**Invitation to an open discussion**

**on the political outcome document of the ICN**

**Comment Form**

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| **Personal information** Name: **Molly D. Anderson**Organization: College of the AtlanticLocation: Bar Harbor, ME, USAEmail: manderson@coa.edu |

1. **Do you have any general comments on the draft political declaration and its vision (paragraphs 1-3 of the zero draft)?**

The failure to place this document in a human rights-based framework, with specific reference to the need to respect, protect and fulfill the right to adequate food and nutrition, compromises it value and the ability to support ongoing efforts of FAO in other ways.

#1) I would like to see overnutrition (excess calories) called out explicitly, rather than implicitly through the term “unbalanced diet”.

#2) It would be more accurate to say "some progress and some regression" instead of "modest and uneven progress" in reducing malnutrition.

* It would be preferable to use numbers of people affected by each of the specific issues here.
* The ingestion of chemical contaminants is due to in adequate regulation of private industries, not just “unsafe food supplies”.

#3) The causes of malnutrition should include lack of attention by various parties to respecting, protecting and fulfilling the human right to food.

- The “evolution” of food systems is not an unalloyed good, and the wording here implies that great increases in meat and dairy are positive. Meat and dairy are especially resource intensive in some production systems, and should be curtailed. And “evolution” is not the right term; changes in food systems have occurred through specific policy changes and investment for specific purposes, not all of which have served the public good.

1. **Do you have any comments on the background and analysis provided in the political declaration (paragraphs 4-20 of the zero draft)?**

#6-7) The important thing is to ACT on these commitments, not keep “renewing” them.  Acting effectively requires analysis---better understanding why progress that should have happened with previous commitments has not happened---and then addressing those barriers.

#8) It's the Committee on World Food Security, not the Committee of Food Security.  This point should be re-worded to make explicit that the Global Strategic Framework of the CFS specifies that all decisions concerning food policy must be congruent with the Voluntary Guidelines for the Progressive Realization of the RtF (pages 37-38).  These various documents and processes aren't just sitting out there in isolation, that is;  they build on each other. Rather than simply “recalling” these documents, it is necessary to comply with them.

#10) Who is supposed to ensure that food systems guarantee an adequate supply of fruit and veg, and avoid an excess of bad stuff?  This would be stronger if the national governments were called out as the agents accountable for this through more effective regulation of the private sector.  And why should we just be "avoiding" excess and food processing that reduces or adversely affects nutrition?  A visionary document should call for ELIMINATING.

#11) The things listed in the parentheses aren't "systems" (except for transportation)---they are resources, although their management fits into systems of resource management. It is important that these resources be sustainable themselves, not just sustainably managed. DO give particular mention to agroecology here as an “environmentally sensitive farming system”, but DON’T give “Climate Smart Agriculture” special recognition---it has problematic components. However, food systems that are adapted to global environmental change and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions are extremely important. Call out food waste in a separate bullet; the elimination of waste throughout the food system (not only in consumption and storage) must be done.

#12) Respecting, protecting and fulfilling the right to adequate food and nutrition should be the goal of all development policies, not “nutrition” per se.

#13) Raising agricultural productivity is not a universal goal, although it is applicable in some countries. This must not be at the expense of ecological integrity and the continued provision of ecosystem goods and services, as it has been in industrialized countries for several decades. Add MEAT to the things for which excessive consumption should be curbed.  Generally overconsumption of meat and its resource impacts are left out of this documents.

#14) People are rights holder first, “consumers” second. This paragraph gives an unfortunate individualistic focus---I would rather see acknowledgement that people are better empowered to achieve their right to adequate food and nutrition when the entire food system promotes healthy food and makes it accessible.

#15) Replace “is” with "must be" in the first line, and add "should" in the very last line.

#17-20) These points should acknowledge the need for rights-based approaches from planning through implementation and monitoring. That is, people who are vulnerable and who have enjoyed adequate food and nutrition should be involves in planning, implementing and evaluating interventions with full support, not only “all relevant ministries and departments”.

#20) The accountability framework should include information on process as well as outcomes.

1. **Do you have any comments on the commitments proposed in the political declaration? In this connection, do you have any suggestions to contribute to a more technical elaboration to guide action and implementation on these commitments (paragraphs 21-23 of the zero draft)?**

21.

*Commitment I: aligning our food systems (systems for food production, storage and distribution)to people’s health needs;*

These food systems should be aligned with the right to adequate food and nutrition.

*Commitment II: making our food systems equitable, enabling all to access nutritious foods.*

*Commitment III: making our food systems provide safe and nutritious food in a sustainable and resilient way*

*Commitment IV: ensuring that nutritious food is accessible, affordable and acceptable through the coherent implementation of public policies throughout food value chains.*

Not all food comes through “food value chains”. Acknowledge the important role of household subsistence as well as commercial food production.

*Commitment V: establishing governments’ leadership for shaping food systems.*

Government leadership is needed to address the right to adequate food and nutrition through every food system activity.

*Commitment VI: encouraging contributions from all actors in society;*

Contributions from the private sector need appropriate oversight and monitoring to ensure that they meet the public good and not only serve private interests.

*Commitment VII: implementing a framework through which our progress with achieving the targets and implementing these commitments can be monitored, and through which we will be held accountable.*

22. Commit to launch a Decade of Action on Nutrition guided by a Framework for Action and to report biennially on its implementation to FAO, WHO and ECOSOC. 23. Commit to integrate the objectives and directions of the Ten Year Framework for Action into the post-2015 global development efforts.

This should be done in coordination with civil society and the Committee on World Food Security.