

## French comments on the Zero Draft of the MYPoW 2020-2023

We would like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of this Zero Draft, however the text of the proposals has been modified and some of the proposals have been weakened by sharpening the text and some difficulties are encountered when trying to see the differences with the original proposals.

We would like to recall our high interest for the proposals on gender and youth. Concerning the proposal related to conflicts and migrations, the reference to armed conflicts should be deleted in order to depoliticize this theme. Please find also below our specific comments on the youth proposal.

### Specific remarks on youth proposal:

We would like to see back the title reflecting the merging which has been done with Italy, Costa Rica, South Africa, Netherlands, PSM and Indonesia, it should be therefore **'Putting youth at the center: engaging youth in FSN policies and practices and creating rural decent jobs and income'**.

Moreover we would like to insist on the following aspects:

- the **political participation** of youth in decision making should be reintroduced, indeed one objective of the workstream should be to **launch a discussion among all the stakeholders, including youth**, around a key topic that is the one of youth employment. This discussion could support governments and stakeholders with best practices, recommendations and policy guidelines to foster rural and agrifood chain jobs to the youth and to help create an environment that will generate new decent jobs in these sectors;
- the need to insert a **reference to the request of an HLPE report** ;
- concerning the **timeline**, we welcome that the CFS Chair proposal to start the workstream in 2021 with the HLPE report. However we would like to recall the need from this workstream to benefit from a substantive and inclusive discussion in a Bureau and AG meeting format on how to engage youth in FSN-related policy-making with a focus on youth employment across the agrifood value chain, sustainable rural transformation and territorial approaches. Therefore this meeting could be hold from the beginning of the MYPoW 2020-2023;

**Concerning the text proposed in the Zero draft, we would like to make the following changes (in track changes):**

*Agriculture is the main source of income for 80% of the world's poor. This sector is therefore crucial in reducing poverty, raising incomes and improving food security and nutrition.*

*Considering that the associated growth originating from agriculture is 2-4 times more effective at reducing poverty than growth originating from other sectors, and that almost 200 million rural poor could migrate to urban areas by 2030 (World Bank), there is a need to develop and implement policies that ~~make the agricultural and agri-food sectors more attractive and able to provide decent jobs, particularly for youth~~enable a better creation and distribution of value in the agrifood chain, a fairer access to land, water and other natural resources, as well as financial resources, as well as the creation of wealth and decent employment opportunities (agricultural and non-agricultural activities), including entrepreneurship, to make the agricultural and agrifood sectors more attractive, especially for young people as well as to diversify the employment opportunities in rural areas.*

*~~Going forward, the need for more and better jobs in agriculture and across food systems will be even greater as 1.6 billion people in low and middle income countries are expected to reach working age over the next 15 years.~~*

*The workstream encompasses several of the issues raised in the HLPE 2nd note on critical and emerging issues for FSN<sup>a</sup>. It mainly relates to the current trend of urbanization (2.1) and to the important challenge it poses of building sustainable food chains (1.2.3). It is also closely linked to topic of social issues (1.2.4) and the need to facilitate access to means of production including land tenure and credit, access to knowledge, training as well as technologies (2.8) to attract the youth towards a more innovative and sustainable agrifood world. Special focus will be given to young farmers and young food producers, including women. Page 6 of 14*

*The objective of the workstream is to launch a discussion among all the stakeholders, including youth, around a key topic that is the one of youth employment as well as to develop a set of policy recommendations on “Promoting youth employment, rural transformation and territorial approaches”.~~“Promoting youth employment, rural transformation and territorial approaches”.~~youth employment across the agrifood chain, sustainable rural transformation and territorial approaches.*

*More specifically, the workstream could focus on the following set of critical issues:*

- Which policies, innovations and initiatives are most successful in drawing more young people to agri-food related professions?*
- What are the key drivers of the rural exodus and how can they be addressed?*
- How can food systems and enhanced rural-urban linkages provide more and better jobs for youth?*
- What are the key driving factors and enabling conditions for food systems and enhanced rural-urban linkages to create employment and decent work?*
- What is the role of small cities and rural towns in promoting youth employment in the food systems?*
- What is the potential of territorial approaches in providing an analytical and operational framework for understanding and addressing the complexity of the structural economic, cultural, social and spatial transformations currently taking place across the world?*