



CFS Plenary 47

V. Endorsement and Uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN)

Statement by Switzerland

- Switzerland would like to thank the Working Group Chair, Ambassador Hans Hogeveen, and those working in and for the CFS secretariat for their stamina and commitment to bringing this negotiation process on the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition to a conclusion. Negotiating almost entirely in a virtual space and on the platforms that all of us have become all too familiar with over the last year has been an experiment without precedence for everyone involved, and has doubtless complicated and prolonged the negotiation.
- In many respects, what we have agreed upon might fail to go beyond the current status quo. Indeed, the document we have before us today shows little ambition to guide those seeking the transformative renewal of food systems.
- For this reason, in our view, these guidelines rather than representing the final destination on this journey are more a way-post on the inevitably necessary food system transformation. What people eat needs to be healthy for people and for the planet. But to be optimistic, the guidelines do acknowledge the critical interlinkage between sustainable production and a healthy and sustainable consumption, and we hope that they will represent a first common understanding as we jointly move towards the Food System Summit and then beyond with the achievement of the Agenda 2030 at the horizon.



- There is more work to do in order to make the guidelines fit for purpose. There will be a need to provide the tools to assist those trying to move from policy to practice within their respective environments and jurisdictions. Accordingly, further discussions and steps towards a suitable dissemination, uptake and implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition are important. Both the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 and the planned forum – Dialogue and Uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition – during CFS48 offer first opportunities for this.
- In this context, for Switzerland, it is particularly important to assure also support of the CSM back on board, as civil society is one of the main stakeholder when it comes to the application of the guidelines moving forward.
- In consequence, Switzerland acknowledges the conclusion of the negotiations on the VGFSyN and accepts the final text as was made available to us last weekend. However, in line with our national procedures, due to the short notice, Switzerland will not be at liberty to formally endorse the VGFSyN today until the process is completed.
- Thank you Chair.