



Rome, 15 April 2022

## Message from Ambassador Pio Wennubst, Rapporteur of the CFS policy convergence process on Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems

It is my pleasure to present you with the Draft for Negotiations of the Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems.

The document incorporates comments and suggestions provided on the Zero Draft during the OEWG meeting held on 14 March, as well as [written inputs](#) sent to the CFS Secretariat.

The rationale section has been further articulated by presenting a more exhaustive overview of the context around which the policy recommendations are developed, the issues they aim to address and their intended users.

In line with feedback received, no changes were made to the overall structure of the document, which is still focused around five thematic policy areas identified as key to promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems.

Specific text suggestions were included under each policy recommendation with a view to enrich the document and highlight the variety of issues that need to be considered when tackling youth oriented policies, bearing in mind the need to stay true to the CFS MYPoW request to develop “*a focused, action-oriented policy recommendations document*”. Along these lines, concrete and concise comments were prioritized over more academic and detailed additions that would be more suitable to a “voluntary guidelines” instrument.

The Draft for Negotiations will be available in all six UN languages by 28 April 2022. The official invitation to the [first round of negotiations](#), to be held on [30, 31 May and 1 June 2022](#), will be sent in the coming weeks along with relevant information on the format of the sessions and modalities of participation.

While there will be no further draft circulated ahead of the first round of negotiations, I would still welcome your written inputs on the Draft for Negotiations to [cfs@fao.org](mailto:cfs@fao.org) by 15 May to give all stakeholders the opportunity to express their positions and prepare the ground for consensus building later on.

I would like to thank you all for your support and contributions to this process. As highlighted by the HLPE in their report, “*youth are on the front lines to build the food systems of the future while also bearing significant risk from climate change, social and economic inequities and political marginalization*”. It is my hope that we can work collegially to ensure that youth has our support to reach their full potential.

Ambassador Pio Wennubst  
*CFS Youth Rapporteur*