

<b>ZERO DRAFT</b>	
<b>STRENGTHENING URBAN AND PERI-URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS TO ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE CONTEXT OF URBANIZATION AND RURAL TRANSFORMATION</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	
<p>(i) By 2050, the world’s urban population is expected to nearly double, making urbanization one of the twenty-first century’s most transformative trends<sup>1</sup>. Considering that an estimated 1.7 billion people of the world’s 2.2 billion people experiencing moderate or severe food insecurity already live in <b>urban and peri-urban (U-PU)</b> areas, this rapid urban growth represents a significant food security and nutrition global challenge.</p>	<p>Comment: This acronym is not consistently used throughout the document. We would suggest either consistently using the acronym or simply using "urban and peri-urban" throughout.</p>
<p>(ii) Urbanization and peri-urbanization result from interconnected transformations in demography, economies, culture, social systems, land use and technology and innovation. Understanding the changes occurring throughout agriculture and food systems requires therefore adopting a rural–urban continuum lens. This approach allows highlighting the growing interconnectedness of urban, peri-urban, and rural areas as a foundation for addressing socio-economic dynamics, planning effective resource distribution, and developing policies that reflect the complex realities of these interlinked communities.</p>	<p>Comment:</p>
<p>(iii) Building on a rural-urban continuum approach, the following CFS policy recommendations are envisioned as a focused, action-oriented guidance tool to enhance the</p>	<p>Comment: The aim of these recommendations is to provide stakeholders the relevant tools to help achieve food security and</p>

<p>ability of U-PU <del>residents to achieve food security and nutrition realize their right to food</del> in the context of multiple challenges such as <del>climate change</del>, political instability, <del>food availability</del>, economic downturns, <del>increased inequalities</del>, <del>decreased equality of opportunity</del>, conflicts, rapid and unplanned urbanization.</p>	<p>nutrition. This edit is to reflect the overarching purpose of the recommendations.</p> <p>Suggest including 'food availability'. Availability within food environments is critical for urban and peri-urban food security and nutrition. This inclusion is meant to cover the 'food desert' and 'food swamp' phenomenon that occurs in low income, low access food areas. As well as school meal programs.</p> <p>The United States reserves on all references to climate change, here and throughout the document.</p>
<p>(iv) The Policy Recommendations recognize that the complex nature of urban and peri-urban food systems requires a systems approach that integrates multi-sectoral, multi-level, multilateral and multi-actor governance processes, within and beyond the State, to promote an enabling policy environment that empowers stakeholders and fosters collaboration to deliver <del>equitable-fair</del>, resilient and sustainable food systems. In particular, it is important to highlight the key role of local governments in driving innovation and shaping food systems to achieve food security and nutrition.</p>	<p>Comment:</p>
<p>(v) At the same time, ensuring food security and nutrition across the rural-urban continuum requires policies that <del>address inequalities support equal opportunity for all</del> and are embedded in human rights, including related to <del>the right to</del> food, <del>the right to</del>-water, <del>the right to</del>-adequate housing</p>	<p>Comment: U.S. legal edits to improve accuracy of references to human rights.</p>

<p>and; <del>the right to</del> decent work at all levels of governance. This implies adhering to human rights obligations, and principles such as participation, accountability, non-discrimination, transparency, human dignity, empowerment and the rule of law.</p>	
<p>(vi) These Policy Recommendations are addressed primarily to national and subnational governments, in particular regional/metropolitan/municipal departments. Additionally, the recommendations are addressed to private sector associations, philanthropic foundations, civil society organizations, International Organizations, universities and academic institutions. They are voluntary and non-binding and should be interpreted and applied consistently with existing obligations under national and international law, and with due regard to voluntary commitments under applicable regional and international instruments and in accordance with national legal systems and their institutions. They build upon and complement relevant existing CFS policy <del>instruments</del> <del>products</del> and are informed by the CFS High-level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN) report on “Strengthening Urban and Peri- Urban Food Systems to Achieve Food Security and Nutrition, in the context of Urbanization and Rural Transformation”.</p>	<p>Comment: We suggest deleting instruments as it connotes a legal document. It is more accurate to say “CFS produces policy products”.</p>
<p>A. Urban and peri-urban food systems for food security and nutrition</p>	
<p><b>Production</b></p>	
<p>Government, including subnational and local government authorities, <del>should</del> <del>are encouraged to</del>:</p>	<p>Comment: Here and in the operative language throughout, we strongly suggest revising to “are encouraged to” which more accurately reflects the voluntary nature of the policy recommendations.</p>
<p>1. Prioritize <del>equitable</del> access to land, water, finance, innovation and technology, and other food</p>	<p>Comment:</p>

<p>production resources to address the needs of the poorest, most vulnerable and those most left behind<sup>2</sup>; (access to resources)</p>	
<p>2. Develop and implement land-use zoning policies, including forestry and greening, that safeguard and support urban agriculture, livestock and fishing activities; (zoning policies)</p>	<p>Comment: This point could be made stronger by including not just acreage but new construction and existing buildings that can be adapted for urban agriculture (i.e., hydroponics, vertical farming, etc.)</p> <p>Suggest directing all urban zoning and planning policy recommendation directly to local, not national, governments, as these decisions fall within the authority of local governments.</p>
<p>3. Prioritize agricultural extension services <b>that are unique to urban and peri-urban agriculture, including through community education on urban and peri urban management practices with scalable frameworks, manage preserve</b> natural resources, enhance soil health and biodiversity. This could entail promoting agroecology<b>ical and other innovative approaches, biotechnology, and</b> bioeconomy strategies as well as regenerative and nutrition sensitive practices, among others; (extension services)</p>	<p>Comment: Suggest this edit to highlight the unique factors urban and peri-urban agriculture faces. For example, animal agriculture, in urban and peri-urban spaces, comes with its own unique challenges that may require a different approach for extension services and management practices. Additionally, extension services need to be accessible with scalable frameworks that can be replicated in multiple urban spaces. Creating these types of extension services helps small operations succeed and grow in urban spaces.</p> <p>We strongly suggest removing references that emphasize a particular approach, such as agroecology and regenerative practices in this case.</p>

	<p>Furthermore, “bioeconomy” in this context refers to “circular bioeconomy.” The United States’ position is that there are many kinds of bioeconomies that are defined by national definitions and priorities.</p>
<p>4. Strengthen food systems actors’ <b>equitable</b> access to capacity development programmes for the use of innovation and technologies such as water efficient hydroponics, vertical and indoor farming, renewable energy systems, artificial intelligence, as well as social innovations such as community gardens; (innovations)</p>	<p>Comment: The United States reserves on the term “capacity development”</p>
<p><b>Midstream (storage, processing, transportation, wholesale)</b></p>	
<p>Governments, including subnational and local government authorities, the private sector and civil society <del>should</del> <b>are encouraged to:</b></p>	<p>Comment:</p>
<p>5. Strengthen public and private investment in infrastructure and logistics, and enhance capacities in the intermediary segments of urban food value chains, <del>to increase access</del> to increase access to <b>safe and nutritious foods, including those that are</b> fresh and perishable, <b>foods</b> while supporting local economies and promoting sustainability. This may entail strengthening investment in innovation and technology, such as <b>climate-resilient</b>, energy-efficient and affordable storage systems, biodegradable or recyclable packaging, and digital platforms to effectively leverage the opportunities that urban and peri-urban food systems provide; (investment)</p>	<p>Comment: As written, this limits the access to healthy dietary products produced through urban agriculture. This edit broadens the scope of investments to include urban agricultural products that aren't included in "fresh and perishable" but still contribute to healthy diets.</p> <p>The United States reserves on all references to climate change, here and throughout the document.</p>
<p>6. Encourage social innovations such as community supported agriculture, food cooperatives, food hubs and farmers’ markets that enhance access to safe and nutritious food while</p>	<p>Comment: The United States cannot accept any reference to DEI language.</p>

<p>contributing to <del>equity, social inclusion dignity and respect for every person</del> and <del>more resilient</del> <del>tee</del> <del>food systems</del> across the rural and urban continuum; (social innovations)</p>	<p>Please modify “resilient food systems” with the word “more” as the progress on resilience is not static.</p>
<p>7. <del>Foster diversity of food actors and support inclusive wholesale markets to</del> strengthen connections with small- scale producers and informal sector actors, ensuring fair supply chain practices to redistribute value. This could entail supporting the use of innovation and technologies for small businesses that connect consumers to small scale producers through digital platforms and delivery services; (inclusive supply chains)</p>	<p>Comment:</p>
<p><b>Market and retail</b></p>	
<p>Governments, including subnational and local government authorities, <del>should</del> <del>are encouraged to</del>:</p>	<p>Comment:</p>
<p>8. Support territorial markets and shorter supply chains that integrate urban and rural functions into the national and subnational urban planning, thus promoting <del>more</del> sustainable management and use of natural resources and land, as well as increased access to <del>fresh agricultural products that promote healthy and nutritious diets</del> <del>produce</del> for all residents across the rural-urban continuum; (territorial markets)</p>	<p>Comment: Suggest changing the language to "agricultural products that promote healthy and nutritious diets". While fresh/wholesome foods are an aspect of healthy diets. Freshness does not always mean safe, and diversity in nutrients and foods is critical for a healthy diet. Supporting these markets should aim to increased availability of foods for healthy diets.</p> <p>The United States already implements efficient use of our resources. Adding the word, “more” prior to sustainable emphasizes that some countries are already using sustainable practices. Additionally, progress toward more efficient use of resources is not static, this should</p>

	<p>be modified with the word “<i>more</i>” sustainable management and use of natural resources</p>
<p>9. <del>Protect</del> <b>Support</b> and sustain traditional markets, <del>by strengthening investment in infrastructure, operations, logistics, innovation and technology, access to water and affordable energy, as well as by providing through capacity development technical assistance,</del> and training <del>across the</del> <b>to</b> value chain <del>of</del> actors, particularly informal vendors, to <del>enhance</del> encourage the use of <del>science- and risk-based international standards for</del> food safety <del>standards</del> across the rural urban continuum; (food safety)</p>	<p>Comment: We encourage this paragraph to remain focused on food safety within traditional markets. Additionally, the investment options open to government to strengthen food safety standards in traditional markets should be dictated by domestic needs that are identified through free markets.</p> <p>Further, traditional markets and actors across the value chain should use existing international standards rather than reinventing the wheel. Additionally, food safety standards should be based on both science and risk.</p>
<p>10. <del>Address power imbalances across the rural-urban continuum to</del> Foster competition and diversification of food distribution channels. This entails supporting traditional and community markets, street food vendors, supermarkets, online delivery services, as well as non-market channels, such as food procurement, community, <del>solidarity</del> kitchens and food banks that enable equitable access to adequate, safe, nutritious and affordable foods, <del>in the context of food security and nutrition,</del> which promote livelihoods and increase the resilience of households; (diversified distribution)</p>	<p>Comment:</p>
<p>11. Strengthen the capacities of peasants, smallholders, <del>and</del> family farmers <del>–especially women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities–</del> to access international, regional, national and local markets, by strengthening cooperatives, farmers collectives, associations,</p>	<p>Comment:</p>

<p>unions, networks and other organizations, while also promoting enterprise and entrepreneurship, which can expand their bargaining power and allow meaningful participation in agriculture and food systems value chains, including in territorial markets; (inclusive market participation)</p>	
<p>12. Provide incentives for the purchase of healthy and sustainably produced foods, particularly in areas where <b>multidimensional</b> poverty is prevalent, including through appropriate regulatory instruments such as nutritional <b>warning</b> labels and fiscal measures that promote consumption of <b>fresh foods nutritious and safe foods</b>; (regulatory and fiscal instruments)</p>	<p>Comment: As this recommendation is focused on increasing purchase of healthy foods, it is more appropriate to use “nutritional labels” instead of “nutritional warning labels” to encompass positive nutrition labels and the full suite of front-of-pack nutrition labels. The HLPE report included examples of nutrition labeling beyond warning labels.</p>
<p>13. Promote behavior change towards healthier food choices <b>and safe food handling practices</b> on the part of consumers through targeted food nutrition <b>and food safety</b> education, awareness raising campaigns, which can include public education campaigns, interpersonal communication and community dialogues as a way to positively influence knowledge, attitudes and social norms; (nutrition and food safety education)</p>	<p>Comment: The United States suggests including an emphasis on food safety education</p>
<p><b>Public procurement and non-market initiatives</b></p>	
<p>Governments, including subnational and local government authorities, <b>should are encouraged to:</b></p>	<p>Comment:</p>
<p>14. Prioritize and invest in nutrition oriented public procurement programmes, such as school feeding programmes, incentivizing locally produced foods, prioritizing smallholders and targeting the poorest and most vulnerable across the rural-urban continuum, to achieve multiple objectives related to nutrition, sustainability,</p>	<p>Comment:</p>



biodiversity, social inclusion and resilience of livelihoods; (food procurement programmes)	
15. Strengthen government capacities to provide food aid in crises, leveraging civil society’s reach and local networks and ensure that food aid from international organizations reinforces local and national food systems for long- term resilience; (food assistance)	Comment:
<b>Food losses and waste</b>	
Governments, including subnational and local government authorities, and all relevant stakeholders <del>should</del> are encouraged to:	Comment:
16. Strive to minimize food loss and waste throughout all stages of the food value chain across the rural and urban continuum by: <del>supporting providing supportive</del> infrastructure such as shading and cold storage units; facilitating access to innovation and technology to informal sector actors to increase availability of fresh, nutritious, and safe foods, <del>food</del> and preserve perishable foods; providing training and resources; and supporting circular economy approaches through <del>redistribution</del> programmes that repurpose surplus food and reduce waste and adoption of sustainable practices such as composting. (food losses and waste)	<p>Comment: Suggest including this language to focus this recommendation on increasing the availability to healthy diets.</p> <p>The United States reserves on the food loss and waste recommendation</p>
<b>B. Urban and peri-urban interrelated systems that impact food security and nutrition</b>	
Governments, including subnational and local government authorities, <del>should</del> are encouraged to:	Comment:
17. Incentivize access to and investments for the provision of basic physical and social infrastructure for all, without discrimination, including housing, reliable and affordable energy, safe drinking water and sanitation, waste management, education, and information and communications technologies to enable healthy	Comment:

<p>diets, safer food handling, washing, preparation and cooking of meals at home, targeting low-income residents and neighborhoods; (physical and social infrastructure)</p>	
<p>18. Increase responsible investment in infrastructure, including for transport, services and technologies and ensure that it benefits areas where multidimensional poverty is prevalent, by adopting territorial approaches while also strengthening local, national, regional and international, trade and market connectivity; (improved connectivity)</p>	<p>Comment:</p>
<p><del>19.— Enhance equitable and affordable access to quality health services for all across the rural-urban continuum for improved food security and nutrition outcomes, particularly for women of child-bearing age, pregnant and breastfeeding women and children; (health services)</del></p>	<p>Comment: Suggest deleting this recommendation as it appears to be tangential to the mandate of this committee and the purpose of these policy recommendations.</p>
<p><del>20:19.</del> Embed and explicitly integrate food, including food trade infrastructure, into urban planning to ensure that all residents across the rural-urban continuum, regardless of income, race, or geography, can access nutritious, affordable food; (urban planning)</p>	<p>Comment:</p>
<p><del>21:20.</del> Design interventions that integrate disaster risk reduction into urban planning and design, <del>prioritizing climate risk mitigation,</del> enhancing resilience of supply chains, and strengthening critical infrastructure, such as cold storage and distribution networks, to ensure food security and nutrition can continue to meet the needs of U-PU residents in times of crisis; (resilient supply chains)</p>	<p>Comment: The United States reserves on all references to climate change, here and throughout the document.</p>
<p><del>22:21.</del> Integrate spatial planning into urban and peri-urban food security policies to promote sustainable land use, safeguard agricultural land, urban forests and green spaces, to enhance <del>climate mitigation,</del> biodiversity and food systems' resilience and foster disaster risk reduction. <del>This requires strengthened coordination between land-</del></p>	<p>Comment: Suggest deleting as this second sentence seems to restate the first one.</p> <p>Comment: The United States reserves on all references to</p>

<p><del>use planning and food system governance to manage urban growth while enhancing the resilience of food systems across the rural urban continuum</del>; (spatial planning)</p>	<p>climate change, here and throughout the document.</p>
<p><del>23.22.</del> Integrate food security into housing and zoning policies by supporting food production solutions within the built environment, including urban farms, green infrastructure, and the use of underutilized spaces in both new developments and urban areas in need of improvement. Identify and remove regulatory barriers to urban agriculture, particularly in areas where food insecurity is most prevalent; (housing and zoning)</p>	<p>Comment:</p>
<p><del>24.23.</del> Promote access to decent work <del>and employment</del> in food systems across the rural-urban continuum, with specific attention to young people <del>and</del> seasonal workers, by strengthening and enforcing regulatory frameworks and laws to enable wages that provide an adequate standard of living; (decent work <del>and employment</del>)</p>	<p>Comment: Suggest deleting, as "employment" is duplicative. Employment is already captured in the internationally-recognized concept of "decent work"</p>
<p><del>25.24.</del> Develop and invest in social protection programmes, <del>including shock-responsive and conditional cash transfer programmes</del>, that meet the specific needs of the poorest and most vulnerable across the rural-urban continuum, <del>prioritizing youth and women</del>. (social protection)</p>	<p>Comment:</p>
<p><b>C. Urban and peri-urban governance for food security and nutrition</b></p>	<p>Comment:</p>
<p>National governments <del>should</del> <del>are encouraged to</del>:</p>	<p>Comment:</p>
<p><del>26.25.</del> Ensure that municipal financing is adequate and coherent with municipal mandates, particularly in Low and Middle-Income Countries (LMIC) contexts, and identify and promote innovative approaches for mobilizing resources, such as municipal bonds and public-private partnerships; (financing and resource mobilization)</p>	<p>Comment:</p>
<p><del>27.26.</del> Include local and subnational governments in the development of national food security and nutrition policies and strategies; <del>and promote the coordination and collaboration of their</del></p>	<p>Comment: Suggest highlighting the need for effective coordination and collaboration between governmental</p>

<p>agencies, policies, and programs to enhance the effectiveness and maximize the impact of government efforts (<del>inclusive</del> participatory governance)</p>	<p>authorities when creating urban agricultural policy. There are instances where ineffective governance has accidentally excluded urban agriculture programs and benefits. Collaboration between national, sub-national, and local governments is paramount for the competitiveness of urban and peri-urban.</p> <p>Edit “inclusive” to participatory to add clarity.</p>
<p><b>28:27.</b> Develop and strengthen the capacities of food system actors across the rural-urban continuum, particularly those of the poorest, the most vulnerable and those most at risk of being left behind, to effectively engage in and influence decision-making, including in areas related to trade and investment, by enhancing their skills in financial literacy, market dynamics, land tenure, <del>climate system</del> resilience, consumer awareness, among others; (capacity development)</p>	<p>Comment: Suggest including International Organizations (IOs) on rec. 28. Allowing food systems actors, the ability to participate through authorized mechanisms can strengthen the recommendations and guidance that are produced by IO's as well. Education on how they can participate is crucial.</p> <p>Additionally, ‘system’ resilience is more appropriate given the para refers to ‘food systems.’</p> <p>The United States reserves on all references to climate change, here and throughout the document.</p>
<p><b>29:28.</b> <del>Strive to align trade regulations and policies with</del> Use science- and risk-based international standards as the basis of regulations and policies at the national and subnational <del>efforts</del> levels to support more <del>towards improving</del></p>	<p>Comment: The United States supports improving equality of opportunity, but not blanket endorsements of equality of outcomes.</p>

<p><b>equitable equality of opportunity for access to and affordability of healthy diets and restrain from imposing export bans on food or fertilizer, which adversely effect global food markets and the ability of the most vulnerable to afford food, in accordance with national contexts and international trade obligations;</b> (policy coherence)</p>	<p>Suggest these edit as countries should not just be aligning within themselves. This edit helps to prevent barriers to trade. Countries should use international standards from relevant bodies, such as Codex for nutrition. Basing measures on international standards will guide global and subregional alignment around the best available science.</p>
<p><b>30:29.</b> Strengthen the agency of food system actors across the rural-urban continuum, particularly the poorest, the most vulnerable, and those most at risk of being left behind, by fostering their meaningful inclusion, participation and representation in multi-level, multi-actor and multi-sectoral platforms, such as food policy councils; (agency)</p>	<p>Comment:</p>
<p><b>31:30.</b> Promote, support and finance North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation as well as subnational, decentralized and city-to-city cooperation to help <del>populations</del> <b>individuals across the rural-urban continuum realize their right to an achieve-an</b> adequate standard of living, including the right to adequate food, <b>in the context of national food security ;across the rural-urban continuum;</b> (cooperation for development)</p>	<p>Comment: U.S. legal edits to improve accuracy of reference to the right to an adequate standard of living and to specify that human rights apply to individuals.</p>
<p><b>32:31.</b> Promote human rights based accountability frameworks that assess roles, responsibilities and mandates of different levels of governance in shaping food security and nutrition policies, and nutrition outcomes across the rural-urban continuum, while fostering inclusive multi-actor participation across platforms with specific measure for managing conflicts of interest. (accountability)</p>	<p>Comment:</p>
<p><b>D. Strengthen data, research and knowledge systems to enable improved understanding and</b></p>	

<p><b>monitoring of food security and nutrition across the rural urban continuum</b></p>	
<p>Governments, including subnational and local government authorities, and International Organizations <del>should</del> are encouraged to:</p>	<p>Comment:</p>
<p><del>33</del>:32. Prioritize capacity development on FSN data collection, analysis and use<sup>6</sup> across the rural urban continuum, as well as on geographic information systems, remote sensing, digital tools and participatory mapping to target areas most vulnerable to food-system disruption and to inform long term planning and crisis response; (capacity development)</p>	<p>Comment:</p>
<p><del>34</del>:33. Ensure finer grain disaggregation of FSN data by geospatial location and socioeconomic status and incorporate qualitative data to capture multiple and compounding dimensions of vulnerability across the rural urban continuum; (data disaggregation)</p>	<p>Comment:</p>
<p><del>35</del>:34. Invest in tools, information technology and digital systems that address data gaps such as those in the midstream sector and streamline and simplify FSN data collection while improving data quality; (investment in data collection)</p>	<p>Comment:</p>
<p><del>36</del>:35. Invest in and enhance monitoring and evaluation of food policies and programmes by implementing comprehensive assessment frameworks that also include evaluating economic development, environmental sustainability, and other broader socio-economic effects; (monitoring and evaluation)</p>	<p>Comment:</p>
<p><del>37</del>:36. Invest in and learn from local governments, city food networks, local universities, civil society organizations and local knowledge institutions, as a mechanism for leveraging diverse knowledge, including traditional knowledge, digital tools, participatory frameworks, and multi-stakeholder platforms. This approach ensures transparency, enables progress tracking, and facilitates the sharing of lessons, results, and</p>	<p>Comment:</p>

challenges between cities and across sectors; (knowledge sharing)	
<b>38:37.</b> Prioritize funding for interdisciplinary research, including research innovation qualitative and participatory research that focuses on the complexities of food security and nutrition across the rural-urban continuum, encompassing agricultural practices, urban planning, supply chain dynamics, public health, and social sciences. (interdisciplinary research)	Comment:

