

## **AFRICA REGIONAL GROUP STATEMENT ON POINT 5: APPROVAL AND APPROPRIATION OF THE CFS VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON FOOD SYSTEMS AND NUTRITION**

Mister President,

Excellencies Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Africa Regional Group, Senegal and Nigeria made this statement on item 5 of the agenda of the 47th session of the CFS, relating to the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition.

First of all, we salute the remarkable work done by the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) over the past six months, as well as the leadership first of Mr. Khaleed ... from Egypt, Dr. Liliane Ortega from Switzerland and Ambassador Hans Hoogeveen, who succeeded them in the role of Chair of the Working Group.

We warmly congratulate them as well as you, the CFS Secretariat, the Group of Friends of the Chair and all involved in the process of developing these Voluntary Guidelines.

We welcome the process of the participatory and inclusive approach that guided the development of these guidelines, from draft zero until the adoption of this final draft.

Clearly, these voluntary guidelines come at a time when the Covid-19 pandemic has provided humanity with proof that current food systems are more than fragile and should be transformed for their resilience and sustainability. . Their implementation should, in fact, considerably contribute to the achievement of the 2030 agenda and the other commitments of the international community aimed at leaving no one behind.

In view of the Food Systems Summit scheduled for 2021, these Voluntary Guidelines also appear to have arrived at the right time because they should strengthen the contribution of the CFS and all the Rome-based Agencies to this important summit, in particular in terms of guidelines. policies to initiate the desired transformation of food systems.

While recognizing their non-binding nature, the GRA encourages all CFS stakeholders to strongly support and promote, at all levels, the dissemination, use and application of these Voluntary Guidelines and invites them, in this regard, to regularly share their experiences and lessons learned during their implementation.

We further believe that the Voluntary Guidelines constitute a first step towards the effective realization of the right to healthy and sustainable food for all. This step will certainly not be enough; more will be needed and, in this regard, the African Group recommends continuing and strengthening the commitment and work of the CFS in formulating recommendations aimed at better ensuring this right to healthy and sustainable food and strengthening food sovereignty, which is an absolute prerequisite.

It also seems right and useful to us to seize this moment to underline some of the concerns that are ours, as a Continent. They relate in particular to the manifest lack of ambition of our community on the reduction of pesticides, the manifest lack of ambition in strengthening local supply chains and small local producers especially in developing countries, the lack of ambition manifesto on agroecology, the gradual renunciation of multilateralism, very worrying the manifest lack of ambition on fair world trade in which developing countries could fully participate, the manifest lack of ambition on the role of States in the governance of rights of the poorest, the lack of ambition, the lack, the lack of ambition, on many important points for Africa and the developing countries.

With these comments, the African Group welcomes the endorsement by the Plenary of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition.

Thank you.