**Invitation to an open discussion**

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

**Comment Form**

|  |
| --- |
| **Personal information**  Name: Jennifer Clapp  Organization: University of Waterloo  Location: Waterloo, ON, CANADA  Email: jclapp@uwaterloo.ca |

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

* Mention could be made of progress on the right to food
* The second bullet point under paragraph 2 might note the prevalence of stunting, especially among children (approx. 25%) to give a better picture of the significance of this problem, and the fact (as was made clear in SOFI 13) that there isn’t necessarily a direct link between PoU and the prevalence of stunting.
* It might be worth noting that there are some 2bn people who experience micronutrient deficiencies, which is a high percentage of the global population.
* In general, it would be good if under each bullet point there was consistency when giving numbers of people experiencing a certain condition, as well as prevalence. At present some issues give prevalence, some a number, and it’s difficult to ascertain the weight of the problem when the measurement is different in each case.

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

* para 4 - in the same sentence it mentions malnutrition causing 'half' of child deaths, and then obesity causing 3m deaths – why a ratio for one and a number for the other? Half of child deaths is likely to be far greater in number terms than 3m from obesity. Perhaps these points should be separated and stick to a ratio or a number, but not mix them. Otherwise it is difficult to see any relationship between them when stated this way.
* Para 7 - speaks of renewing commitments to reducing the 'number' of children under 5 who are stunted; reduce anemia (no target mentioned); and the 'prevalence' of overweight in children under five, and the rest are rates/prevalence. Maybe past commitments were of a mixed type (number, prevalence, etc), but perhaps the information could be clarified with a consistent set of measures (number or prevalence)
* Para 10 – this section is mostly about production and supply; but perhaps should say something about distribution too?
* Para 11 – perhaps food waste should have its bullet or number. It's very important – and not just 'consumption and storage' losses – or at least the literature on this topic typically talks about losses in production, post-harvest and storage, and consumption. Perhaps mention that over 30% of all food globally is wasted.
* Para 12 – Perhaps 'economic framework' or even 'trade and investment' could be mentioned among the various sectors where food and nutrition should be addressed. The economic policy framework is very important for determining food access and should not be left out.
* Para 14 – add 'stainable' so that it says empowering the consumer to make healthy and sustainable food choices is essential. Para 14 where the term 'market economy' is mentioned – could add ‘local to national to global level’ so that it’s clear what scale this is referring to. Otherwise it seemed broad and risks being vague.

More generally, more specific mention of the Right to Food would be useful.

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)?**

The chapeau to the commitments refers to the 'global food system' but the actual commitments refer to 'our food systems'. It is not immediately clear whether the commitments refer to committing governments to make changes at the national level only. Are governments also being asked to address *global* frameworks (e.g. inequities in global trade, investment, etc) that can contribute to some of the problems of malnutrition?

Please provide your comments in the appropriate fields relating to these commitments:

21.

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

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

Should this refer more explicitly to realization of the right to food?

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.

This commitment could be more explicit about scale – global frameworks for trade and investment policies affect food access, as much as do national and local policies.

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

Commitment VI: encouraging contributions from all actors in society;

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.