



Request from the CFS Bureau to the High Level Panel of Experts for the preparation of a report on Nutrition and Food Systems

Recognizing that malnutrition, in all its forms¹, is a major impediment to achieving both global food security and nutrition and sustainable development worldwide, the CFS High Level Panel of Experts is requested to prepare a report on “Nutrition and Food Systems” to provide the evidence base for CFS work on nutrition and food systems in the coming years, in the context of the progressive realization of the *“right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient, and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger”*². CFS work on nutrition will contribute to the implementation of the outcomes of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Building on existing work and initiatives including previous HLPE reports, ICN2 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the report will synthesize current and available independent evidence-based knowledge on the dynamic relation between nutrition and food systems, highlight knowledge gaps, and identify policy implications to guide the changes needed for reshaping food systems to improve nutrition and enabling healthy diet, in particular in addressing poverty, social inequalities and the needs of the most vulnerable in both rural and urban areas³. Policy implications will be drawn out for governments⁴ and other stakeholders.

The report will provide an overview of the different elements of food systems, from both the supply and demand sides, which influence food consumption and nutrition. It will review rapidly evolving trends and environmental, socio-economic and cultural drivers of food consumption changes, including factors related to urbanization, climate change, natural resources management and economic growth. The diversity and complexity of co-existing (and sometimes competing) food systems in countries will be analyzed, as well as their diverse opportunities for impact on nutrition. Vulnerability profiles will be defined for different food systems for all forms of malnutrition, according to socio-economic determinants and across the life-cycle (including children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women, the elderly, overweight and obese children and adults). The report will look into the fundamental roles of women in the nutrition and health of their family, their important contribution to food production, processing, marketing and retailing and other parts of the food systems and the constraints they face relating to their rights, access to resources and decision making to fulfil their roles.

The report will be useful for CFS discussions if it identifies the main knowledge gaps in the causal relation between nutrition and food systems, which would assist the research community in defining future research priorities.

¹ Including undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity.

² ICN2, Rome Declaration on Nutrition

³ Poverty, underdevelopment and low socio-economic status are recognized to be *“major contributors to malnutrition in both rural and urban areas”*, ICN2, Rome Declaration on Nutrition

⁴ This is justified by the fact that governments *“have primary responsibility for taking action at country level, in dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders, including affected communities”*, ICN2, Framework for Action



Open Ended Working Group (OEWG)

Nutrition

CFS asks that the report draws out context- and gender-specific public policy implications to create and enhance food systems that promote nutrition and are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable for the well-being of current and future generations. The HLPE is requested to identify key potential entry points - within a multi-sectoral approach that includes agriculture⁵, health, social protection and nutritional education - to leverage different types of food systems for nutrition along different food chains. The report could provide available evidence from multidimensional analysis (including cost-benefit analysis) on effective food system interventions to support and help prioritize investments for sustainable and healthy food systems, including to provide nutritional education and information to consumers and reduce food losses and waste, taking into account the main drivers of food systems including profitability, underlying the most efficient institutional delivery mechanisms. Where possible, CFS asks that the report includes country case studies to make the link between evidence and policy implications most persuasively. Case studies would illustrate successful experiences and approaches in operationalizing cross-sectoral public policies and the importance of effective collaboration and partnerships.

⁵ The term “agriculture” includes crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture.