Data collection and analysis tools for food security and nutrition

New Zealand is pleased to contribute the following commentary to the discussions of the CFS Open Ended Working Group on Data collection and analysis tools for food security and nutrition, and we look forward to working with the OEWG in the future.

Which priority issues and policy-relevant areas should be addressed through this CFS policy convergence process and included in the policy recommendations?

New Zealand agrees that decision making needs to be better informed by evidence and that those decisions – and their consequences – need to be capable of scrutiny. To ensure that there is accountability in addressing politically charged issues such as the management of food security and nutrition (FSN), decisions must be based on good data and in New Zealand's case, mātauranga Māori – the traditional knowledge of. For New Zealand working in partnership with Māori, the indigenous peoples of New Zealand, at every level of the process of data planning, collection, management and governance is a given, and we fully support the integration of the needs of indigenous peoples as part of the policy convergence process, not as an optional add on.

Taking this into account New Zealand fully supports the focus of the CFS on appropriate data collection and analysis tools for FSN.   We have the following areas that we would recommend for consideration:

- ***Identification of appropriate indicators (and proxies) for food security and nutrition.***

New Zealand recommends a priority issue that should be addressed through this convergence process is the identification of appropriate indicators (and proxies) for FSN.   To ensure that there is accountability, there has to be **clarity and transparency** about what it is we're trying to achieve and that the indicators that are used do reflect the outcome, or part of it, that is being sought. We stress the importance of the process covering all of the four elements of food security – access, availability, utilization and stability. This is an essential element is the development of appropriate policies and programmes to support improved FSN.

We do think that there is a need for work on ensuring that there is a harmonized approach to how we measure and monitor FSN. It is a huge area and there are a plethora of both quantitative and qualitative data that are already collected that can help inform on the status of FSN. Much of the data used by some countries are expensive to collect and therefore being able to keep data up to date is challenging and often not prioritized when budgets are stretched.

There is a need to identify data sets, and appropriate proxies, that countries could adopt and use. Such measures should ideally work with existing data sets and allow for regular up to date data collection and monitoring. Of particular concern are some of the developing countries, especially small island development states (SIDS), where there are many barriers to overcome in collecting this data, so measures and proxies need to be meaningful but accessible and affordable to use. As part of this a focus on countries where there are data gaps and/or limitations to collecting data is recommended.

Although the ideal would be to use and work with existing data sets, there is a need to foster innovation if what measures could be used and be meaningful and that may also be more achievable for all to

collect. It is also important to ensure that the same data is not being collected multiple times for difference purposes.

It is also important that countries have the skills to generate, collect and collate data. This will require a process of skills needs identification and outreach for workforce development and training.

For New Zealand, trade data can be an important source of data for FSN but it is critical that trade data is appropriately used. We believe that fair and open rules based trade is an essential element in addressing FSN and data needs to be used to reflect that. There is a view point that pushes for self-sufficiency as an indicator of food security and New Zealand would warn against indicators that would support perverse outcomes.

- *Data Governance*

Also important for New Zealand is ensuring that there is a robust governance structure and process supporting the collection of FSA data. This is the critical framework that will ensure that:

- There is transparency in the data being collected and the indicators used – how they are collected; what assumptions are made and how the data is interpreted

- People trust the data they share will be collected, managed, and used safely and responsibly

- Indigenous Peoples have the data system they need to fulfil their aspirations

- Decisions are informed by the right data at the right time

- Communications about the data are managed transparently

- Decision makers are held to account.

- *Prioritisation:*

Transparency and a clearly defined process and criteria for prioritisation of data to collect/monitor is recommended. This is particularly important for those most affected by FSN as they tend to be those with most limited resources. Again for the New Zealand, we see a need to focus on the SIDS which would capture the needs of the many countries that are SIDS in the South West Pacific region.

Finally we have included a diagram from our recent government data strategy and road map that we find very useful in terms of focus areas and outcomes:

https://www.data.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/4e-government-data-strategy-and-roadmap.pdf

TE TIRITI

Work together with iwi and Māori partners, fulfil responsibilities of Te Tiriti through support of Māori and iwi data and needs

Outcomes
- The government data system gives effect to the expectations of Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Co-design processes with iwi and Māori are in use
- Māori data sovereignty is recognised and understood across the system
- Ngā Tikanga Paihere guidelines are implemented across the data system
- A reciprocal relationship exists between Crown, Māori, and iwi

DATA

Provide the right data at the right time

Outcomes
- Current and future data needs across the data system are captured and understood
- The right decisions and investments are being made to improve the data system
- Data is open, inclusive, accessible, and findable
- Data quality is fit for purpose
- Iwi and Māori have the data they need for governance

CAPABILITY

Develop capability and skills within our people to create, collect, manage, and use data

Outcomes
- Workforce capabilities and career opportunities meet needs across the data system
- The importance of data and what is being represented through the data is understood and respected
- Iwi and Māori have the data capability they need
- Upskilling opportunities, qualifications and credentials exist to continue to build capability

LEADERSHIP

Ensure leadership, clear rules, and system settings are in place and are well understood

Outcomes
- Approach to managing and mandating standards is fit for purpose
- Māori data governance is embedded in the data system
- Legislation, regulations, and rules are aligned across the data system
- Design principles, protocols, and frameworks exist across the data system
- Aotearoa New Zealand complies with international agreements for data collection, management, and use
- Ethics and practices relating to data collection, management, and use are aligned across the data system

INFRASTRUCTURE

Build the infrastructure that enables effective data management and reuse

Outcomes
- Data can be integrated across government and with other holders of data
- Data is shared safely with those who need it (and are authorised to use it)
- Data is published and easily accessed where appropriate
- The right metadata (contextual information) exists to manage and use the data effectively
- A system-wide architecture exists to optimise the creation, holding and use of data
- Infrastructure and support exists for iwi and Māori
- Partnerships exist between the Government Chief Digital Officer and the Government Chief Data Steward

TRUST

People trust the data they share with government will be collected, managed, and used safely and responsibly

Outcomes
- Public trust in how government agencies use their personal information will be high and maintained over time
- Guidance and regulatory settings for data to be used safely and ethically exist
- Government sets a strong example through consistent use of data practices
- Mechanisms for testing and understanding new and emerging uses of data are in use