

CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition – Promoting healthy diets through sustainable food systems

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COMMITTEE ON
WORLD FOOD
SECURITY

A webinar organized by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

Tuesday 8 June 2021, 15.00-16.00 (CET)

Registration link: https://fao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AO76JFGFQUqvXO7MKZIHjQ

About

Hunger and malnutrition in all its forms – undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity – are major challenges from which no country is immune. In order to address the challenges and negative impacts associated with malnutrition, it is crucial for countries to inclusively develop policy and institutional reforms that promote sustainable food systems that deliver healthy diets and improve nutrition while protecting biodiversity and the environment.

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) – of which the World Health Organization (WHO) is an ad hoc Advisory Group member - formally adopted “[Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition](#)” on 10 February 2021 during its 47th plenary session (CFS 47). Resulting from a five-year inclusive multi-stakeholder consultation and negotiation process informed by the scientific evidence of the [CFS High Level Panel of Experts](#), these Guidelines represent a concrete tool in the hands of governments, UN agencies, civil society, private sector, financial institutions and other development actors to provide guidance on policies and interventions to address malnutrition in all its forms through a holistic ‘food systems’ perspective. The Guidelines aim at promoting policy coherence and reducing policy fragmentation between relevant sectors like health, agriculture, education, environment, gender, social protection, trade and employment - all of which impact food systems and nutrition. As a further contribution to the [UN Decade of Action on Nutrition \(2016-2025\)](#), the Voluntary Guidelines will help countries further operationalize ICN2 recommendations, and will support development of coordinated, multi-sectoral national policies, laws, programmes and investment plans to enable safe and healthy diets through sustainable food systems. The Guidelines recognize the importance of interventions within and across food systems and their constituent elements - food supply chains, food environments, consumer behaviour - to improve their ability to deliver healthy diets and generate positive outcomes along the three dimensions of sustainable development. They include a wide range of recommendations to

promote transparent and accountable governance, sustainable food supply chains, access to healthy diets, food safety across sustainable food systems, nutrition education, gender equality, and resilient food systems in humanitarian contexts.

The event seeks to raise awareness about the Voluntary Guidelines among the Geneva community, its substantive content with particular attention to the health dimension and priority areas and actions to advance public health in the context of sustainable food systems. The discussion will also focus on how these Guidelines could represent a useful tool in the hands of policy makers and development partners, will explore how the Guidelines can be used at regional, country, and local levels, and will touch upon the role of different stakeholders and coordination mechanisms in promoting the uptake of the Guidelines on the ground.

Format of the session

A moderated panel discussion will be followed by a Q&A session with the audience.


Moderator: Waiganjo Njoroge (CFS Secretariat)


Opening remarks: Naoko Yamamoto, Chairperson, UN Nutrition


Panelists:

- **Chris Hegadorn**, Secretary, Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
- **Francesco Branca**, Director, Department of Nutrition and Food Safety, WHO
- **Gerda Verburg**, Coordinator, Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement
- **Ferew Lemma Feyissa**, Senior Advisor, Office of the State Minister, Federal Ministry of Health of Ethiopia and SUN Government Focal Point
- **Mary Mpereh**, Chief Policy Analyst, SUN Technical Focal Point, Lead convener, Food Systems Summit Dialogues

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