

CSM Nutrition WG

Report of the meeting on March 6-8, 2018, Rome

Participants: see annex 1 below

Three main points were on the agenda of the meeting:

1. Initial round of comments on key elements that CSO would like to see included in the upcoming CFS guidelines on nutrition and food systems:

A draft input paper was shared with participants beforehand to kick-start this discussion. See annex 2 below. Participants were asked to comment on it and to highlight what are the key issues/struggles related to the right to food and nutrition that their organizations and constituencies are currently prioritizing. Following points were raised:

- Stress gender equality rather than gender equity
- Make a stronger nexus between production and consumption
- Selective policies that differentiate between food systems that generate malnutrition and those that address malnutrition
- Interconnect ecology, health, cultural identities, social fabric and livelihoods of producers/workers. This approach can highlight how agroecology is the key way forward as it responds to all these challenges
- Refer to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as framing document
- Stronger language on the interdependence between food and access to land/territories
- Regulation of marketing, with particular emphasis to children
- Include the call for sugar taxes
- Condemn the intensive use of anti-biotics, antimicrobial resistance, herbicides and pesticides (areal fumigations), damage to the health of workers and communities
- Support to small-scale production and agroecology, exposing the continued displacement of rural community with forced migrations, harassment and violence against HR defenders
- Problematize the food safety bias
- Make the nexus between biodiversity, agricultural diversity and dietary diversity
- Nutritional value of territories
- Structural inequalities in multiple domains and increased corporate control
- Recognition of the essential role of small-scale fisheries and the challenges confronted by fishing communities (ocean/water grabbing; limited market access)
- Stress the collective dimension of human rights
- Issue of sexual abuse/sexual violence as an instrument to condition women's access to the productive resources, income, food
- Knowledge dialogue among different forms of knowledge rather than hierarchy of knowledge with the so-called scientific knowledge at the top
- Robust safeguards against conflict of interest: maybe this can already be put in practise in the context of the negotiations

Follow up: Based on these comments we will revise our draft CSO vision on the CFS guidelines on nutrition and food systems. **We would like to call all organizations and constituencies to share with us key issues/struggles related to food and nutrition that you are currently prioritizing so that our vision is informed by these key issues. Please send your input until April 30, 2018.**

2. Discussion about the conceptual framework presented by the HLPE report on nutrition

This conceptual framework is being discussed in the TTT preparing the first session of the CFS OEWG on nutrition. TTT wants the CFS guidelines to focus on food environments only. Since the HLPE conceptual framing will influence the way the upcoming CFS guidelines are framed, we discussed which aspects of this conceptual framing are problematic and which aspects we can build on to advance our vision.

Useful elements:

- Having put nutrition in the context of food system, overcoming thus the disconnect between nutrition and food, ecology, culture, power
- Evidence in terms of the disastrous impacts of the existing food system on health, ecology and the social fabric

Overall concerns and invisible issues:

- Technocratic framework. Human rights framework mentioned but fundamentally only referenced choreographically
- Gender blind. Women are basically referred in reductionist terms and functional givers (care takers, breast-feeders, etc.). Gender analysis is fundamentally missing
- Workers are invisible through the cycle
- Hunting and gathering is completely missing while focus is merely on production
- Impossible to disaggregate the production side
- Model of production and its implications is somehow hidden under the carpet
- Chart does not expose the fundamental lines across which sustainability is built on
- The classification of food systems is biased and unhelpful. Reductionist approach on traditional systems, while featuring the supremacy of the modern system, with a homogenizing and unidimensional pathway to modernity. This goes against the CFS recognition of the importance of small food producers in policies such as Connecting Smallholders to Markets.
- The relation between producers and consumers is also invisible and lacks an articulation in the conceptual framework
- Disconnection between food systems and socio-cultural drivers (identified as external to the food systems)
- Agroecology cannot be limited to any one box as it offers a solution across the entire cycle

3. Possible counter framework

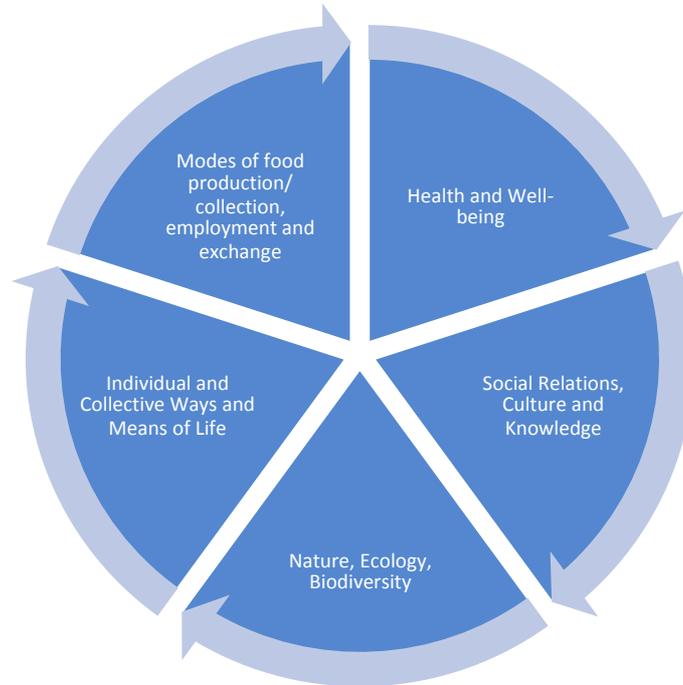
Based on our discussions, we started elaborating a possible counter framework to the one reducing the scope of the guidelines to food environments only. Our counter framework intends to address the key dimensions of food systems.

Holistic understanding of nutrition:

It is our common understanding that food is the expression of values, cultures, social relations and people's self-determination, and that the act of feeding oneself and others embodies our sovereignty, ownership and empowerment. When nourishing oneself and eating with one's family, friends, and community, we reaffirm our cultural identities, our ownership over our life course and our human dignity.

- Health dimension?
- Respect for life
- Reaffirmation of human rights framework and Right to Adequate Food
- Explicit mention of agroecology

Organic cycle of food systems for food sovereignty and nutrition: Centrality of HR framework (RtF, RtH, Women's rights, etc.) calls for the role of government and public policies



Follow up: We will continue working on this counter framework. We will develop a short document explaining these 5 dimensions and how CFS could be built alongside them.

Annex 1 - List of participants:

- 1) Angela Zarro, Society for International Development
- 2) Biplabi Shrestha, ARROW
- 3) Chiara Damen, Save the Children
- 4) Christiana Louwa, WFF
- 5) Cristina Grandi, IFOAM
- 6) Danilo Perez, Centro para la Defensa del Consumidor
- 7) Doris Evangelista, MAELA
- 8) Francesca Belli, Action
- 9) Glenda De Leon, MAELA
- 10) Isa Alvarez, Urgency
- 11) Louise Meincke, World Cancer Research Fund International
- 12) Maria Melinda Flores Ando, Centre for Health Policy Studies
- 13) Marinella Correggia, Global Forest Coalition
- 14) Nedwa Nech, World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers
- 15) Nicole Maria Yanes, International Indian Treaty Council
- 16) Nora McKeon, Terra Nuova
- 17) Sofia Monsalve, FIAN
- 18) Stefano Prato, Society for International Development
- 19) Svetlana Boinsean, IUF
- 20) Valentin Brochard, Action Contre la Faim
- 21) Velia Lucidi, Save the Children
- 22) Violeta Morales, WAMIP

Annex 2 – CSM working group background documents

The input paper in three language (English, French and Spanish) can be found in Dropbox at the following link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/gxmz0d9yxemlbqt/AACkygsUurX0iWrOpqLtUgK6a/Session%20III%20on%20CSM%20Vision%20for%20Guidelines?dl=0>