protect, conserve and sustainably use biodiversity for food and agriculture. This should be complemented through the adoption and application of sustainable food production and natural resource management practices [such as organic agriculture as well as agroecological and other innovative approaches]. *[pending brackets to be discussed]*
- d) Governments should recognize and respect all legitimate tenure right holders and their rights including, as appropriate and in line with national legislation, the legitimate tenure rights of indigenous peoples and local communities with customary tenure systems that exercise self-governance of land, fisheries and forests, with special attention to the provision of equitable access for women, in line with the CFS VGGT⁴⁹. The traditional, collective knowledge and practices of these right holders should be respected, their traditional diets should be protected, and their nutrition and wellbeing should be a priority. *(agreed ad ref)*
- e) Governments should recognize the importance of pastoralists and sustainable rangelands management and grazing systems for nutrition, healthy ecosystems, rural livelihoods and resilient food supply chains as well as encourage low inputs pastoral

⁴⁹ In particular with paragraphs 3.1.1, 9.2 and 9.4.

systems to produce healthy animal source food that contribute to reducing poverty and hunger. [*informally agreed by FoC*]

3.2.3 Promoting nutrition within agriculture and food supply chains:

- a) 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. (*agreed ad ref*)
- b) Governments and private sector and other relevant stakeholders should encourage and promote responsible agricultural investment⁵⁰, and support food producers in the adoption of sustainable production practices and in the production of diverse food that contributes to healthy diets, while ensuring a decent income, livelihoods and resilience for fishers, farmers, particularly smallholders and/or family farms, and farm workers. This should include supporting and encouraging sustainable crop production practices, livestock, agroforestry, animal and fishery systems (including artisanal fisheries and aquaculture). (*agreed ad ref*)
- c) Governments should, where appropriate integrate urban and peri-urban agriculture and land use into national and local food systems and nutrition development strategies and programmes, as well as urban and territorial planning, as a viable input into enabling healthy diets through sustainable food systems and support stable supply of safe and nutritious food. (*agreed ad ref*)
- d) Governments, private sector, research centers and universities and other relevant stakeholders should promote enabling environments to assist and facilitate food producers' access to affordable, innovative technologies and practices, including traditional knowledge, technical assistance, skill training, inclusive and sustainable business models adapted to local needs and priorities, and information about nutrition and healthy diets [through sustainable food systems] within agriculture and other extension technical services/programmes, to enable them to promote sustainable production , protect biodiversity, ensure food safety, and improve the nutritional quality of foods for markets. (*agreed ad ref*)
- e) [Attaching particular importance to local and territorial markets,] Governments should support market information systems that provide timely, [accessible,] transparent information about food-related market transactions, including enhanced tracking of current and future supply stocks and price data [accessible to all market participants]. Governments should support agricultural economic research on topics which may include trade and impacts of government policies. [Further monitoring and market studies on underreported commodities including those with a major impact on nutrition and neglected and underutilized crops should also be developed]. [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

⁵⁰ In line with the CFS Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems and CFS Policy Recommendations on Investing in Smallholder Agriculture.

- f) Governments, private sector, donors and other relevant stakeholders should invest in research, knowledge transfer and innovation for producing diversified nutritious crops [footnote;], such as whole grains, [including rice, roots and tuber crops, wheat and rye] [biofortified crops including high yield and pest resistant varieties,] fruit, vegetables, nuts and seeds, legumes, including [, where appropriate,] [through on-farm] [conventional breeding of] nutrient-enriched staples or crops and diverse animal-source foods [and breeding] (e.g. dairy products, fish, eggs, and meat). [*pending brackets to be discussed*]
- g) [Governments should promote strategies, guidelines [and] [or] [incentives] [instruments] and support appropriate measures to [promote nutrition within agriculture and food supply chains.]:
- achieve [energy balance and] a healthy weight;
 - limit [excessive] energy intake from total fats and shift fat consumption away from saturated fats to unsaturated fats and towards the elimination of trans-fatty acids [of industrial origin];
 - increase consumption of fruits and vegetables, and legumes, whole grains and nuts;
 - limit the [excessive] intake of free sugars;
 - limit salt (sodium) consumption from all sources and ensure that salt is iodized [in adequate concentration]⁵¹.] [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

[**CHAIR'S PROPOSAL FOR PARA 3.2.3.g:** Governments should promote strategies, guidelines or instruments that support appropriate measures to enable healthy diets, in accordance with paragraph 17, and promote nutrition within agriculture and food supply chains in line with WHA Resolutions 57.17 (*footnote*), paragraph 22, and 66.10 (*footnote*).

Footnote 1: Resolution WHA57.17 https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA57/A57_R17-en.pdf

Footnote 2: Resolution WHA66.10. https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA66/A66_R10-en.pdf?ua=1

3.2.4 Improving food storage, processing, packaging, transformation and reformulation:

- a) Governments, private sector, and other stakeholders should, where appropriate, invest in infrastructure (e.g. storage facilities, transport infrastructure, physical markets and market information systems) and logistical support to prevent postharvest loss and waste and support the ability of food producers, including smallholders and micro, small and medium-size enterprises to deliver diverse, perishable and safe food to local, regional, international markets in sustainable ways, in accordance with paragraph 39, 43 and 3.1.1c. (**agreed ad ref**)
- b) Governments, private sector, and farmers and other producers and their associations should promote minimizing food loss and waste on farms, during post-harvest storage,

⁵¹ World Health Assembly (WHA) Resolutions 57.17, paragraph 22, and 66.10

and throughout processing, transportation, and retail. This includes demand-driven training and capacity to improve management practices and foster the adoption of appropriate technologies⁵². They should intensify efforts to quantify and investigate how to lessen food loss in the food storage, processing, transformation and reformulation stages and food waste in retail and consumer stages in order to halt the decrease of food quality and quantity and economic loss, but also could lead to a more efficient use of natural resources with positive impact on climate change. (agreed ad ref)

- c) Governments, private sector and research centers should support research, development and scaling up the use of innovative processing technologies and practices in accordance with the three dimensions of sustainable development that can retain the nutrient content of food, minimize post-harvest nutrient losses, create, where appropriate, new value added products from food processing by-products, and promote longer-term storage of food, particularly during periods of drought, flooding, and insufficient production. [Governments should also promote [, in accordance with national legislations and capacities,] [the importance of processing for food safety and product reformulation.] [[guidelines to [regulate and] [monitor the level of processing of food.] [food processing]] [[Large scale] food fortification [programmes] [, as and when appropriate,] [should] [could] be part of critical nutrition-specific actions [only in limited times and places] [, when necessary,] to address micronutrient gaps of public health concern. [These should be in line with national fortification strategies or guidelines.]] [*pending brackets to be discussed*]
- d) Governments should [promote] [adopt] strategies, guidelines, [sustainability-sensitive] [regulatory instruments and] [or] [non-trade distortive] [incentives] [for local production] [for food reformulation] and support appropriate [complementary] [evidence and science-based] measures [such as [interpretive] front-of-pack labels (FOPL), providing] [to provide] accurate, standardized and comprehensible information, including on key nutritional aspects, [such as serving sizes and nutritional content in the context of healthy diets] to help consumers to make informed and healthy choices⁵³. [Also measures should be adopted to reduce the overall impact on children of marketing of [ultra-processed foods and] foods high in energy, saturated fats [footnote], trans-fats, sugar or salt.] [*pending brackets to be discussed*]
- e) Private sector should contribute [under state control] to public health goals including those set out in the 2030 Agenda aligned with national [legislations, regulations,] [legislative and regulatory] priorities and with national food-based dietary guidelines by producing and promoting nutritious foods [and safe food products] that [contribute to a healthy diet and] are produced sustainably [and contribute to a healthy diet],

⁵² Technologies include cold chambers storage units, solar walk-ins, refrigerators, dry storage, storage drums and drying facilities.

⁵³ World Health Assembly (WHA) Resolution 57.17, paragraphs 40.4 and 61, and WHA Resolution 66.10.

[increasing and preserving nutrient content] [and should make efforts to reformulate foods, when necessary, by reducing the content of sodium, sugar and saturated fats [footnote], [in accordance with paragraph 3.2.4.d]. [Governments[, where appropriate,] should incentivize [national] private sector food actors to [work towards more] [explore] sustainable and safe packaging of products such as nanotechnology, waxing [and], plant-based wrapping [and biodegradable plastics]]. [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

3.2.5 Improving nutrition and health of farm and food system workers:

- a) Governments should ensure that the right to work⁵⁴ is respected, protected and fulfilled for all farmers and other food producers and workers (including migrants and undocumented workers), that these populations are protected and safe, and that there is no unnecessary burden which could negatively impact their health status, including involvement of children in harmful tasks (e.g. child labour). (*agreed ad ref*)
- b) Governments should provide, and intergovernmental organizations, private sector and other relevant stakeholders should promote, where applicable, social protection to food producers and workers helping them to be food secure, have decent income and wages and sufficient livelihoods, and access and afford healthy diets and adequate health services. [*pending clearance*]
- c) Private sector should improve the nutritional status of its workers and ensure their access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation and to nutritious foods in the workplace, facilitate access to nutrition-related health services and encourage the establishment of facilities for breastfeeding. (*agreed ad ref*)
- d) Governments, private sector and other relevant stakeholders should promote the health and wellbeing of food system workers, including seasonal and migrant workers, and adopt measures, including early warning systems, to prevent spreading of infectious diseases, including providing protective equipment by ensuring appropriate working conditions and, where appropriate, living conditions including for seasonal and migrant workers. Workers should be trained on how infectious disease spreads and how they can protect themselves and their coworkers and the food and the materials they handle. [Governments and private sector, in accordance with relevant national and international laws, should recognize [the role that farmer and worker organizations, [, including organizations of peasants and trade unions of workers,] play and promoting the health and wellbeing of farm and food system workers.] [that organization of peasants and trade unions of workers in farms and in food systems have a crucial role to play in ensuring the health and wellbeing of farm and food system workers] .] [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

3.2.6 Empowering youth across food systems:

⁵⁴ Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) - articles 23 and 24.

- a) Governments, intergovernmental organizations, private sector and other relevant stakeholders should engage, encourage and empower youth, acknowledging their diversity, to be actively involved in food systems by enhancing their access to land, natural resources, inputs, tools, information, extension and advisory services, financial services, education, training, markets, and promote their inclusion in decision-making processes in accordance with national legislation and regulations. (agreed ad ref)
- b) Governments, intergovernmental organizations, private sector, non-governmental organizations, and communities should invest in appropriate vocational and skill trainings, formal education, and mentorship programmes for youth to increase their capacity and access to decent work, employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, as well as in demand side enabling policies and instruments to create decent work opportunities, to stimulate and be drivers toward sustainable food systems for the next generation. Investments could also include research and actions to support youth in addressing their own nutritional needs and strengthen the role of youth play as change agents influencing the consumption of healthy diets within societies both as contributors in food systems and as influencers in the households and communities. (agreed ad ref)
- c) Governments, intergovernmental organizations and private sector should promote development, rural-urban linkages, and access to information, social innovations, resource hubs, and new technologies and practices for youth along food supply chains that enhance the sustainability of food systems, improve nutrition and support social enterprises and of youth entrepreneurship (particularly in countries experiencing high rates of youth internal and external migration). Governments, intergovernmental organizations and private sector should, in accordance to national legislations, enable youth active engagement and participation in policy-making across sectors and support the individual and collective capacities to shape food systems by recognizing their agency. (agreed ad ref)

3.3 [EQUAL [RIGHTS] AND] EQUITABLE ACCESS TO HEALTHY DIETS [THROUGH SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS] [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

54. Food environments comprise foods available and accessible to people in their surroundings and the nutritional quality, safety, price, convenience, labelling and promotion of these foods. These environments should ensure that people have equal and equitable access to sufficient, affordable, safe and nutritious foods that meet dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life⁵⁵, considering the various physical, social, economic, cultural, and political factors that influence that access. For many people, access to healthy diets can be problematic as they may not be available, accessible, or

⁵⁵ FAO. 2004. Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. Paragraph 15.

affordable for a variety of reasons. This section outlines some potential policy entry points to improve physical and economic access, and availability of healthy diets through sustainable food systems in the places where people shop, choose, and eat food. (agreed ad ref)

3.3.1 Improving access to food that contributes to healthy diets:

- a) Governments should improve the availability of and access to safe and nutritious food that contributes to healthy diets through sustainable food systems, [based on] [including through trade that should be in accordance with] a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable, multilateral trading system[, and ensure that these do not have a negative impact on the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security⁵⁶.] [*pending brackets to be discussed*]
- b) Governments should take into consideration the guidance developed by FAO and WHO to ensure that in times of crisis (e.g. pandemics), the integrity and resilience of food systems are maintained, and adequate and safe food supplies are available and accessible for all people. Governments should recognize the importance of local smallholders and family farmers in this respect. (agreed ad ref)
- c) In times of crisis, governments should [recognize the essential nature [and urgency of action for] [of] [declare] food production, distribution, processing [and marketing] [essential services] [everywhere] [and] to keep [local and informal markets and] trade corridors open [, including avoiding [export] [trade] restrictions,] [within and among nations] [, while considering the national food security circumstances as well as sanitary, phytosanitary and epidemiological situations,] [ensuring workers rights] [in order] to ensure [the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security and] [the] continuous functioning of critical aspects of food systems in all countries [as well as supporting [transition to more] [the process towards achieving] sustainable food systems that [are in better balance with nature and that support] [can contribute to] healthy diets for all]⁵⁷. [*pending brackets to be discussed*]
- d) Governments should take equity and equality into consideration when acting to address food environments and ensure members of vulnerable communities, indigenous peoples and local communities, peasants, pastoralists, small-scale fisher folks, agricultural and food workers, rural and urban women and youth, people with disabilities, and people facing constraints due to age and illness, have sufficient access to diverse food that contribute to healthy diets. (agreed ad ref)

⁵⁶ FAO. 2004. Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

⁵⁷ Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on Food Security and Nutrition. June 2020. United Nations, New York

- e) Governments should minimize barriers so that people can grow, transport, preserve, purchase, order or otherwise access diverse types of foods, including fresh and seasonal foods, that contribute to healthy diets through sustainable food systems in a given food environment. This can be done by, inter alia, instituting rural and urban planning policies, facilitating internet access and innovative service delivery,, policies and instruments that encourage retail outlets and local [and informal], street and wet markets to sell a variety of safe, affordable nutritious foods that contribute to healthy diets [through sustainable food systems], and that promote , as and when appropriate, local production, including home, community, and school food production and gardens, as well as national and international markets where appropriate. [Evidence and the cost-effectiveness of such policies in the context of local socio-economic and market conditions should be considered.] [*pending brackets to be discussed*]
- f) Governments should examine measures to encourage farmers and fishers markets, mobile food retailers, street food vendors and other retailers that sell a variety of foods, both locally grown and globally sourced, that contribute to healthy diets through sustainable food systems. (*agreed ad ref*)
- g) Governments, in consultation with consumer associations and local residents, can promote local food retailers and markets to increase the number, variety, and sale of sustainably produced safe and nutritious foods, both locally grown and globally sourced, that contribute to healthy diets through sustainable food systems. This can be done by creating local food policy councils to give residents a voice in how best to improve availability, access and affordability of healthy diets in their communities, giving special attention to those people that are most affected by hunger and malnutrition in all its forms. (*agreed ad ref*)

3.3.2 Improving the availability and affordability of food that contributes to healthy diets through sustainable food systems: [*Informally agreed by FoC*]

- a) Governments [should] [may] [consider] [,where appropriate to national circumstances,] [take] [active] [legislative] measures [including policies and instruments,] [to support consumers] and voluntary initiatives, [including where appropriate, [fiscal policies] [and economic tools] [taxation]] to improve the affordability [and accessibility] of healthy diets [through sustainable food systems] [and promote the purchase of nutritious foods and beverages][.] [and at the same time disincentivize the consumption of sugar and sweetened beverages and unhealthy [highly processed] food] [promote policies and programme aiming at preventing or reducing overweight and obesity]. [*pending brackets to be discussed*]
- b) Governments, with the support of intergovernmental organizations, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, should strengthen public procurement systems by ensuring healthy diets are available, accessible, affordable and convenient in public settings and institutions, including kindergartens and other childcare facilities, schools,

hospitals, foodbanks, government offices and workplaces, military bases and prisons, nursing homes, and care settings, in line with national food-based dietary guidelines, and engaging with, where available, smallholders and family farmers and vulnerable local food producers. [agreed ad ref]

- c) Governments should link the provision of healthy school meals through sustainable food systems with clear nutritional objectives, aligned with national food-based dietary guidelines and adapted to the needs of different age groups, with special attention to those most affected by hunger and malnutrition. [agreed ad ref]
- d) Governments, intergovernmental organizations, private sector and other relevant stakeholders should consider promoting home grown school meals, where food served in schools and other child care facilities is procured, where appropriate, from smallholder and/or family farmers to support local communities and provide educational opportunities for students. [agreed ad ref]
- e) Governments, intergovernmental organizations, private sector and other relevant stakeholders should facilitate the affordability of healthy diets through sustainable food systems for poor households through social protection programmes, such as vouchers for nutritious foods, cash transfers, school feeding programmes or other community meals programmes. These should be linked to clear nutritional outcomes, aligned with national food-based dietary guidelines and adapted to the needs of different age groups. [agreed ad ref]
- f) Governmental actors and intergovernmental organizations should promote the readiness and resilience of social protection programmes to cope with pandemics and other systemic shocks that negatively impact food security and nutrition. [agreed ad ref]
- g) Governments, consumers, farmers and other food producers organizations should promote the availability of safe and nutritious and sustainably produced food that contributes to healthy diets including nutritious and sustainably produced food from smallholders and family farmers and fishers markets, social organizations and other community-building efforts that engage people around local food cultures. [agreed ad ref]

3.3.3 Monitoring new technologies and promoting trends for healthy diets through sustainable food systems:

- a) Governments should acknowledge and monitor the influential roles of the internet, social media, and online marketing of foods, and should encourage media companies to promote nutritious, safe and sustainably produced foods that contribute to healthy diets on social media spheres. [agreed ad ref]
- b) Governments should recognize the growing trend of food purchased online and consumed away from home (including street food) and could, as appropriate to national circumstances, promote policies to encourage restaurants and online outlets

to offer prepared dishes made from nutritious, safe and sustainably produced foods that contribute to healthy diets, display information about food on menus (i.e. calories, product composition, and other nutritional content as well as other relevant [science and evidence-based] information such as related to sustainable production and consumption[, [based on] [considering, where appropriate,] indicators of 2030 Agenda]), avoid food loss and waste, and respect [any relevant] food safety regulations. *[pending brackets to be discussed]*

3.4 FOOD SAFETY ACROSS SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

55. Food safety is foundational to all parts of the food system and is critical to prevent food-borne pathogens, [to prevent] hazards and illness, [such as food-borne pathogens, naturally occurring toxins and contaminants, pesticides residues, [antibiotics], residues of veterinary drugs [, [including] antimicrobials] and heavy metals] as well as naturally occurring toxins and contaminants, residues of pesticides, [antibiotics, antimicrobials] [veterinary drugs [, antimicrobials] [residues of pesticides and veterinary drugs including antimicrobials] [and heavy metals]. Animal and plant diseases are likewise threats to the safety and resilience of food systems and to human health and nutrition. Food cannot be considered nutritious if it is not safe, and poor food safety hinders the adoption of healthy diets. [On the other hand, food processing to help ensure safe and shelf stable food has the potential to render food less nutritious due to the addition of sodium, sugars and removal of micronutrients. A careful balance and application of food safety principles while retaining nutritional qualities is important.] [Thus, measures to achieve food safety should be based on science and evidence-based assessments of the risks, in accordance with multilaterally agreed rules.] There is an increased urgency to improve the ability to track food safety to [help monitor the food supply flow, better connect producers to consumers, and] facilitate food recalls across coordinated networks. This section highlights the need for [global] [international] and national cooperation on food safety [and for every stakeholder to be responsible and accountable for the sourcing, handling, and quality control of food because of the potential spread of foodborne illness]. [Food safety should be promoted through effective risks assessments leading to control systems that are appropriate for different scales, contexts and modes of production and marketing.] *[pending brackets to be discussed]*

3.4.1 Strengthening national and international cooperation on food safety:

- a) Governments should promote food safety within their food systems policies and develop science-based and context-specific food safety policies and programmes that consider actions across the entire food systems - concerning production, processing, handling, preparation, storage, and distribution of food. *[agreed ad ref]*
- b) Governments should develop, establish, strengthen and enforce, as appropriate, food safety control systems, including reviewing, adopting, updating and enforcing national food safety legislation and regulations to ensure that food producers and suppliers

throughout the food supply chain operate safely. Governments should implement, as appropriate, and with the support of intergovernmental organizations, internationally adopted standards, in accordance with paragraph 39 of the VGFSyN. [agreed ad ref]

- c) Governments and the FAO/WHO International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) should participate in, share and contribute, as appropriate, data and evidence to official international networks that exchange food safety information, including the surveillance of foodborne hazards and disease outbreaks and management of emergencies to improve food safety across a range of issues such as water quality, pesticide residues, [veterinary drug residues][antimicrobial residues,] residues of veterinary or phytosanitary medical products, [endocrine disruptors,] [chemical contaminants and naturally occurring toxins,] [use of unauthorized and unsafe] food additives, pathogenic bacteria, viruses, toxins, parasites, zoonoses, and fraud/adulteration of food products. [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

3.4.2 Ensuring food safety across food production systems:

- a) Governments, private sector and other relevant stakeholders should implement a One Health Approach⁵⁸ to [food safety] [food-borne diseases] along the entire food and feed supply chain, where appropriate recognizing the interconnection between food safety and human, plant, animal and environmental health particularly to prevent and mitigate future transmission of zoonotic and other emerging infectious diseases with pandemic potential. [*pending clearance*]
- b) Governments, in collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, should develop and implement science and risk-based national plans to combat Antimicrobial Resistance in livestock, aquaculture, and in plants, including in feed production, that take into account international standards, guidelines and recommendations, adopted by the international standard setting bodies recognized by the WTO/SPS agreement, to promote and support prudent and appropriate use of antimicrobials⁵⁹, including, where appropriate, phasing out the use of [medically important] antimicrobials as growth promoters⁶⁰ [in the absence of risk analysis] [Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance]. [A collaborative One Health approach is necessary to reduce AMR, including awareness raising as well as developing the capacity of monitoring AMR and AMU (Antimicrobial Use) in food and agriculture.] [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

3.4.3 Protecting consumers from food safety risks in food supplies:

⁵⁸ One Health is an approach to designing and implementing programmes, policies, legislation and research in which multiple sectors (such as public health, animal health, plant health and the environment) communicate and work together to achieve better public health outcomes. Reference: <https://www.who.int/features/qa/one-health/en/>

⁵⁹ FAO Conference, [Final Report of the 41th Session \(2019\)](#), Appendix C. Paragraph 7.

⁶⁰ FAO Conference Resolution 4/2015 on Antimicrobial Resistance. Paragraphs a and d.

- a) Governments, private sector, intergovernmental organizations, development partners and other relevant stakeholders should promote and enhance traceability in food supply chains, early contamination detection, and leverage the opportunities that new technologies offer for traceability solutions. [*agreed ad ref*]
- b) Investment by governments, private sector and other relevant stakeholders should support training for food producers, handlers and processors to implement national, science and evidence-based, risk-based measures that can provide safe food while retaining their nutrient content. [*agreed ad ref*]
- c) Governments [should] [are invited to] acknowledge, and adapt legislations, regulations and guidelines, to assess and manage emerging and potential health [risks] [implications [as well as] possible benefits [in consideration of their possible use] [and consider possible contribution to] for food security and nutrition] [and manage] [of] new food products created by emerging technologies (e.g. lab grown meats, and gene [edited] [editing and modern biotechnology] products, etc.) as appropriate taking into account scientific risk assessments and Codex standards, where available, as with any new food product [in international regulatory frameworks [as well as legitimate factors other than science (for instance consumer preferences)]]. [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

3.5 PEOPLE-CENTERED NUTRITION KNOWLEDGE EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

56. It is important to consider, establish, maintain and protect the range and diversity of food cultures, social norms, relations, and traditions that contribute to healthy diets through sustainable food systems without undermining progress in gender equality. This section outlines the policy entry points to promote healthy diets through supporting people to improve their knowledge, awareness, education, and the quality of information available, motivations, skills and sustainable practices empowering key actors. Context-specific programmes and promotion of the healthy aspects of traditional diets and knowledge originating from diverse food systems are vital to ensuring equal, positive and sustainable impacts on nutrition and the environment. Social and behavior change can also shift patterns around food and food consumption and empower people to make better choices for themselves and their families and [the three dimensions of sustainable development (environmental, social and economic)] [environmental, economic and social dimensions [of sustainable development]]. [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

3.5.1 Utilizing policies and tools to provide education and information on healthy diets [through sustainable food systems]: [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

- a) Governments, in cooperation with scientific institutions, should support and develop, where appropriate, evidence-based food-based dietary guidelines for different age groups and people with special dietary requirements that define context-specific healthy diets by taking into account social, cultural, ancestral, scientific, economic,

traditional, ecological, geographical and environmental drivers. It is also important to invest, where appropriate, in public health nutrition tools to improve nutrition education and [in order to] promote healthy diets [and sustainable food systems] [through sustainable food systems]. *[pending brackets to be discussed]*

- b) Governments should develop, as appropriate, science and evidence-based nutrition standards as a basis to [restrict] [regulate] [examine] [consider policies to reduce the impact of] marketing [across all communication channels] [, promotion and sponsorships exposure] of foods high in energy density with [minimal] [low] nutritional value to children] (including digital marketing[, product packaging), promotion and sponsorships exposure, especially of minors, to [ultra-processed] foods and beverages [high in [calories,] fat, especially saturated [footnote] and trans-fats, sugars and salt/sodium], in accordance with multilaterally agreed rules and national legislation, where applicable. Such measures could include, where appropriate, [prohibition] [regulation] to sell and advertise such food [in public places or] near schools, including child-care facilities, where necessary. *[pending brackets to be discussed]*
- c) Governments [and other stakeholders] should [protect,] promote [and support] [exclusive] breastfeeding [for the first six months] [and until to two years] [, encourage the establishment of milk banks and protect and support breastfeeding for working mothers] [new para: [and subsequently supported by adequate and timely complementary feeding] and regulate [the application of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes], [where appropriate, the marketing of commercial infant formula [and other complementary products to ensure proper food safety and essential nutrient composition needs for infant and young children. Labelling should be clear and discernible to allow consumers purchasing these products to identify those appropriate for the age of their infants and young child] [and other breast-milk substitutes and implement the International Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes⁶¹ and subsequent relevant WHA resolutions, taking into account their national contexts.] *[pending brackets to be discussed]*
- d) Governments should promote and support nutritional labelling [and] [including consideration of] [voluntary] [interpretive] front-of-pack labelling (FOPL) [systems, such as warning labels] to support healthy diets [through sustainable food systems]. The FOPL system should be [based on scientific evidence and free from conflict of interest and] aligned with national public health and nutrition policies and food regulations [based on sound scientific basis to allow informed choices in the context of the overall balance of a healthy diet and taking into consideration relevant WHO guidance and CODEX guidelines]. [The FOPL system should comprise an underpinning nutrient profile model [based on scientific evidence and free of conflict of interest] that

⁶¹ [International Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes](#). WHO, 1981. Geneva.

considers the overall nutrition quality of the product or the nutrients of concern for [NCDs [(or both)]] [diet-related diseases.] [The regulatory objectives of the labelling system which allow the consumers to identify products correctly, quickly and easily when they contain excessive amount of sugar, total fats, saturated fats, trans fats and sodium].] [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

- e) Governments should[, as appropriate,] [provide incentives] [develop policies to] [encourage] [to] private sector [actors] to [produce more nutritious food and] [design food outlet, including markets, restaurants, and other places where food is sold or served that] encourage the placement [and promotion] of [safe and nutritious] [and sustainably produced] foods [that are preferable sustainably produced] that contribute to healthy diets. [*pending brackets to be discussed*]
- f) Governments, intergovernmental organizations, [private sector,] civil society and non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders, including [medical and] health [care] practitioners, should promote the integration of nutrition education and counseling practices [in different settings, [while safeguarding against potential conflict of interest,] including for populations participating in maternal and child nutrition programmes] [and information, [interventions] [programmes] based on food-based dietary guidelines, other policies related to food systems. The inclusion of nutrition education and information within agriculture extension technical packages as a way to support producers in increasing the production of high nutrient density crops and crop diversification should be considered]. [*pending brackets to be discussed*]
- g) Governments, intergovernmental organizations, [private sector,] civil society and non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders, including medical and health practitioners, should promote a range of [behavior change] [informed consumer choice] activities such as social and behavior change communication (SBCC), food and nutrition education [, interpersonal communication and community dialogues,] and social marketing [initiatives to promote breastfeeding, indigenous and traditional food cultures] as a way to positively influence knowledge, attitudes and social norms, and coordinate messaging on nutrition [and sustainable consumption] across a variety of communication channels to reach multiple levels of society (e.g. mass media campaigns). [*pending brackets to be discussed*]
- h) Governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, private sector and other relevant stakeholders should support the education of all food system actors to prioritize the reduction of food loss and waste. Actions could include awareness campaigns at national, regional and global levels, food date labelling, and monitoring of food loss and waste. (*agreed ad ref*)

3.5.2 Encouraging local food knowledge and culture:

- a) Governments, civil society organizations, [private sector,] intergovernmental organizations, academia and other relevant stakeholders should use science and

evidence-based as well as cultural, traditional and ancestral knowledge resources to promote and support education and knowledge of healthy diets [through sustainable food systems], nutrition, physical activity, [diversified production systems,] food loss and waste prevention, intrahousehold food distribution, food safety, optimal breastfeeding and, where needed, complementary feeding, taking into consideration cultural and social norms and adapting to different audiences and contexts. [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

- b) Governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations, private sector, community leaders, social workers, health professionals, academia and other relevant stakeholders should encourage food cultures, culinary skills and nutrition education and recognize the importance of food in cultural heritage across communities This can be done through community and consumer associations and educational institutions, targeting men and women. (*agreed ad ref*)
- c) Governments should, appropriately, protect and promote the knowledge that indigenous peoples and local communities have with regard to local traditions, ancestral customs and methods of [sustainably] producing [food], preparing, and preserving local and traditional food that has nutritional [and environmental] benefits, and that promotes food safety [and sustainable food production]. [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

3.5.3 Promoting “hubs” for food and nutrition knowledge, education and information:

- a) Universities, schools, technical and vocational education and training centres as well as teaching schools should institute nutrition education curricula for students on the areas of food studies including food technology, health and agriculture during their training. (*agreed ad ref*)
- b) Governments, civil society organizations, [private sector,] intergovernmental organizations, universities, schools, organizations of small-scale producers and workers, communication media and other relevant stakeholders should promote nutrition knowledge and culinary skills among school-age children, youth and adults (including promoting communal mealtimes, socializing around food, consuming healthy diets, and reducing food waste) in a variety of settings. [*pending brackets to be discussed*]
- c) Governments, with the support of intergovernmental organizations upon request, should, as appropriate, implement comprehensive school and pre-school food and nutrition policies, review education curricula to incorporate nutrition and [sustainability] principles [and] [sustainable] practices], involve communities [, especially local communities [including, where possible, small-scale food producers and workers and their organizations],] in promoting and creating healthy food environments [, sustainable food systems] and healthy diets [through sustainable food

systems] in schools, kindergartens and other childcare facilities, and support school health and nutrition services. [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

- d) Governments, intergovernmental organizations, private sector, civil society and non-governmental organizations, small-scale food producers and workers and their organizations, and other relevant stakeholders should support food and nutrition dialogues with indigenous peoples and local communities, farmer field schools and agriculture extension services by sharing the knowledge, experience and insights of individuals who are not usually regarded as members of the nutrition community (e.g. community and religious leaders, chefs, [food systems suppliers, retailers and consumers], youth leaders, farmers and food producers, young entrepreneurs, [small-scale food producers and workers and their organizations,] [health care workers,] mayors and local communities). [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

3.6 GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT [AND AUTONOMY] ACROSS FOOD SYSTEMS[*pending brackets to be discussed*]

57. Gender relations and cultural norms are among the most significant drivers of [hunger, undernutrition and malnutrition of women and girls] [healthy diets and nutrition outcomes]. In many countries, women and girls produce food, make decisions about the household's diet and influence the nutritional status of household members. Women are important agents for sustainable development as food system actors, but also as actors in their households, communities and countries. At the same time, women and girls are [unequally burdened with] assigned responsibilities for unpaid care and domestic work and often face [significantly] higher levels of food insecurity and worse nutrition outcomes [than men]. [This may be exacerbated for those facing multiple exclusions on the basis of their disability, age, ethnicity, religious belief, sexuality, location and other characteristics; or simply because they are the very poorest in society.] Women's and girl's empowerment [and ensuring women's rights] through redistribution of such unpaid work, education, and access to information, resources and services are needed to improving nutrition. This section highlights the importance of improving women's wellbeing, ensuring direct access to financial, technical and biophysical resources, [improving agency] [enabling agency] and participation in decision-making, [voice and status,] and [challenging] [balancing] the power relationships and [overcoming] legal impediments that limit equality and choices. [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

3.6.1 Empowering women:

- a) Governments should [ensure equal opportunities and] promote equal participation between women and men in policy decision-making, supporting women especially in rural context, and ensuring gender equality in leadership roles in decision making bodies – parliaments, ministries and local authorities at district and community levels. [Governments and other [agencies] [stakeholders] should [embark on] [foster]

behavior change [strategies] to engage with men and boys to support women and girls in nutrition as a joint responsibility.] [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

- b) Governments should promote an enabling environment to generate [socio-cultural] [social, economic and cultural] changes towards gender equality [and gender responsive-approach] with specific [gender responsive] policies, programmes, institutions and advocacy campaigns to deal with the various forms of discrimination and violence women [and girls] face[, particularly in rural areas]. [This [should] [could] include engaging with men to minimize any backlash and adapting [extension and advisory] [public] services to [facilitate] [support] women.] [*pending brackets to be discussed*]
- c) Governments, intergovernmental organizations, private sector, civil society [, particularly women's organizations] and other relevant stakeholders should promote adolescent girls' [, as applicable,] and women's [human capital] [capacity] development by supporting access to education, [recognizing every [children including] girls' right to [12 years of quality] [primary and secondary] education,] literacy programmes, health [including sexual reproductive health] and other social services to increase household nutritional status. [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

3.6.2 Promoting and acknowledging women as food system [entrepreneurs] [key agents]: [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

[New para: Governments and other stakeholders should attach a great importance to creation of conditions for women to fully realize their potential through the optimal combination of family and professional life by including economic empowerment of women, social protection schemes, child and family support payments, establishment of minimum wages and pensions.] [*pending brackets to be discussed*]

- a) Governments, in accordance with national legislations, should ensure women's equal tenure rights and promote their equal access to and control over productive land, natural resources, inputs, productive tools, and access to education, training, markets, and information in line with the CFS VGGT. (*agreed ad ref*)
- b) Governments, private sector, intergovernmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders should enhance women's roles in agriculture by promoting and supporting that women [have] [contribute to] decision-making [power] over what and how they choose to produce crops/food. Women should be offered equal access to extension and advisory services for crops and animal products that they produce or process, capacity-building to engage with traders, financial services (e.g. credit and savings mechanisms), and entrepreneurial opportunities across food systems. [*pending brackets to be discussed*]
- c) Governments, non-governmental organizations, private sector and other relevant stakeholders should promote and increase access of women to time saving

technologies [which allow for a better use of time]⁶² that could help improve their livelihoods. *[pending brackets to be discussed]*

[New para: Governments should promote the design of context-specific policies to reduce digital gaps among rural women and promote cooperation schemes to facilitate rural women's access to the application of digital tools and technological solutions to improve their productive activities.] *[pending brackets to be discussed]*

- d) Governments, private sector, civil society and other relevant stakeholders should facilitate women's equal access to entrepreneurship and employment opportunities across food systems and related activities, leveraging existing business platforms to generate adequate income, as well as increase women's participation in decision-making on the use of household income[.] [and opportunities to build and manage savings]. This [would] [could] include business management training, decision-making skill development, scaling of financial services and products both accessible and relevant to women's needs, and tools to help men and women strengthen their intra-household communication. *[pending brackets to be discussed]*

3.6.3 Recognizing and addressing women's nutritional status and deprivation:

- a) Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, development partners and other relevant stakeholders should acknowledge and advance the nutritional well-being of adolescent girls[, as applicable,] and women including through the provision of health and nutritional services through various sectors. This can be done by promoting and supporting that national development strategies are informed by participatory gender and age analyses, and that women and adolescent girls[, as applicable,] with compromised nutritional status and higher levels of deprivation, access gender-responsive social protection [schemes] [programmes and benefits]. *[pending brackets to be discussed]*
- b) Acknowledging the significant time and work burden of women in the preparation of [nutritious] meals, and their roles in agriculture and food production, governments should acknowledge and value the importance of [unpaid] care and domestic [, agricultural] [and across the food [chains] [systems]] work at the household level through the effective implementation of [protective] policies, social protection programmes, and other benefits, and should promote gender-equal and equitable distribution of care work. The equal participation of men in [unpaid] [domestic] work should be promoted, especially where women are also active in [productive labour] [the labour market]. *[pending brackets to be discussed]*
- c) Governments should create an enabling policy framework, as appropriate, and supportive practices to protect and support breastfeeding, ensuring that decisions to

⁶² These include food preservation and processing equipment, cold storage, heat and thermal processing, grinding/blending devices, energy saving stoves, and modern farm equipment for ploughing, cultivating and harvesting nutritious crops/food and raising small ruminants and poultry.

breastfeed do not result in women losing their economic security or any of their rights. This should include implementing maternity protection legislation [preferably for at least six months] [for formal and informal women workers], including [entitlement to publicly-funded paid [maternity]] [parental] [equal paternity] leave [(or paternity leave)], and removing workplace-related barriers to breastfeeding (lack of breaks, facilities, and services). *[pending brackets to be discussed]*

3.7 RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS IN HUMANITARIAN CONTEXTS

58. Linking food security and nutrition [interventions] during humanitarian crises (human induced [and climate change-related [and natural] disasters] [disasters including those induced by climate change], epidemics/pandemics) with longer-term strategies [[that align] [in accordance] with [international human rights and] humanitarian law] is essential to strengthen the resilience of food systems. Short or protracted crises displace millions, and increase their risk of food insecurity and malnutrition. The critical focus in [this] contexts] [these crises] is identify[ing] the balance between immediate food security and nutrition needs and impact [of] response [interventions] may have on the system. Considering the importance of resilient food systems, this section highlights the importance of strengthening the [nexus between [human rights,]] [the continuum of] humanitarian [principles] and development programming [and peace building] [and builds upon the 11 principles in the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA)⁶³], the guiding principles for implementation of food assistance programmes laid out in the Food Assistance Convention, and should be consistent with the work of the Food Security Cluster.]. *[pending brackets to be discussed]*

3.7.1 Protecting the most vulnerable to malnutrition in humanitarian contexts:

- a) Governments and intergovernmental organizations should pay particular attention, protection, and facilitate access to sustainably produced, safe and nutritious food and nutritional support to most vulnerable groups.
- b) Governments and parties involved in conflicts should facilitate access of all members of affected and at-risk populations to food security and nutrition assistance, in both acute and protracted crises, consistent with internationally recognized humanitarian principles, as anchored in Geneva Convention of 1949 and other UNGA Resolutions after 1949.
- c) Governments, with the support of intergovernmental organizations and international assistance and cooperation where appropriate, should ensure access to nutritious food and nutritional support for refugees, internally displaced people and asylum seekers in their territory, in accordance with governments' obligations under relevant international mutually agreed instruments. Governmental actors

⁶³ CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises

should have, where appropriate, contingency plans in place to ensure food security and nutrition of the most vulnerable groups during crises such as epidemics and pandemics.

3.7.2 Improving the quality of food and nutrition assistance:

- a) Governments, all parties involved in conflicts, climate-related disasters, epidemics and pandemics, and food assistance, including intergovernmental organizations, should underline and support that food security and nutrition assessments and analyses are undertaken to inform the food and nutrition response as well as any components of the local food system requiring rehabilitation.
- b) Governments should acknowledge nutrition as an essential need and humanitarian assistance should aim to meet and monitor nutritional requirements of the affected population, particularly the most vulnerable to malnutrition. Any food items provided should be of appropriate nutritional quality and quantity, be safe and acceptable, and not harm local markets. Food should conform to the food standards of the host country's government, in accordance with para 33 of the VGFSyN.
- c) Governments and intergovernmental organizations should support social protection mechanisms and acute malnutrition management programmes purchasing locally produced food and promote and support adequate coverage during times of crisis. Fortification should be used only in limited times and places and should not disrupt local market and accessibility of nutritious food in the longer term.
- d) Governments should, as appropriate, implement policies on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) in emergencies and, together with intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, and should support that such policies on IYCF practices are coordinated, and promoted during humanitarian crises.
- e) Governments and intergovernmental organizations should support that when implementing cash and voucher assistance, the minimum expenditure basket and transfer value is promoting sustainably produced, nutritious and safe food that is locally available and sufficient to provide a healthy diet for all stages of the lifecycle.

3.7.3 Ensuring food systems are resilient in humanitarian contexts:

- a) Governments in partnership with intergovernmental and other relevant organizations should, where appropriate, undertake food system analysis, develop and use early warning systems, climate information services, and food and agriculture information systems, including food price monitoring systems, that detect and monitor threats to food production, availability and access as well as food safety hazards and tampering. These early warning systems should be integrated into broader food analysis systems including the monitoring of the availability and affordability of nutritious foods that contribute to healthy diets at the local level.

- b) Governments and intergovernmental organizations should, as appropriate, invest in disaster risk reduction measures that benefit those most at risk/need. In particular, productive assets should be protected from severe weather and climate impacts and other disasters in a way that strengthens the resilience of affected populations and their ability to cope with shocks due to conflicts and climate change-related disasters as well as economic shocks. Measures include social safety nets, investment in protecting fragile livelihoods, emergency fiscal and food reserves, reduction of transaction costs, and identification of platform for integrated interventions. Governments should aim to restore local food production and market accessibility as rapidly as possible.
- c) Intergovernmental organizations and development partners should involve local non-governmental organizations, private sector and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of humanitarian food assistance and livelihood programmes to support economic recovery and development, strengthen sustainable local food systems and foster the ability of smallholders and/or family farmers to access resources to bolster production and markets.

PART 4 - IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE USE AND APPLICATION OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES

4.1 POLICY FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VGFSyN

59. All CFS Members and stakeholders are encouraged to support and promote at all levels within their constituencies, and in collaboration with other relevant initiatives and platforms, the dissemination, use and application of the VGFSyN to support the development and implementation of coordinated and multisectoral national policies, laws, programmes and investment plans to achieve sustainable food systems that deliver healthy diets and improve nutrition.

60. The VGFSyN are intended to support the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025 with the objective of increasing the visibility, coordination and effectiveness of nutrition actions at all levels, as key aspects toward the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

61. Governments are invited to use the VGFSyN as a tool to undertake new initiatives toward the transformation of food systems to make them more sustainable and capable of delivering healthy diets. These include identifying policy opportunities, fostering a transparent and open dialogue, promoting coordination mechanisms, and establishing or strengthening existing, multistakeholder platforms, partnerships, processes and

frameworks, promoting and supporting the involvement and engagement of all relevant stakeholders, including representatives of most vulnerable groups.

62. Parliamentarians and their national, regional and sub-regional alliances play a key role in promoting the adoption of policies, establishing appropriate legislative and regulatory frameworks, raising awareness and promoting dialogue among relevant stakeholders, and allocating resources for the implementation of policies and programmes dealing with food systems and nutrition.

4.2 BUILDING AND STRENGTHENING CAPACITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

63. Governments need to mobilize, as appropriate, adequate financial, technical and human resources, and encourage international cooperation, to increase the human and institutional capacity of countries to implement the VGFSyN and to identify priorities toward their operationalization and monitoring at the national and local levels. Technical agencies of the UN, bilateral cooperation agencies and other development partners can assist in this regard. The organization of multistakeholder workshops and training, as well as the development of user-friendly and technical guides, deployed via extension services and digital means, are important to contextualize and adapt to local contexts.

64. The process of accelerate the shift towards sustainable food systems⁶⁴ should include mechanisms to financially support and facilitate knowledge and technology transfer schemes to developing countries, in line with principle 7 of the Rio Declaration.

65. Developed countries should mobilize resources to help developing countries to cope with their responsibilities, mainly by multilateral financial mechanisms.

66. Donors, financing institutions, intergovernmental organizations and other funding entities are encouraged to apply the VGFSyN when formulating their policies for loans, grants and programmes to support both rights holders' and duty bearers' endeavors. The VGFSyN should contribute to the design of responsible investments that aim to increase the production, affordability, and access to diverse, nutritious and sustainably produced food, as well as to promote the integration of nutrition and health dimensions into agriculture and food sector investment plans, as well as to promote the integration of sustainable agriculture and food system dimensions into nutrition and health investment plans.

67. Development partners, intergovernmental organizations, including the Rome-based Agencies, and regional organizations, private sector, civil society and other relevant stakeholders are encouraged to support, within their existing resources and mandates, efforts by governments to implement the VGFSyN. Such support could include research and technical cooperation, financial assistance, the provision of evidence-based policy advice,

⁶⁴ [UNGA Resolution A/RES/74/242](#). Paragraph 5

institutional capacity development, development of monitoring frameworks, knowledge sharing and exchange of experiences, and assistance in developing national and regional policies. Actions should be taken to improve partners' capacity to design, manage and participate in multistakeholder partnerships, to ensure transparency and accountability and promote good governance for effective results. Moreover, UN interagency coordination mechanisms for nutrition could be leveraged to support the uptake of the VGFSyN at country level.

68. National and international research organizations, intergovernmental organizations, universities and other academic institutions, should support the availability and accessibility of knowledge, including indigenous, traditional and local knowledge, innovation, science and evidence on all dimensions of food systems (including citizen/consumer demand and behaviour change) to enable governments and other food system stakeholders to develop monitoring frameworks, examine the evidence, prioritize issues to be considered, evaluate impacts, and address potential synergies and trade-offs.

69. The dissemination and uptake of the VGFSyN can be facilitated through the identification of “champions” and “change agents”, especially among civil society, that could raise awareness and organize advocacy campaigns across sectors and different governmental levels.

4.3 MONITORING USE AND APPLICATION OF THE VGFSyN

70. Governments, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, should, where appropriate, define national policy priorities and related indicators, mobilize regional and local structures to report on these indicators, and establish or strengthen, where appropriate, existing monitoring and reporting systems in order to assess the efficiency of laws, policies and regulations, and implement appropriate remedial actions in case of negative impacts or gaps.

71. By applying the VGFSyN, governments are expected to contribute to the achievement of the six Global Nutrition Targets (2025) endorsed by the WHA in 2012⁶⁵ and its diet related NCD targets⁶⁶. The VGFSyN should support countries in defining priority actions and formulating specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound commitments⁶⁷ in order to achieve nutrition, health and environmental objectives to accelerate and align efforts linked to the Nutrition Decade and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This can be done through advocating for policies and legislation, allowing the exchange of

⁶⁵ <https://www.who.int/nutrition/global-target-2025/en/>

⁶⁶ <https://www.who.int/beat-ncds/take-action/targets/en/>

⁶⁷ In the context of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and ICN2 follow-up process, country commitments for action should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound. https://www.who.int/nutrition/decade-of-action/smart_commitments/en/

best practices and experiences, highlighting successes and lessons learned, and providing mutual support to accelerate implementation.

72. CFS should include the VGFSyN in its ongoing work on monitoring, relying as much as possible on existing mechanisms and resources, as well as making reference to the five principles on monitoring and accountability systems, as defined in the CFS Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF).]