**CFS POLICY PROCESS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON FOOD SYSTEMS AND NUTRITION**

**TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSIONS**

1. **Does Chapter 1 adequately reflect the current situation of malnutrition and its related causes and impacts, particularly in line with the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda? What are the underlying problems that currently hinder food systems to deliver healthy diets?**

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| **Yes in terms of malnutrition and direct causes.** **Underlying problems that hinder food systems to deliver healthy diets are not described. In Central America, issues of availability (what is easy for people to get) and affordability (prince) and ease (facility to prepare) are important factors in household consumption choices as well as cultural and social factors. Traditional diets are seen as habits of the poor and there is large social pressure to change household consumption both at home and out of the home towards more unhealthy patterns.**  |

1. **What should be the guiding principles to promote sustainable food systems that improve nutrition and enable healthy diets? What are your comments about the principles outlined in Chapter 2? Are they the most appropriate for your national/regional contexts?**

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| **The principles are in general good. There are two areas where they do not comment but could – first it does not put much emphasis on within household parts of the food system ie food production as it relates to energy consumption and waste in cooking, storing and consuming nor technologies or behaviour that are labor saving or waste reducing. This could include also behavior change in restaurants or processed foods that support desired outcomes for individuals. Second, it does not provide any comment on how to prioritize among different food system outcomes or any hierarchy, for example when balancing trade offs between malnutrition and environment, which takes priority in what circumstance? I believe understanding trade offs is important, and minimizing where possible, but if a choice needs to be made, are there principles to guide this? Third, except for the mention of the right to food for all, there is very little emphasis on providing outcomes for the poorest populations. Without this explicitly, the principles could be applied and work for a part of the population while excluding those most marginalized. At some level, certain income groups should have their own means of addressing issues of consumption (recognizing that this is increasingly a concern society wide given costs). It may be that returns on investment lead governments to invest in addressing non communicable diseases in middle and lower middle class at the expense of poorer populations. Is that ok or should there be a principle on this? It is not a simple answer but very important for Latin America.**  |

1. **In consideration of the policy areas identified in Chapter 3 and the enabling factors suggested in paragraph 41 of the Zero Draft, what policy entry points should be covered in Chapter 3, taking into account the need to foster policy coherence and address policy fragmentation?**

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| **Regulation of retailers is absent as a policy option that can contribute to balance of power within the system, or to favor retailing systems for food and prepared food that deliver desired outcomes in different areas of interest. The unfair competitive practices and advantages of some powerful actors within the system has been documented and often leads to outcompeting their competitors with implications for the food system and its ability to deliver desired outcomes or the ability of the state or market to regulate it.** **I think the policy entry point categories are good. Trade offs and what to do about them will be a challenge in this section. Is there a way to help understand which entry points you may want to choose in which contexts or to achieve which kinds of outcomes? Something that guides policy makers towards which entry points to prioritize for what. For example if your focus is rural vs urban populations, profit vs health, or health vs environment how do you unpack the situation and decide what priority is and minimize impacts in the other spheres.** **There are major interactions between policies of different sectors but also at different domains ie national vs municipal vs subnational level. This is not discussed but if there is a guide to say which entry points make sense to focus at which level or how to focus each at national vs municipal level that could be helpful.** **There are also a number of no brainer policy options that should be flagged, or for which evidence base should be amassed, that allow policy makers to quickly implement options that have low negative and high positive impact, and help to navigate the political obstacles. For example nutritional labeling.**  |

1. **Can you provide specific examples of new policies, interventions, initiatives, alliances and institutional arrangements which should be considered, as well as challenges, constraints, and trade-offs relevant to the three constituent elements of food systems presented in Chapter 3? In your view, what would the “ideal” food system look like, and what targets/metrics can help guide policy-making?**

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| **The private sector, big and small, needs to be part of the conversation and the state needs to govern for best outcomes, not political pressure.**  |

1. **How would these Voluntary Guidelines be most useful for different stakeholders, especially at national and regional levels, once endorsed by CFS?**

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| **You may want to think about guidelines for different kinds of stakeholders. For example what should governments do if they commit to them, which is how this is mostly written. But also what should a private company say a restaurant or retailer do if they want to adhere? What about a school? Or a household/social movement of households? Like the I do not use straws or I do not throw garbage on the street kind of messages and behavior change at scale. Or if I am a municipality or a hotel. I would focus on the actors or groups of actors with the largest impact to be had and think about what compliance would mean for them to make it easy and clear how they can support and sign on.** |