

Priority issues to be addressed during the CFS Policy Convergence on Strengthening Urban and Peri-Urban Food Systems

Inputs from Hungary

We welcome the HLPE report as a reasonable basis for the policy convergence process and appreciate the preparatory meeting on governance at the end of 2024 and the meaningful discussions at the first OEWG meeting on the 13th December 2024.

We wish to highlight the following priority issues.

1. Following the **human rights-based approach** is essential during the discussions and preparation of the policy recommendations. Among others, the Right to Food, the Right to Housing, the Right to a Sustainable and Healthy Environment, and the Right to Decent Work should be duly respected, with a special focus on decent work and dignified income for food workers in peri-urban and urban food systems.
2. **Inclusivity** should be the guiding principle throughout the whole process. In this regard, it would be highly appropriate and necessary to **involve representatives of Local Governments and Municipal Authorities via for example food policy councils or civic food system initiatives** throughout the whole process and give due consideration to their proposals while preparing policy recommendations.
3. A holistic approach - also recommended by recent FSCI (<https://www.nature.com/articles/s43016-024-01109-4>) should be followed in the policy convergence process, including **fostering synergies with the relevant CFS workstreams** (for example on inequalities, and others). Similarly, due consideration should be given to the outcomes of a series of related CFS intersessional events and side events at CFS, HLPF, UNFSS1 and UNFSS2.
4. In accordance with the recent UN report by IPBES (<https://www.ipbes.net/nexus/media-release>) more acknowledgement should be paid to cross-cutting issues of nutrition, food safety, climate and biodiversity protection, in support of efforts aiming at **transformation of food systems to make them sustainable and resilient**, to be able to provide a sustainable healthy diet for all.
5. While the focus should remain on identifying solutions to the problems in urban and peri-urban areas, the **reasons of the high and growing number of poor and malnourished people in urban areas, along with the root causes of depopulation of rural area, and the spatial-temporal interconnectedness** should also be addressed.

6. Discussions should be extended also to the **drivers of unhealthy food environments**, requiring a thorough assessment. In this context, specific attention should be paid to policies leading to artificially low prices (in consequence of disregarding the environmental and health externalities) of low quality, unhealthy food products, which are available and affordable for the poorest segments of populations. Policies determining peoples' food choices are often influenced by lobbyists of **multinationals involved in production, processing, trade, retail, marketing and advertising of ultra-processed and other forms of unhealthy food**. For these reasons the **corporate concentration of power leading to imbalances and conflicts of interests** should be duly addressed.
7. All the necessary technical support for this CFS workstream is appreciated and should be continued to be provided by FAO and the other RBAs. In this regard, also for the sake of coherence, the data, information and methodology of recent **FAO flagship publications (SOFI, SOFA, etc.)** should be given due considerations, including the **true cost accounting** principle applied in the last two editions of SOFA. This could be relevant also when considering issues such as food environment, food choices and **affordability**.
8. The policy recommendations as outcomes of this convergence process should be **action-oriented** and clearly indicate to whom they are addressed, in accordance with the different and **distinct roles and responsibilities of the relevant stakeholders**.
9. In relation to the proposed structure presented by the Rapporteur on the 13th December, an additional segment should be included as an independent chapter, or perhaps under the part on Governance. It could be about the **need for creating an enabling policy environment**. It could start with a situation assessment, followed by setting objectives. To reach the objectives, an enabling policy environment would be essential, with policy measures including appropriate incentives.
10. The **financing** of urban and peri-urban food systems transformation and resilience is essential. In this context, specific priorities should be given **to short supply chains and to the financial inclusion of small-scale and informal sector actors** and it should be an integral part of the recommendations.
11. A number of best practices and case studies could be collected, from all parts of the World, including public catering, school meal programmes supplied by organic and agroecological producers, community and school gardens, community-supported agriculture (CSA), urban farming with technological and social innovations, innovative production methods such as vertical and indoor farming, etc. Such best practices could be presented in a **CFS inter-sessional event in the first half of 2025 and a compilation of the best practices** could be prepared and shared with all interested parties.