

COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON

“PROMOTING YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND EMPLOYMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS”

OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP

BRAZIL

WRITTEN INPUTS

Brazil would like to thank the HLPE Steering Committee for the presentation of the 16th Report of the High-Level Panel of Experts, on the occasion of the 49th Plenary Session of the CFS.

2. Brazil values the cross-cutting approach towards the human right to adequate food throughout the whole report.

3. The HLPE Report is a basis, along with multilaterally-agreed instruments and scientific documents, for the preparation of the Policy Recommendations on “Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems”.

4. In order to facilitate the policy convergence process, Brazil would appreciate the efforts of the Technical Task Team (TTT) in order to make use of multilaterally-agreed language and concepts and to give preference to those adopted by FAO Governing Bodies. In order to fulfill its purpose of policy guiding, the Policy Recommendations should use as much clear language as possible.

5. On the format, we prompt the TTT to compose a Zero Draft which is straightforward and suitable for practical use. For that aim, the draft should not preview a glossary or definitions, which, beyond not being suitable for a Policy Recommendations document, are of low practicality and may hinder consensus building among members.

6. Training, capacity-building and productive integration and promotion of Youth are powerful means of combatting poverty and malnutrition. Special relevance must be given to the access to available technology, particularly internet access, as a way of sharing information and knowledge.

7. Brazil has been traditionally developing public policies in favor of Youth, also aimed at supporting the education of young professionals to acquire the necessary skills for full performance in the areas of agricultural sciences, while at the same time favoring the insertion of young people in the agricultural labor market. In order to contribute for the conformation of the Zero Draft, we illustrate with two recent public policies created in favor of youth:

I. Agricultural Professional Residency Program (“Programa de Residência Profissional Agrícola”): The Program is intended for the qualification of young students and recent graduates of courses in agricultural and related sciences, and is characterized by the insertion of residents in the real work environment, through practical, guided and supervised training, providing the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for professional practice. In addition to providing qualification for residents, the new public policy aims to bring the academic universe closer and strengthen the relationship with the reality of agriculture, contributing to the training of professionals capable of responding to the demands placed by the different segments of the agricultural productive sector.

II. Family Farming Seal, Youth (“Senaf Juventude”): The identification of products from family farming promotes the livelihoods of the rural populations, in addition to promoting their competitive market access. One specific category of the Seal identifies products from young family farmers, providing young people with better access to public and private markets and promoting the development of the communities involved.

8. Regarding the concept of “agency”, present in the Report, we would like to point out that its use should be avoided in the Zero Draft. Beyond being a term that does not have a multilateral agreement, it is necessary to recall that “agency” is neither a dimension of food security, nor is it integrated into the FAO’s definition of food security.

9. Taking into account that the concept of “incentives” is mentioned throughout the text of the Report, it is paramount for the sustainable development to avoid subsidies that distort international trade, which can negatively impact food security globally, as well as development and livelihoods in many developing countries whose economies rely on agriculture.

10. It is important to recall that no one size fits all, and every sustainable approach to enhanced food security and nutrition is valid. Restrictive and excluding narratives, which seek to shape the future of food systems in the image of the productive systems of some specific temperate climate models should be avoided.

11. Our collective goal must be the same as the ultimate goal and mandate of the CFS, which is to work towards food security, combatting all forms of malnutrition, so that, eventually, we can see the actual guarantee of the Right to Food to everyone on the planet, especially youth.

Rome, November 22nd, 2021.