

## **Document CFS OEWG-SDGs/2018/03/20/02 - U.S. Comments:**

- **Page 1, point 1:** This statement is true both in rural areas as well as urban areas. In fact, inequalities and instability in urban areas are often the drivers of conflict (i.e. food price riots in 2007/2008). We would like to suggest the following **additions (in red)**:

“Inequalities in access to land, water, sanitation and energy, unsustainable management of natural resources, and limited economic opportunities in rural **and urban** areas exacerbate tensions within societies, undermine global food security, and therefore stability, sustainability and resilience, and contribute to the underlying causes of protracted crises. Policies and investments to tackle these inequalities are essential, with a specific focus on social groups tending to be left behind: rural and farming communities, **urban slum dwellers**, women, youth and indigenous peoples”.

- **Page 2, paragraph 2:** We suggest **deleting the first line** (“Underlying causes of conflict are multiple”) – the vast majority of conflict we see today is political and has little to do with loss or degradation of natural resources and much to do about poor governance, lack of democracy, and despotism.
- **Page 4, line 9:** We suggest **revising as follows** (from “Often drivers” to “different users”):

**"While drivers differ among regions, agricultural expansion and the increase in demand for wood and bioenergy are among the top drivers in developing countries of deforestation and forest degradation, which may threaten livelihoods, ecosystem services essential to food security and nutrition, and can make competition over remaining resources more acute among different users."**

- **Page 4, line 13:** We suggest **deleting this line**. The search for alternatives to fossil fuels is the driver for R&D for some types of biofuels. But it is not the driver of traditional wood energy use and charcoal production.
- **Page 5, point (b), line 1:** We suggest **deleting "in the last decade"**. It does not seem to be tied to evidence or discussion elsewhere in the text.
- **Page 5, point (b), line 3:** We suggest the following **additions (in red)**:

CFS has several concrete, holistic and **voluntary** policy guidelines and evidence-based recommendations which can help to achieve various SDGs in an integrated way (...).

- **Page 5, Key Message 1, paragraph 2** (ref: **highlighted text**): Too selective. There are several other targets that address degradation: 15.1 restoration of various ecosystems; 15.2 incl. restore degraded forests; 15.3 soil degradation; 15.5 reduce degradation of natural habitats. It would be better to make a **general reference to addressing degradation (SDG 15)**.

“In addition to being directly relevant to the achievement of a number of targets under SDG 15 related to the **restoration of degraded land** and its sustainable management and the use of natural resources”.

- **Page 6, paragraph 4**: We suggests **revising** as follows (for neutrality):

**"Addressing the interlinkage between SDG 7 “Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all” and SDG2 calls for considering the responsible development of biofuels, taking into consideration any adverse impacts on food security. Assessments should be multi-faceted and contextualized to the local situation. An integrated, evidence-based, gender-sensitive and balanced environmentally and economically-sound approach is required in biofuel policy-making and investments."**

- **Page 7, Key Message 2**: This section highlights the need to address the environmental impacts of livestock but fails to highlight the importance of livestock production in nutrition/dietary diversity and food security.
- **Page 7, Key Message 2, paragraph 2**: We suggests **revising** as follows:

Water availability will become an increasing challenge for global food security and nutrition, as irrigated agriculture is the largest user globally, totaling up to 70 percent of global **freshwater withdrawals (not 70% of global use)** (with significant difference between countries), some from non-renewable sources<sup>10</sup>. **However,** ecosystems and landscapes sustain water resources, and forests play a major role in the water cycle, ensuring quantity, quality and stability of water for human use.

- **Page 9, “Sustainable food systems for healthy nutrition; healthy nutrition for sustainable food systems”**: We recommend **striking “healthy”**

from the title (the paper does not review implementation of SDG 3 so we question the appropriateness of discussing NCDs in this section).

- **Page 10, “Strengthen policies and investments targeting smallholders”:** We suggest **adding reference to international/export markets** here which is included in the "Connecting smallholders to markets" policy recommendations instead of just focusing on local and domestic food markets.

Thank you.

Best regards,  
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