

OEWG ON DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS TOOLS FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Esteemed colleagues,

Dear Rapporteur,

Allow me to first open these brief words with a heart-felt note of our sincere gratefulness to Mr. Anthony Murithii for his willingness to lead us on this policy convergence process. Please, dear Anthony, rest assured that you can count on us to have fruitful discussions that can lead us to a concise, dense and useful document on the topic we will now start to debate upon.

Brazil has an already solid experience and methodology of collecting, processing and diffusing data on food security and nutrition. In our country, this process involves, amongst others, the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Health and the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, which was established in 1936. We firmly believe that sharing and exchanging already existing policies and methodologies would be of great value.

Following the experience of other UN organizations, Brazil supports the idea to initially establish a set of data governance principles upon which the policy recommendations would be utilized. Here I would like to make reference to some principles to which we attach great importance, highlighting that this is not an exhausting list: safeguarding personal data; upholding the highest ethical standards; managing data responsibly; empowering people to work with data; and ensuring that data is used for intended purposes only. Moreover, it would be of utmost importance to start our discussions by defining what is *FSN data* and what are the parameters to delimitate what is and what is not within this concept.

When drafting the document, we believe some key elements should be considered.

Firstly, we should narrow our recommendations to data collection instruments and methods, as well as analysis tools related specifically to food security and nutrition. Let's not forget that there is a vast amount of data on numerous subjects, including on food, agriculture and nutrition

within the UN System, including at FAO. We should firmly avoid duplicating work and extrapolating our mandate.

Secondly, we should all bear in mind that in order to foster better data collection and analysis we should recommend that investment in human capital and infrastructure are directed to countries where they are most needed. Investment in education, especially in data science and analytics, as well as in training national statistics officers on data analytics and research is central to our endeavour.

Thirdly, the document we will draft should be very blunt on establishing clear principles and rules on the protection of privacy and sensitive data, while also referring to accountability systems to overlook the use and management of this information.

Finally, the recommendation contained in the HLPE report to establish a *Global Food Security and Nutrition Data Trust Fund* should be analysed very carefully, especially considering the legal implications and commitments that a fund of this nature would impose on members and organizations. Such an enterprise should not be recommended, unless a deep legal study is conducted to delineate the Framework within which it would be constituted and how it would function. As it is mentioned in the HLPE Report, it is just a crude idea that deserves a long and specialized debate.

We must all remain vigilant to avoid repeating mistakes we have incurred in in the recent past. We must, then, focus on the subjects pertinent to the mandate of this Committee, while putting those in need at the centre of our discussions.

Once again, rest assured that Brazil is and will be devoted to collaborate to a set of policy recommendations that would be of great use to all actors involved in FSN data collection and analysis.

Thank you very much