CSM Comments for the April Session of the CFS Nutrition OEWG

This is the final stage of the discussion and we should therefore only focus on key changes to the document that can be made during the actual session, as the document is now submitted for final approval. This means that “surgical” limited changes (one work, one sentence) have much higher chance than structural ones that involve significant re-organization of the text. We should also be careful as many positive inclusions (several references to the RTF, women’s rights, etc.) could easily be undermined by significant in-session editing.

CSM Comments on Decision Box

- Item (b): change “malnutrition” with “malnutrition in all its forms”
- Item (c): change “common understanding of issues” with “common understanding of the challenges of malnutrition in all its forms”

CSM Comments on Final Draft Document

- Para 6: change “improved nutrition” with “nutritional well-being”
- Para 7: While improved from the earlier formulation, this vision continues to remain limited. Some dimensions included in our earlier comments (diversified and balanced diets, active and healthy lives) have been included, but many others are still missing, including the rights of women, access to care and healthy environment, protection against misleading publicity and abusive marketing, among others. Furthermore, the vision only indirectly refers to the realization of the Right to Adequate Food and Nutrition. Changing this would be very tricky, as it would open a Pandora Box of comments. We need to decide if to embark in the inclusion of the “Right to Adequate Food and Nutrition” in the text of the vision;
- Para 13: Despite significant progress, there remains a significant underestimation of the global coordination function, as it is merely presented as the sum of everything else with no specific activities assigned to it. This does not reflect the fact that remains significant fragmentation in nutrition action and many new programmes will be designed to implement the SDGs: the need for coordination, harmonization and coherence will therefore increase even further and the CFS could offer a space for all implementation agencies to share and harmonize their action agendas and strengthen collaborative action (as per Reform document). Furthermore, monitoring and accountability are not correctly reflected in the document (the reviewing progress section does not mention accountability) and the lessons sharing function remains delinked from progress review (as some sort of knowledge sharing process not directly functional to progress monitoring). The concrete proposal was to establish a distinct function on “Coordination” with specific activities focus on harmonization of implementation and collaborative action (including intersessional work) and merge the “Lessons Sharing” and “Progress Monitoring” into one function, with greater coherence with the CFS monitoring workstream. However, this was not included and, at this stage, these changes would not be supported by others as this would mean not endorsing the document during the session. We need to decide if to raise this objection (a similar discussion id currently undergoing within the SDG process);
- Para 18: After essential role of women, suggested deletion of “in the nutrition and health of their families”, as this frames women’s role in traditional patriarchal terms;
• Note 16: Reference to the SUN has been re-inserted and we should call for its deletion.