

**WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS 27 MEMBER STATES ON THE ZERO
DRAFT (OUTLINE) OF THE CFS POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON STRENGTHENING FSN DATA
COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS TOOLS FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION**

GENERAL COMMENTS

- We welcome the draft outline and the work of the Rapporteur and the Secretariat and appreciate that the recommendations from the HLPE report 17 have been broadly retained in the draft zero (outline).
- We emphasize the intention to engage constructively in the process with the goal of developing relevant, useful, and applicable policy recommendations.
- We encourage the CFS and all stakeholders to build on lessons learned in previous workstreams, avoid duplicating discussions and focus on concrete, implementable recommendations based on UN agreed language that can be adopted through consensus at CFS 51.
- We acknowledge that the CFS policy recommendations can contribute to achieving SDG 2 and the realization on the right to adequate food.
- We underline the need for fast tracking efforts in the form of prioritization of actions and needs. More concrete, prioritization is necessary on the type of capacity that is most urgent to build and on the type of data that is most urgent to collect, handle and analyze for filling data gaps. Attention should also go to guidance on how to detect the most urgent data gaps (e.g. geographical/thematic/sectorial/timeliness).
- We acknowledge that reliable, quality data is the basis for well-informed, transparent and democratic decision-making by public and private stakeholders.
- We acknowledge that data can contribute to improving global food security and nutrition, point out existing and upcoming challenges and play an important role in addressing interlinkages with the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.
- We underline that data ethics should be upheld.
- We underline that data literacy and education are an important component of data democratization.

1. Definition, Rationale and Scope

- We welcome the proposition on a definition of food security and nutrition that includes its dimensions as well as its drivers and determinants and the sustainability and environmental dimensions of food systems.
- With regards to the rationale and status of the collection, analysis, dissemination and use of FSN data we add that:
 - food and security data gaps need to be addressed and overcome at all levels in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda and realizing the right to adequate food, including by capitalizing on the Rome-based agencies as well as their collaboration among themselves and the CFS.
 - although extensive FSN data already exists, special attention should be given to specific and different territorial settings within national and regional levels, in particular rural areas as well as to the quality, granularity, reliability, availability, utilization and timeliness of the different types of data, including data from alternative sources such as the private sector or the grass-roots level.

2. Create greater awareness and greater demand for better use of FSN data in decision-making

- We acknowledge the need for improving the understanding of data for decision makers to better inform policy making.
- We suggest that recommendations be made on *how* to promote an improved dialogue between data producers and users in order to facilitate e.g. prioritization on FSN data needs.

3. Increase and sustain investment in the collection of essential data for FSN, while optimizing and, if needed, repurposing current data-related investments

On sustaining and increasing investment in the collection of essential data for FSN we:

- underline the importance of considering what type of data is being produced, who is being targeted but also how it will be disaggregated, and how subsequent use can be ensured.
- highlight the importance of gender-disaggregated data which is key in understanding power imbalances as well as data on nutrition and family agriculture.
- underline the importance of allocating resources to improving data, monitoring and analysis to improve the effectiveness of policy decisions for food security and nutrition and contribute to the 2030 Agenda. Good examples in this regard include the 50x2030 Initiative to close the Agricultural Data Gap or the recently launched Global Diet Quality Project.
- support sustainable investment in FSN data which should entail that actors need to invest coherently, contributing to a broader public good.
- underline the importance of clearly delineating inclusive national data production and analysis plans that will serve as a framework for investments in FSN data which in turn is important for the design of development measures and investments, which should always consider data needs and gaps that are relevant to achieving their goals and if possible close data gaps.

On optimizing and repurposing current investments we:

- recognize that greater efforts will be needed to effectively analyze existing food security and nutrition data and make sense of what this data tells. The Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) can serve as an example for a very effective and widely used analysis tool. Efforts by the Global Alliance for Food Security (GAFS) to expand IPC should be supported.
- underline the importance of the exchange among policy-makers and the providers of data and analysis on what is actually needed and where there are opportunities for improving data on all scales.
- highlight the importance of recognizing the global dimension to investment in collection and analysis of data. Lots of data is available and there might be opportunities to improve analysis, including at the global level. (the Global Report on Food Crises is a very positive example in this regard).

4. Increasing collaboration between all parties to harmonize, improve quality and maximize the sharing of FSN data

On increased collaboration the EU and its 27 member states:

- encourage the cooperation between for instance the EU, FAO and UNIDO and other relevant international bodies on sharing of best practices, standards and norms with regards to data sharing.
- underline the importance of data producers and users from different sectors to communicate to identify synergies that will improve understanding of food insecurity and malnutrition that can inform policy.
- underline attention should be given to how to gather and maintain and coordinate responsibility for open data source repositories, globally and nationally.

On the sharing of FSN data we:

- recognize the importance of centralization and harmonization of FSN data at a global level to avoid fragmentation of and incoherence between data as well as the importance of interoperability between information systems.
- underline that data collection should follow harmonized standards and principles (e.g. FAIR guiding principle), including between sectors such as agriculture and health, to make it usable as a global public good.
- underline that data silos should be avoided and that there is a need of aggregating and integrating multi-sectoral data related to FSN.
- underline the need to exchange closely with other initiatives working on a coherent data picture on food security and nutrition, such as the GAFS and its Global Food Security and Nutrition Dashboard.
- suggest that this section goes beyond just presenting existing initiatives, like The Global Food and Nutrition Security Dashboard by GAFS, but specifically highlights their added value and purpose embedded in a broader context (e.g. within the “framework for a systemic view of FSN” to guide data in the HLPE report 17).
- support the conclusion in the HLPE report 17 that *“All government data that refer to agriculture and FSN to be treated as open by default”*.
- recognize the importance of good conditions for controlled, secure and open sharing of data as well as a balanced condition for public/private partnerships for advancing FSN work through data-sharing.
- recognize the importance of improving the sharing of data relevant to international trade in food and agricultural products, including through the strengthening of the Agricultural Market Information System.

5. Investment in human capital and in the needed infrastructure and technologies to ensure the sustainability of the data production cycle and analytic capacity

- The EU and its 27 member states highlight the importance of strengthening the capacities of actors involved in all the steps of data processing towards enhancing effective, inclusive, evidence-informed decision – making.
- We recognize the existence of inequalities in terms of available data, access to data, and the ability to process and translate into policy and action.
- We suggest that the policy recommendations provide guidance on how to improve and speed up the capacities for data collection and analysis at country and regional level, especially in low-income countries and in countries where insuring food security are most severe. For example, we need to promote the development of national and regional disaggregated food security and nutrition information systems and support capacity building in this area to be able to use data and analysis effectively. This entails not only that responsible actors are able to collect useful data and conduct comprehensive analysis but also integrating the use of data and analysis into decision-making processes.
- We recognize the importance of building an effective institutional environment for data collection and analysis on food security and nutrition that is conducive to effective decision-making. This should be rooted in broader UN-level debates about data development.
- Attention should go to the allocation of resources for capacity building, strengthening statistical systems at national levels, infrastructure investments and education but also to the strengthening of modelling , forecasting capabilities and to early warning systems.
- Opportunities as well as risks of new technology should be cited (e.g. inequality, quality of data).
- We suggest recommendations are made on how to ensure that investment in all phases of the data production cycle are sustainable, because investment decisions will always depend to a considerable degree on this aspect.

6. Establish or strengthen FSN data governance at all levels (global, regional, national and sub-national level)

- We recognize that FSN data governance systems can ensure that collection, analysis, dissemination and use of FSN data is oriented to addressing food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition.
- We underline the importance of the respect for human rights (e.g. right to privacy) and the protection of personal data as well as the importance of setting up independent mechanisms to monitor the implementation of data protection policies.
- Personal data should be protected through for instance randomization or agreement regulated access. Farmers data should be properly handled and valued.
- Inequality should be combatted with a specific attention for the most vulnerable (family farmers, women, youth).

7. Promotion, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

- We encourage the focus on the implementation, monitoring and evaluation.