

Zero Draft CFS contribution to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

Firstly, we would like to express our appreciation to Dr. Muriithi for stepping in and assuming the responsibility of elaborating this Chairperson's Summary Report to meet the HLPF request.

At the same time, although we understand the implications of the tight schedule we are dealing with, we believe that it would have been better to provide enough time for Delegations to consult with their capital in order to ensure appropriate national feedback and comments.

Concerning the document and its content, we would like to recognize the efforts made to build its structure on multilaterally agreed notions and ideas. However, we conceive that there is still room for the improvement of the Summary. In that order, we would like to share the following preliminary comments:

a.- Although, as its title indicates, the document is a Chairperson's Summary, we understand that it is important to clearly establish its nature and scope. In this sense, we should add a footnote to the title indicating:

“This document represents the personal view of the CFS Chairperson and does not compromise or prejudice by any means on the positions, opinions and/or ideas of CFS members”.

The wording, of course, can be improved to make the phrase readable. The essence of the idea behind the text is to properly determine the character of the document.

b.- On point I, bullet 5 since the wording of the paragraph is the result of the integration of various sources, we understand that the phrasing should be read as follows:

“This entails adopting transition pathways, in a coherent manner, as appropriate and in accordance with and dependent on national context and capacities*, towards sustainable food in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs, that are resilient, equitable, diversified, support climate adaptation and mitigation, provide healthy diets accessible for all, and respect human rights”.

*Source: FAO Council, Final Report of the 164th Session (2020), paragraph 15k and CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition para 15.

c.- On point II, the last paragraph of page 2, we would like to propose the following wording in order to accurately reflex the nature of the HLPE report:

“The latest version of the Issue Paper, updated in September 2021, is presented in Annex I as part of this Chairperson's Summary, stressing and recalling that its content was to not negotiated by CFS members and stakeholders and therefore cannot be considered multilaterally agreed text.”

d.- At the end of point II, we noticed that there are brackets reserving space to introduce new bullet points with ideas provided by CFS stakeholders. We believe that this pathway will not be convenient

since the document already has its messages, and the introduction of new concepts, especially those which were not multilaterally agreed, could trigger controversy.

On this view, we would like to strongly recommend the deletion of this part of point II.

e.- On point III, the second paragraph, we noticed that text only mentions the document on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches, while throughout this Summary the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition are utilized as a pivotal input to provide sources that back its content.

Given the richness and the conceptual robustness of the VGFSyN, we understand that it would be fundamental to include them in the second paragraph jointly with the Policy Recommendations on Agroecology and Other Innovative Approaches. Equally, we insist on our comment on point “b” regarding the concept of “transition pathways” since this idea must go hand-in-hand with the caveat agreed upon in FAO Council, Final Report of the 164th Session (2020), paragraph 15k.

f.- On point III, paragraph “e” we would like to point out that, beyond the importance of SOFI Report as an FAO flagship publication, unfortunately, its elaboration does not include members’ participation and, ergo, its content, including the “six recommended pathways”, is not multilaterally agreed upon.

Indeed, if we analyze the scope of the “six recommended pathways” we will realize that its substance goes far beyond the mandate of CFS.

On this view, we would like to propose the elimination of footnote 2 and its replacement for a new one right after the “SOFI report”, recalling that:

(2) The SOFI report is not a negotiated document by FAO members and, thus, its content cannot be interpreted and/or considered as multilaterally agreed text.

g.- On point IV, the first paragraph, we understand that it would be important to specify the non-binding nature of CFS products in order to share accurate information with the HLPF.

In this sense, we believe that the paragraph should read as follows:

“The HLPF is encouraged to consider the urgent need for governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, private sector, and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to implement the CFS non-binding and evidence-based policy guidelines and recommendations, which, in addition to contributing to ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture, support the achievement of various SDGs in an integrated way.”

h.- On reference to SDG15, second paragraph, we would like to propose the inclusion of an additional paragraph, notably text contained in point 3.2.1 “b” of the VGFSyN. In this sense, we understand that this addition will help a broad approach to the thematic of DSG 15.

The additional text is the following:

“Governments, intergovernmental organizations, private sector, civil society, and other relevant stakeholders should promote sustainable agriculture such as agroecological and other innovative approaches, at different scales in the process towards achieving sustainable food systems that enhance food security and nutrition. They also should collaborate with and support farmers and other food producers to reduce the environmental impact of food systems, enhancing also biodiversity, and recognizing the positive efforts of farmers that adopt sustainable practices. This could be done by fostering the adoption of appropriate technology and on-farm management practices to optimize the efficiency of crop production yields and by promoting responsible and sustainable production and use of pesticides and fertilizers in order to maximize their benefits while minimizing their negative impacts on the environment and human health.”

i.- Although the VGFSyN were submitted to the HLPF in our previous Chairperson’s Summary since its archetype concepts are used in this Summary, we understand the Voluntary Guidelines should be also included as “Annex III”.

Finally, we would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity of presenting our preliminary comments and suggestions.