

Intervention #3: Conflict of Interest

19 October 2016

- We would like to reiterate that solutions to addressing malnutrition must begin from a holistic understanding of its complex and multi-dimensional causes (as recognized in the proposal for the CFS engagement in nutrition).
 - Often however the social, economic, political and cultural contexts that shape nutrition are ignored and instead medicalized and technical solutions sought.
 - In this way industry and their technological fixes are seen as indispensable “partners”, while their role in causing malnutrition is conveniently put aside.
 - The encroachment of public policy space by powerful economic actors lies at the heart of the technicalization of the problem and its solutions. Some of which might not only fail to address the root causes but might contribute to further exacerbate the problem.
 - In this context, we would like to draw attention and reiterate our concerns regarding conflicts of interest in the CFS engagement in nutrition and other policy fields. This relates in particular to threats to the independence of the knowledge-building process (HLPE) that informs the CFS decisions, the funding of the CFS which affects its agenda setting, as well as the negotiation and decision making process, that sometimes confuses the roles between decision-makers (States), those directly affected by hunger and malnutrition, and other public interest civil society, and those representing private sector interests.
 - The inclusion of a reference to conflict of interest safeguards – in line with the ICN2 Framework for Action – in the proposed framework for the CFS engagement in nutrition is welcome first step in this direction. We hope that this will be followed with concrete actions.
 - Invitation side event?
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- At the same time industry influence leads to the promotion of agro-industrial production and ultra-processed food, and interferes with the regulation of such products. Thereby contributes to overweight and obesity and related non-communicable diseases.
 - Food produced not proper food but rather snacks etc. while it is small-scale farmers producing the majority of “real” food. Make distinction between produce by corporations and small-scale farmers which produce 70% of food.