

CSM Statement on Nutrition and Food Systems
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I would like to thank the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) and the task teams for the process so far, and for the work carried out to achieve these Terms of Reference.

It is worth noting that the process that lies ahead is extremely important, especially in the current context of hunger and malnutrition. This process can show us the path to follow in order to fulfil the CFS mandate. It is the responsibility of the CFS to achieve food security, and to enable access for everyone to healthy food that reflects justice for both people and planet earth. In this respect, we must all show commitment to the Guidelines process, and ensure that both political and financial resources are made available for a fully inclusive process. This will enable us all to take ownership of the result, and it will facilitate the future application of the Guidelines.

This is a big challenge. We only have 2 years to complete the Guidelines, which is half than less the time allotted to, for instance, the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests, which lasted 5 years. We believe that this process should unfold in a correct manner, so that we may produce another tool that contributes towards achieving food security.

In this sense, we support the Terms of Reference, and we would like, once again, to show our commitment to the Guidelines, and to highlight the need to have a human rights-based approach, which is the cornerstone of this process. To this end, it is vital to involve all actors. We deem the participation of civil society to be crucial. We are the most affected by food insecurity and yet we are the main food system actors in all of our sectors and regions. Together, we can complete the food systems puzzle.

For us, a broad vision of food systems and nutrition is fundamental, as well as of the interrelationship between the different dimensions: from production models to culture, from biodiversity to livelihoods, and from women's rights to health. In this sense, we believe that agroecology has to be one of the main drivers towards the change of direction that we need.

The CFS product – outcome of this process – is important, but the process itself is the tool that can ultimately guarantee success. This is why we encourage all to join forces to face this challenge, and to work towards the inclusive and effective construction of these Guidelines.