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Organization of the
United Nations



International
Plant Protection
Convention

REPORT

CPM Bureau Meeting (teleconference)

**Rome, Italy
12 December 2019**

IPPC Secretariat

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1. Opening of the Meeting

- [1] The Chairperson opened the meeting and thanked the CPM Bureau members for their participation to the teleconference. Mr Greg Wolff sent his regrets and Ms Marica GATT was only able to participate for part of the meeting via mobile phone.
- [2] The IPPC Secretary delivered his opening remarks, underlining three important IPPC activities during 2019, including:
- Launch event of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH), which included two exhibitions in the FAO atrium inaugurated by the FAO Director-General at the presence of over three hundred participants; the official opening of the IYPH by the FAO Director-General, accompanied by a reception;
 - Global Action on Fall Armyworm (FAW), a FAO initiative to prevent and combat the spread of this pest, covering three regions (Africa, Near East and Asia) and three regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs), namely Near East and North Africa, South-West Pacific and Europe. This Global Action will span over one hundred countries and foresees a USD 500 000 000 investment over a triennium (2020-2022);
 - increase in the IPPC regular programme allocation in 2019 by USD 500 000, saving multi-donor trust fund (MDTF) resources, which will be useful to promote IYPH; additional USD 1 000 000 allocated by the FAO Programme Committee and Council during the coming biennium.

2. Meeting Arrangements

2.1. Adoption of the Agenda

- [3] The CPM Bureau adopted the Agenda, which is attached to this Report as [Annex 1](#).

3. Administrative Matters

3.1. Documents list

- [4] The Documents list was introduced and it is attached to the Report as [Annex 2](#).

3.2. Participants list

- [5] The List of Participants is attached to the Report as [Annex 3](#).

4. Review of 2019 October CPM Bureau Report

- [6] The IPPC Secretariat reviewed the Action List from the previous CPM Bureau meeting and informed the CPM Bureau that all actions had been completed on time. The IPPC Secretariat further noted the need to maintain consistency between the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020 – 2030 and ISPMs in terms of wording.

- [7] The IPPC Secretariat also informed the CPM Bureau that the P-3 IYPH Project Officer position was published and over 250 applications were received, with the selection process moving forward. Ms Ketevan LOMSADZE's position has been extended until the end of 2020.

5. Financial Issues and Work Plan

5.1. FAO increase of biennial budget allocation to IPPC Secretariat (2020-2021)

- [8] The IPPC Secretariat introduced the paper on the fully funded 2020-2021 budget and informed the CPM Bureau that no resources could currently be allocated to hire a project manager, as this may cause disruption and duplications of the Secretariat's work. The Chairperson expressed support for this decision.

- [9] The CPM Bureau:

(1) *Agreed* that the matter should be investigated further before proceeding with hiring a project manager.

5.2. Adjustment of 2019 budget of IPPC Secretariat

- [10] The IPPC Secretariat confirmed the one-time USD 500 000 extra-budgetary allocation in 2019 and informed that CPM Bureau that this would have a positive impact on the 2020 budget, as the allocation alleviated the weight of some costs and freed up resources for the coming International Year of Plant Health (IYPH).

- [11] The IPPC Secretariat also informed the CPM Bureau that the 163rd Session of the Council approved an increase of USD 500 000 per year over the 2020 – 2021 biennium and the necessary steps towards expressing appreciation to all parties involved have been already taken.

- [12] The CPM Bureau:

(2) *Approved* the adjustment of the 2019 budget of the IPPC Secretariat.

5.3. Revision of the IPPC Secretariat Work Plan and Budget for 2020 (contingent on FAO Council approval of increase)

- [13] The IPPC Secretariat approached the FAO Office of Strategic Planning to inform them that 55% of the budget allocation would be to support staff; and 45% for professional activities, namely for capacity building and to fund travel costs to participate in meetings (e.g. regional workshop, PCEs, TC-RPPO) and ensuring access to interpretation into one of the six FAO official languages, upon request, at the Standards Committee meetings and to provide translations into the six FAO official languages of the IPP (www.ippc.int), the IPPC Secretariat's home page.

- [14] The CPM Bureau:

(3) *Approved* the adjustment of the 2020 budget of the IPPC Secretariat.

6. Proposed evaluation to the IPPC Secretariat by FAO Programme Committee

[15] The IPPC Secretariat informed the CPM Bureau regarding the possibility of FAO conducting a management evaluation of the IPPC Secretariat. The CPM Bureau discussed the proposed timeline of the possible evaluation, and concurred that it would be best if it could be carried out after the IYPH (2020) and it would be useful if the evaluation focused on how the IPPC Secretariat's normative work is relevant in assisting Contracting Parties (CP) to be involved in drafting and implementing ISPMs. The IPPC Secretariat suggested that the Evaluation Office should consult with the CPM Bureau to coordinate the timeframe of the evaluation.

[16] One member suggested providing an explanation during the coming CPM-15 (2020) to properly inform all participants.

[17] The CPM Bureau:

(4) *Noted* the FAO's proposal to carry out an evaluation of the IPPC Secretariat and suggested to postpone the evaluation until after the IYPH in 2020.

(5) *Recommended* the IPPC Secretariat inform CPM-15 (2020) about the possible FAO evaluation and the CPM Bureau's suggestion to postpone it until after the IYPH in 2020.

7. Preparation for CPM-15 (2020)

[18] The IPPC Secretariat informed the CPM Bureau that CPM invitations to CPs and ministers are pending clearance of the Office of the FAO Director-General. FAO Protocol Office will take care of sending invitations to high-level participants. The IPPC Secretariat clarified that CPM-15 (2020) will have two high-level segments: the opening on Monday and Thursday's session. It is currently envisaged that in the second high-level segment on Thursday, Ministers in attendance would be invited to speak for a pre-set amount of time.

[19] The IPPC Secretariat informed the CPM Bureau that the International Steering Committee for the International Year of Plant health (IYPH ISC) would have, as a recurring agenda item for all 2020 meetings, a point on the leaving a legacy from the IYPH. It was noted that one legacy of the IYPH could be the establishment of a World Plant Health Day.

7.1. Agenda

[20] The IPPC Secretariat presented the CPM-15 (2020) Agenda, informing the CPM Bureau that it was shared in track changes so CPM Bureau members could easily see the proposed changes. In addition, the presenter and the Secretariat staff supporting a specific agenda item were also added to the draft agenda.

[21] The CPM Bureau:

(6) *Approved* the CPM-15 (2020) Agenda as modified and included in Annex 4.

7.2. Ministerial segment

7.2.i. Keynote speaker(s)

[22] The IPPC Secretariat underlined that the ideal keynote speaker for the CPM-15 (2020) Ministerial Segment would be the Global Ambassador (still not appointed).

[23] The CPM Bureau agreed and asked the IPPC Secretariat to elaborate potential alternatives, should the proposed Global Ambassador not be available.

[24] The CPM Bureau:

(7) *Asked* the IPPC Secretariat to propose an alternative keynote speaker for the CPM-15 (2020) Ministerial Segment.

7.2.ii. Ministerial declaration

[25] The IPPC Secretariat recapped the process that led to the endorsement of the draft Ministerial declaration by the CPM Bureau during its October 2019 meeting and the follow by the IPPC Secretariat to share it with representatives from all FAO regions in order to seek inputs and support. The IPPC Secretariat informed the CPM Bureau that as of 30 November 2019 only three regions had responded, informing the Secretariat that the process is still ongoing.

[26] The CPM Bureau proposed that the Ministerial Declaration endorsement should be postponed if there was a lack of positive responses. Some CPM Bureau Members also raised the issue that a minimum level of Ministerial support was needed to have a meaningful impact on national agendas. The CPM Bureau suggested that the IPPC Secretariat considers an alternative course of action to be followed in case of lack of and agreed to wait until the end of January 2020 to reassess the situation.

[27] The CPM Bureau:

(8) *Asked* the IPPC Secretariat to prepare alternative courses of actions in case the Ministerial Declaration should not meet the necessary deadlines.

7.3. Side sessions and meetings

[28] The CPM Bureau discussed the number of side sessions to be organized during CPM-15 (2020). The Chairperson suggested hosting a maximum of five side events and the CPM Bureau agreed. The IPPC Secretariat discussed potential criteria to prioritise which side sessions should be held.

[29] One CPM Bureau Member discussed the outcome of the Standards Committee (SC) discussion on authorization of entities, informing the CPM Bureau that the SC could not come to an agreement on this topic. The CPM Bureau agreed that a side session on authorization of entities would be useful and requested the IPPC Secretariat to develop a paper on this topic for CPM-15 (2020) discussion and possible agreement.

[30] The CPM Bureau:

(9) *Agreed* to hold the following five side events during CPM-15 (2020):

1. IPPC ePhyto solution (during Ministerial Segment);
2. IYPH: review on progress and possible legacy (first day);
3. Authorization of entities;
4. IPPC and academia;
5. IPPC and the private sector.

7.4. Draft CPM Recommendation: Safe provision of food and other aid to prevent the introduction of plant pests during an emergency situation (2018-026)

[31] Following the CPM-14 request, the Secretariat circulated the draft CPM recommendation for country consultation between 1 July and 30 September 2019 using the OCS, with a view to presenting a final version for adoption at CPM-15 (2020).

[32] Through this process, 508 comments were received. Compiled comments are publically available on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP). The comments have been addressed by the Secretariat and the submitting country to the maximum extent possible. Revised text with supporting documents was presented to the CPM Bureau December 2019 virtual meeting.

[33] During the discussion, the CPM Bureau, could not agree on whether to have the issue of aid, and all the related risks, described in one CPM Recommendation or to have two recommendations accompanying each other. In addition, the CPM Bureau was not able to consider the inclusion or removal of appendices, and their sequence.

[34] The CPM Bureau considered the points mentioned above along with the responses to comments and was not able to recommend the draft CPM Recommendation on “Safe provision of food and other aid to prevent the introduction of plant pests during an emergency situation (2018-026)” to CPM-15 (2020) for adoption.

[35] Instead, the CPM Bureau deemed it necessary to send the draft CPM Recommendation for one more round of country consultation in 2020.

[36] The CPM Bureau:

(10) *Agreed* to send the draft CPM Recommendation: *Safe provision of food and other aid to prevent the introduction of plant pests during an emergency situation* (2018-026) for an additional round of country consultation in 2020.

7.5. Commodity standards

The draft ISPM on Commodity-based standards for phytosanitary measures (2019-008)

[37] The IPPC Secretariat presented the paper on Commodity-based standards, noting that this topic is not following the IPPC Standard Setting Procedure as it under the remit of the CPM, notwithstanding that the SC had in depth discussions on the draft ISPM. The IPPC Secretariat informed the CPM Bureau on

the progress made by the Focus Group (FG) on Commodity and Pathway Standards and their recommendations to CPM regarding the oversight of this process and the possible establishment of a Technical Panel, the SC supported these recommendations to the CPM. One CPM Bureau member underlined the importance of assigning this process to the Standards Committee. The IPPC Secretariat presented to the CPM Bureau the SC revisions of the draft Specification for a Technical Panel for Commodity Standards (TPCS) (2019-009) (Annex 6) and the draft ISPM on Commodity-Based Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (2019-008) (Annex 7).

[38] The CPM Bureau:

(11) *Endorsed* the recommendations of the Focus Group on Commodity and Pathway Standards.

(12) *Recognized* the work of Mr Greg WOLFF for his outstanding contribution in finalising the proposal.

8. Updates

8.1. SC meeting in November 2019

[39] The IPPC Secretariat introduced the paper summarizing the November 2019 SC meeting, which focused on the draft ISPMs that have completed the second consultation and were considered for adoption by CPM-15 (2020). The IPPC Secretariat also informed CPM Bureau regarding other matters taken under consideration by the SC, such as urgent issues presented by the technical panels, updates from the May 2019 IC meeting, the meetings of the CPM Bureau and the SPG 2019 meetings, issues related to the IYPH, the work of the IPPC Secretariat and the proposed agenda for the SC-7 May 2020 meeting. The IPPC Secretariat concluded by listing the standards recommended to CPM-15 (2020) for adoption.

[40] The CPM Bureau

(13) *Noted* the update from the SC.

8.2. IC Meeting in November 2019

[41] The IPPC Secretariat presented the update from the IC, highlighting the following two points:

- a. The IC requested the CPM Bureau not to change the IC Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure and to continue to allow retired people to be an expert member of the IC. The CPM Bureau did not oppose the proposal
- b. The IC requested CPM Bureau members to contact their national representatives to the International Maritime Organization in the region to request them to support the work of the SCTF.

[42] The CPM Bureau was informed that the IC reviewed several projects and the CPM would be informed of the review that ensures projects managed by the IPPC Secretariat are in line with the mandate of the IPPC.

[43] The CPM Bureau was also reminded that a call for IC nominations had been made with a deadline of 14 February 2020. Nominations for IC regional representatives will be compiled and submitted to the

CPM Bureau member (19 February) from each region for a final selection. Each CPM Bureau member would transmit back to the IPPC Secretariat (26 February), their selection of their regional IC representative (and at least one alternate).

[44] The compiled nominations of IC experts, along with the list of seven selected regional IC representatives will be circulated to the CPM Bureau (2 March) and the CPM Bureau would be asked to select five experts to complement the seven regional representatives and agree during their virtual meeting (16 March).

[45] The CPM Bureau:

(14) *Noted* the update from the IC, especially regarding the projects reviewed by the IC.

(15) *Agree* to request Contracting Parties in their region to contact their national representatives to the IMO and encourage them to support the work of the SCTF.

(16) *Agreed* to the process and their involvement in the IC member nomination process.

8.3. 31st meeting of the TC-RPPOs (2019) (including a proposal to include a presentation on the Global Surveillance System to CPM-15 (2020))

[46] The Secretariat provided the update on the TC-RPPO in Nigeria, expressing the challenge of organising RPPO participation, which was facilitated by the Secretariat by financing travel expenses for representatives from some RPPOs through the China project.

[47] The CPM Bureau:

(17) *Noted* the update from the TC-RPPO.

8.4. IYPH 2020

[48] The Secretariat presented the updates on the IYPH and the outcomes of the IYPH ISC fourth meeting, particularly the postponement of the New York event and rescheduling it in relation to another key event.

The Secretariat introduced to the CPM Bureau Members the possibility to participate in the CFS work stream on Nutrition, providing comments to include plant health to the current draft one of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (Annex 8).

The CPM Bureau:

(18) *Noted* the update.

(19) *Endorsed* the proposal to participate in the CFS work stream on Food Systems and Nutrition in view of enhancing relations with the CFS.

(20) *Asked* the Secretariat to provide initial comments on the Draft One of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition of the CFS by 20 February 2020 for further revision by the CPM Bureau.

9. Any Other Business

9.1. SPG closed session during its October 2019 meeting and IC closed session at its November 2019 meeting

[49] The IPPC Secretariat raised concerns about the exclusion of the IPPC Secretariat in certain IPPC-related meetings. There were several possible issues, that of controlling the direction of the meeting and who could make interventions and when, as well as the need to have clarity on the process of setting the agenda for the meeting.

[50] The CPM Bureau noted the discussion and agreed with some of the points raised, however felt there could be other factors that need to be considered regarding the factors that drove the need to have sessions where the Secretariat was excluded. The CPM Bureau also agreed that members and the Secretariat should strive to work together and did not encourage having meetings from which the Secretariat was excluded. One CPM Bureau Member underlined that other factors also have a role, besides a strong Chairperson and the role of the Rapporteur and he offered to work with the Secretariat to develop a policy.

[51] The CPM Bureau:

(21) *requested* Mr Stephen BUTCHER to work with the IPPC Secretariat (Mr Brent LARSON) to draft a policy regarding meetings and Secretariat exclusion.

9.2. Appreciation letter to FAO's Director-General from CPM Chair or CPM Bureau

[52] The IPPC Secretariat proposed to write a letter to Director-General of FAO. The CPM Bureau reviewed the paper and endorsed the paper.

The CPM Bureau:

(22) *Endorsed* the letter and asked the Secretariat to send it to Director-General of FAO.

9.3. Allocation of development agendas for IPPC new Framework to Units of IPPC Secretariat

[53] The IPPC Secretariat informed the CPM Bureau Members about the allocation of the eight development agenda points of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020 – 2030 as follows:

[54] Standard Setting Unit:

1. Commodity- and pathway-specific ISPMs;
2. Developing guidance on the use of third-party entities;
3. Diagnostic Laboratory Network;

[55] Implementation and Facilitation Unit:

4. Harmonization of electronic data exchange;
5. Strengthening pest outbreak alert and response systems;
6. Management of e-commerce and postal and courier pathways;

[56] Integration and Support Team:

7. Assessment and management of climate change impacts on plant health;
8. Global phytosanitary research coordination.

[57] The CPM Bureau:

- (23) Noted the update and assignment of the eight development agenda points to the IPPC Secretariat.

9.4. World Plant Health Day

[58] The IPPC Secretariat explained the process to establish a World Plant Health Day, which could be done in collaboration with the Government of Ireland, which might raise this proposal during CPM-15 (2020). The IPPC Secretariat suggested establishing a World Plant Health Day by 2022, during the year of the 70th Anniversary of the IPPC.

[59] The CPM Bureau:

- (24) *Endorsed* the proposal to initiate the process of establishment of a World Plant Health Day.

10. Next Meeting

[60] The next meeting of the CPM Bureau will take place on 16 March 2020 through a teleconference.

11. Closing of the Meeting

[61] The Chairperson thanked all participants for their active participation and closed the meeting.

Annex 1 – Agenda

	AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT NO.	PRESENTER
1	Opening of the Meeting		XIA / TRUJILLO
2	Meeting Arrangements		
2.1	Adoption of the Agenda	01_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec	TRUJILLO
3	Administrative Matters		DENG
3.1	Documents list	02_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec	
3.2	Participants list	03_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec	
4	Review of 2019 October CPM Bureau Report	CPM Bureau 2019 October Report	TRUJILLO / DENG
5	Financial, Budgetary and Work Plan		BENOVIC
5.1	FAO increase of biennial budget allocation to IPPC Secretariat (2020-2021)	--	
5.2	Adjustment of 2019 budget of IPPC Secretariat	--	
5.3	Revision of the IPPC Secretariat Work Plan and Budget for 2020 (<i>contingent on FAO Council approval of increase</i>)	17_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec	
6	Proposed evaluation to the IPPC Secretariat by FAO Programme Committee		XIA/BENOVIC
7	Preparation for CPM-15 (2020)		
7.1	Agenda	04_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec	DENG / MONTUORI
7.2	Ministerial segment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keynote speaker(s) - Ministerial declaration - Adoption of IPPC Strategic Framework (2020-2030) 	--	DENG / MONTUORI
7.3	Side sessions and meetings	05_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec 10_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec 14_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec	DENG / MONTUORI
7.4	Draft CPM Recommendation: <i>Safe provision of food and other aid to prevent the introduction of plant pests during an emergency situation</i> (2018-026)	11_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec 12_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec 15_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec	SHAMILOV / MOREIRA

	AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT NO.	PRESENTER
7.5	Commodity standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The draft ISPM on Commodity-based standards for phytosanitary measures (2019-008) - The draft specification on Technical Panel for Commodity Standards (TPCS) (2019-009) 	18_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec 19_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec 2019-008 2019-009	WOLFF / BUTCHER / MOREIRA
8	Updates		
8.1	SC meeting in November 2019	09_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec SC November 2019 Report	GATT / MOREIRA
8.2	IC Meeting in November 2019	07_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec	LARSON
8.3	31 st meeting of the TC-RPPOs (2019) (including a proposal to include a presentation on the Global Surveillance System to CPM-15 (2020))	06_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec	BRUNEL
8.4	IYPH 2020	08_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec 16_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec	MONTUORI
9	Any Other Business		TRUJILLO
9.1	SPG closed session during its October 2019 meeting and IC closed session at its November meeting	13_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec SPG October 2019 Report	LARSON
9.2	Appreciation letter to FAO's Director-General from CPM Chair or CPM Bureau	20_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec	FEDCHOCK
9.3	Allocation of development agendas for IPPC new Framework to Units of IPPC Secretariat	--	XIA
9.4	World Plant Health Day	--	XIA
10	Next Meeting		XIA/TRUJILLO
11	Closing of the Meeting		TRUJILLO

Annex 2 – Document List

DOCUMENT NO.	AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT TITLE (PREPARED BY)	DATE POSTED / DISTRIBUTED
01_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec	02.1	Agenda	2019-12-11
02_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec	03.1	Documents List	2019-12-11
03_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec	03.2	Participants List	2019-12-06
04_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec	07.1	Draft CPM-15 (2020) Agenda	2019-12-06
05_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec	07.3	CPM-15 Proposed Side Sessions and Meetings	2019-12-06
06_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec	08.3	Update on the 31st TC-RPPO (2019)	2019-12-06
07_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec	08.2	IC Meeting in November 2019	2019-12-09
08_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec	08.4	IYPH 2020	2019-12-09
09_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec	08.1	SC meeting in November 2019	2019-12-09
10_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec	07.3	Proposal for side session during CMP-15 (2020)	2019-12-09
11_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec	07.4	Draft CPM Recommendation: Safe provision of food and other aid to prevent the introduction of plant pests during an emergency situation (2018-026)	2019-12-09
12_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec	07.4	Draft CPM Recommendation: Safe provision of food and other aid to prevent the introduction of plant pests during an emergency situation (2018-026)	2019-12-09
13_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec	09.1	SPG closed session during its October 2019 meeting and IC closed session at its November meeting	2019-12-09
14_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec	07.3	Side session proposal from the Standards Committee: Enhancing the understanding of the concept on authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary actions	2019-12-09

DOCUMENT NO.	AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT TITLE (PREPARED BY)	DATE POSTED / DISTRIBUTED
15_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec	07.4	Draft CPM Recommendation: Safe provision of food and other aid to prevent the introduction of plant pests during an emergency situation (2018-026)	2019-12-09
16_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec	08.4	IYPH Secretariat Participation to CFS Activities	2019-12-10
17_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec	05.3	Revision of the IPPC Secretariat Work Plan and Budget for 2020	2019-12-11
18_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec	07.5	Draft Specification for the TP for commodity Standards (2019-009)	2019-12-11
19_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec	07.5	Update from the Focus Group on Commodity and Pathway Standards	2019-12-11
20_CPM Bureau_2019_Dec	09.2	Appreciation letter to FAO's Director-General from CPM Chair or CPM Bureau	2019-12-11
2019-008	07.5	Draft ISPM: Commodity-based standards for phytosanitary measures (2019-008)	2019-12-11
IPP LINKS:			Agenda item
Local Information			03.3
CPM Bureau 2019 October Report			04
SPG October 2019 Report			09.1

Annex 3 – Participants List

Attending	Participant role / Region	Name, mailing address, telephone	Email address
✓	Africa <i>Vice-Chairperson</i>	Mr Lucien KOUAME KONAN Inspecteur Direction de la Protection des Végétaux, du Contrôle et de la Qualité Ministère de l'Agriculture B.P. V7 Abidjan, Ph.: (+225) 07 903754 COTE D'IVOIRE	l_kouame@yahoo.fr
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Annex 4 – CPM-15 Agenda

No	Item	Document	Presenter	IPPC Secretariat support
1	Opening of the Session		XIA	
1.1	FAO Opening	n/a	FAO DG / DDG / ADG	XIA
1.2	Video message from CBD on behalf of BLG	(Video message)		NERSISYAN
2	Keynote Address on International Year of Plant Health	TBC	TRUJILLO	DENG
3	Adoption of the Agenda	Doc	TRUJILLO	XIA
3.1	EU Statement of Competence	Doc	EC	DENG
4	Election of the Rapporteur	n/a	TRUJILLO	XIA
5	Establishment of the Credentials Committee	n/a	CPM Bureau member	BENOVIC
6	Report from the CPM Chairperson	Doc	TRUJILLO	DENG
7	Report from the IPPC Secretariat	Doc	XIA	
8	Governance and Strategy			
8.1	Summary of the 2019 Strategic Planning Group report	Doc	KONAN	DENG
8.2	CPM recommendations	Doc	NERSISYAN	
8.3	Focus Group on Commodity Standards	Doc	WOLFF / BUTCHER	NERSISYAN
8.4	Draft action plan for Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems	Doc	BRUNEL	
8.5	Implementation and Capacity Development Committee Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure – Revision presented for adoption	Doc	LARSON / PARDO	
9	Cooperation of Standards and Implementation			

9.1	Framework for standards and implementation	Doc	NERSISYAN / LARSON	
9.2	Global Plant Health Surveillance work plan update	Doc	BRUNEL	
9.3	Challenging concepts identified in the development of standards or their implementation	Doc	NERSISYAN	
10	Financial Report and Budget			
10.1	Financial report of the IPPC Secretariat for 2019	Doc	BENOVIC	
10.2	Resource mobilization of the IPPC Secretariat for 2019	Doc	XIA	
10.3	Adjustments to 2020 work plan budget for IPPC Secretariat	CRP	WOLFF	BENOVIC
10.4	Work plan and budget of the IPPC Secretariat for 2021	Doc	BENOVIC	
11	Standard Setting			
11.1	Report of the Standards Committee (SC)	Doc	FERRO	NERSISYAN
11.2	Adoption of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures	Doc	NERSISYAN	
11.3	Standards Committee recommendations to the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures	Doc	NERSISYAN	
11.4	Authorization of Entities	Doc	NERSISYAN	
11.5	Proposal on Pest Risk Assessment (PRA) Standards	Doc	NERSISYAN	
12	Implementation and Capacity Development			
12.1	Report of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC)	Doc	LAVRENTJEVA	LARSON
12.2	Implementation and Capacity Development Committee recommendations to the	Doc	LARSON	

	Commission on Phytosanitary Measures			
12.3	Progress of key activities on Implementation and Capacity Development	Doc	LARSON	
12.4	Status of ISPM-15 Symbol Registration	Doc	PASETTO	BENOVIC
13	IPPC Communication			
13.1	Report on Communication and Advocacy of the IPPC Secretariat	Doc	MONTUORI	
13.2	International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) 2020	Doc	LOPIAN	MONTUORI
14	External Cooperation			
14.1	Report on international cooperation of the IPPC Secretariat	Doc	DENG	
14.2	Oral reports from selected international organizations (CBD, WCO, STDF, WTO SPS & TFA, IAEA, CABI, IMO, and WBG)	n/a	DENG	
14.3	Written reports from relevant international organizations	INF papers	DENG	
15	IPPC Network Activities			
15.1	IPPC Regional Workshops for 2019	Doc	BRUNEL	
15.2	31st Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (TC-RPPOs)	Doc	MEZUI M'ELLA	BRUNEL
16	Pest Outbreak Alerts from contracting parties	Doc	BRUNEL	
17	Ministerial Segment		TRUJILLO	XIA / DENG / MONTUORI
17.1	Keynote address on global importance of plant health	n/a		
17.2	Endorsement of the Ministerial declaration on plant health	Doc		

17.3	Adoption of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030	Doc		
17.4	Interventions by Ministers	n/a		
18	Confirmation of Membership and Potential Replacements Members for CPM Subsidiary Bodies			
18.1	CPM Bureau members and potential replacement members	Doc	DENG	
18.2	SC members and potential replacement members	Doc	NERSISYAN	
18.3	IC members and potential replacement members	Doc	LARSON	
19	Any Other Business			
20	Date and Venue of the Next Session			
21	Adoption of the Report			
22	Closing of the Session			

Annex 5 – Action List

N.	Action	Lead	Lead within Secretariat/CPM Bureau/ Persons involved	Deadline
1	Collect proposals by contracting parties on topics to be included in the 2020 SPG agenda starting soon after CPM-15 (2020) and until early June 2020, to be reviewed by the CPM Bureau at their 2020 June CPM Bureau meeting.	IPPC Secretariat / CPM Bureau	Mirko MONTUORI / CPM Bureau	CPM-15 and 30-04-2020 (tentative)
2	Share the current draft of the Ministerial Declaration with respective networks.	IPPC Secretariat and CPs	Mirko MONTUORI	Ongoing until 2020
3	Provide updates on advancements on the development of specific targets as legacy of IYPH.	IPPC Secretariat	Mirko MONTUORI	CPM Bureau (March 2020)
4	Continue working on the IPP Surveillance Landing Page.	IPPC Secretariat / IC	Brent LARSON	
5	Develop the Global Surveillance Experts Register through the IC with minimum input from the IPPC Secretariat	IC	Chris DALE	
6	Develop the Global Surveillance Projects Register.	IPPC Secretariat	Brent LARSON	Ongoing
7	Present proposed revision of IC Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure to CPM-15 (2020) via SPG	IPPC Secretariat	Brent LARSON	
8	NPPOs to advocate for IYPH funding with their respective aid agencies; recipients of aid to liaise with their ministries.	CPM Bureau	All CPM Bureau members	Ongoing
9	Facilitate the process to share the Ministerial declaration with FAO Permanent Representatives and to present it to CPM-15 (2020).	IPPC Secretariat	Mirko MONTUORI / Riccardo MAZZUCHELLI	15 January 2020
10	Provide updates on the hiring of a project manager	IPPC Secretariat	Mr Marko BENOVICH	Ongoing

N.	Action	Lead	Lead within Secretariat/CPM Bureau/ Persons involved	Deadline
11	Provide information to CPM-15 regarding the Evaluation process	IPPC Secretariat		CPM-15
12	Draft an alternative plan for CPM-15 keynote speaker and Ministerial Segment	IPPC Secretariat	Mr Arop DENG	CPM Bureau (March 2020)
13	Draft and circulate comments on the most-up-to-date version of the CFS draft of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition to include plant health components.	IPPC Secretariat	Mr Riccardo MAZZUCHELLI	20 February 2020

Annex 6 - Draft specification on Technical Panel for Commodity Standards (TPCS) (2019-009) as revised by the Standards Committee (SC) in November 2019

(This attachment is presented in track changes)

(25) DRAFT SPECIFICATION FOR: Technical Panel for Commodity Standards (TPCS) (2019-009)

Status box

This is not an official part of the specification and it will be modified by the IPPC Secretariat after approval	
Date of this document	2019-11-14
Document category	Draft specification for a technical panel
Current document stage	To CPM-15 for approval for consultation
Major stages	2019-06 Focus group on commodity standards recommended adding to the work programme.
Steward history	-
Notes	This is a draft document 2019-07 Edited

TITLE

- [1] Technical Panel for Commodity Standards (TPCS) (2019-009).

REASON FOR THE TECHNICAL PANEL

- [2] There is broad consensus that commodity standards based on scientific methods and evidence will support safe and streamlined trade to the benefit of contracting parties. The IPPC strategic framework 2020–2030 includes the development of commodity standards. In order to develop such standards and ensure that sufficient rigour, resources and focus can be provided, the Technical Panel for Commodity Standards (TPCS) was established in 202X.

SCOPE AND PURPOSE

- [3] The Technical Panel for Commodity Standards (TPCS) develops and updates commodity standards within the framework of International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) XX [the concept standard] and develops guidance on related aspects.

TASKS

- [4] The TPCS should undertake the following:
- (1) Draft commodity standards prioritized by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, either directly or with the support of invited experts or through expert drafting groups established by the Standards Committee (SC).
 - (2) When drafting a commodity standard:
 - focus on the specific commodity and its intended use so the standard is practical and feasible
 - consider existing pest risk analyses, existing phytosanitary measures and related information that may inform the development of the standard

- evaluate technical information on relevant pests and phytosanitary measures and identify which pests and measures are to be included in the standard, using criteria established for this purpose in ISPM XX [the concept standard].
- (3) Ensure that draft commodity standards are consistent with the requirements and criteria in ISPM XX [the concept standard].
 - (4) Ensure that there is consistency among commodity standards being developed and adopted under ISPM XX [the concept standard].
 - (5) Review adopted commodity standards (either ISPMs or annexes to ISPMs), identify revisions needed and submit recommendations on these revisions to the SC.
 - (6) Provide advice to the SC on subjects, topics and priorities for development of commodity standards.
 - (7) Liaise as needed with the other technical panels under the Standards Committee (SC) (e.g. Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments, Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols, and Technical Panel on Forest Quarantine) and with the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee.
 - (8) Recommend to the SC calls for expert drafting groups for a specific commodity standards as needed.
 - (9) Support consultation and adoption of draft commodity standards by, for example, providing advice to the Steward, the SC and the IPPC Secretariat on appropriate responses to member comments relating to draft commodity standards.
 - (10) Consider how to categorize and catalogue phytosanitary measures included in commodity standards, and those in other standards, for use in an online search tool for target pest, commodity and measure, cross-referenced to relevant sources of information.
 - (11) When evaluating a phytosanitary measure for inclusion in a commodity standard, consider whether there is sufficient information to support it being proposed as a topic for the development of a specific ISPM.
 - (12) Consider whether commodity standards could affect in a specific way (positively or negatively) the protection of biodiversity and the environment. If this is the case, the impact should be identified, addressed and clarified in the draft commodity standard.
 - (13) Consider the use of commodity standards by contracting parties and identify potential impediments to operational and technical implementation. Provide information on these impediments, and possible recommendations on how to overcome them, to the SC.

EXPERTISE

1. Members of this panel should primarily have expertise in:
 - commodity pest risk assessment and management
 - development and management of phytosanitary import requirements
 - selection and implementation of phytosanitary measures for use in trade
 - development of regional and international phytosanitary standards
 - .

MEMBERS

- [5] Six to ten. Details of the technical panel membership may be found on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) at <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/expert-drafting-groups/technical-panels/>. Panel members are selected by the SC for a five-year term. The SC reviews the composition of the panel on a regular basis. The SC may renew individual memberships for additional terms.

THE TPCS MAY INVITE EXPERTS, AS OBSERVERS, WITH PREVIOUS AGREEMENT BY THE SC. STEWARD

- [6] The SC shall assign a member of the SC to be the Steward of the TPCS.
- [7] Please refer to the *List of topics for IPPC standards* posted on the IPP (see <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/list-topics-ippc-standards/list>).

PROVISION OF RESOURCES

- [8] Funding for the meeting may be provided from sources other than the regular programme of the IPPC (FAO). As recommended by ICPM-2 (1999), whenever possible, those participating in standard setting activities voluntarily fund their travel and subsistence to attend meetings. Participants may request financial assistance, with the understanding that resources are limited and the priority for financial assistance is given to developing country participants. Please refer to the *Criteria used for prioritizing participants to receive travel assistance to attend meetings organized by the IPPC Secretariat* posted on the IPP (see <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/>).

Annex 7 - Draft ISPM on Commodity-Based Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (2019-008) as revised by the Standards Committee (SC) in November 2019

(This attachment is presented in track changes)

DRAFT ISPM: COMMODITY-BASED STANDARDS FOR PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES (2019-008)

Status box

This is not an official part of the standard and it will be modified by the IPPC Secretariat after adoption.	
Date of this document	2019-11-14
Document category	Draft ISPM
Current document stage	To CPM-15 for approval for consultation
Major stages	2018-10 Focus group on commodity and pathway standards recommended adding to the work programme. 2018-12 CPM Bureau recommended adding to the work programme. 2019-04 CPM-14 added the topic to the work programme (2019-008). 2019-06 Focus group on commodity and pathway standards drafted ISPM 2019-11 Standards Committee reviewed and proposed changes to the CPM Bureau
Steward history	2019-07 Focus group on commodity and pathway standards
Notes	This is a draft document 2019-07 Focus group recommended that "pathways" be excluded 2019-09 Edited

ADOPTION

[9] [To be inserted following adoption].

INTRODUCTION

SCOPE

- [10] This standard provides guidance on the purpose, use, content and publication of commodity-based standards for phytosanitary measures. Such standards, presented as annexes to this overarching concept standard, apply to commodities being moved in international trade and identify pests associated with these commodities and options for relevant phytosanitary measures to be considered by contracting parties.
- [11] The scope of this standard and its annexes does not include consideration of contaminating pests or diversion from intended use.

REFERENCES

- [12] The present standard refers to ISPMs. ISPMs are available on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) at <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/ispms>.
- [13] **IPPC**. 1997. *International Plant Protection Convention*. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO.

DEFINITIONS

- [14] Definitions of phytosanitary terms used in this standard can be found in ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*).

OUTLINE OF REQUIREMENTS

- [15] Commodity standards should be considered by contracting parties when developing phytosanitary import requirements. Such standards contain lists of pests and corresponding options for phytosanitary

measures for commodities being moved in international trade. The lists of pests include those known to be associated with the specified commodity and intended use. Commodity standards may also include information on pests known to be associated with the plant species but not with the commodity being traded. The measures listed are those that satisfy minimum criteria for inclusion in the standard¹, and are categorized according to confidence in the measures. The lists of pests and options for phytosanitary measures are not intended to be exhaustive and are subject to review and amendment.

[16] Commodity standards are presented as annexes to this standard.

BACKGROUND

[17] A key element of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is the safeguarding of agriculture, forests and environment, and the facilitation of safe trade. Trade supports economic growth and development, helping to reduce poverty around the world. Significant advances in the facilitation of safe trade can be made through the development and adoption of international commodity-based standards for phytosanitary measures.

[18] The IPPC strategic framework 2020–2030 proposes the development of ISPMs for specific commodities, with accompanying diagnostic protocols, phytosanitary treatments and guidance, to simplify trade and expedite market access negotiations.

[19] The purpose of this standard is to provide guidance on the use of commodity standards. Such standards, presented as annexes to this standard, are designed to support the development of phytosanitary import requirements that facilitate safe trade.

IMPACTS ON BIODIVERSITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

[20] The commodity standards developed according to this standard provide guidance on options for phytosanitary measures. Such measures may help preserve biodiversity by managing the pest risk posed by commodities that are moved internationally, including the pest risk posed by invasive alien species.

PRINCIPLES

[12 bis] The IPPC contains a range of international rights and obligations. In the context of these rights and obligations, the basic principles of particular importance and relevance to commodity standards are as follows:

- Sovereign rights are not affected by commodity standards.
- Existing international obligations of contracting parties under the IPPC and the World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures remain unaffected.
- Commodity standards do not impose additional obligations on importing countries over and above those already identified in the IPPC.
- The scope of commodity standards does not include diversion from intended use.
- Lists of pests are presented in commodity standards. However, the regulation of any pest remains subject to technical justification, using an appropriate pest risk analysis (PRA) or, where applicable, another comparable examination and evaluation of available scientific information (Articles II and VI of the IPPC).
- Commodity standards provide contracting parties with options for phytosanitary measures to prevent the entry and establishment of regulated pests. These options are not intended to be exhaustive; other measures may be implemented by contracting parties, if technically justified, and may be proposed for inclusion in commodity standards.

REQUIREMENTS

¹ The inclusion of a measure in this ISPM does not create any obligation for a contracting party to approve it or register or adopt it for use in its territory.

PURPOSE AND USE OF COMMODITY STANDARDS

- [21] The purpose of commodity standards is to support the development of phytosanitary import requirements that facilitate safe trade.
- [22] Measures contained within commodity standards should be considered when developing phytosanitary import requirements. These standards may serve to facilitate the evaluation of such measures in pest risk analysis (or other comparable examination and evaluation). These standards may also be useful during market access discussions.
- [23] Phytosanitary import requirements are established by importing countries, respecting sovereign rights, international obligations and considering market access discussions.
2. [new para] It is intended that commodity standards provide benefits for both importing and exporting countries. Examples of such benefits include the following:
 - supporting and assisting developing countries
 - facilitating market access discussions
 - facilitating safe trade
 - optimizing the use of resources
 - identifying and increasing awareness of measures available to minimize pests associated with the movement of commodities in international trade.
 3. [paragraph, previously 33bis] Commodity standards are not developed in the following situations:
 - when no effective phytosanitary measures are available
 - when an existing ISPM already provides sufficient guidance

WHEN A COMMODITY SHOULD NOT BE REGULATED WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE IPPC.CONTENT OF COMMODITY STANDARDS

4. [new para] Specific commodity standards are arranged according to the following sections:
 - Scope
 - Description of the commodity
 - Pests
 - Options for phytosanitary measures
 - References.

SCOPE

- [24] A commodity standard clearly describes the specific commodity and its intended use, and covers a discrete set of pests and related options for phytosanitary measures..

DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMODITY AND ITS INTENDED USE

- [25] This section clearly describes the commodity and its intended use. The description should allow the identification of a focused list of pests and associated options for phytosanitary measures. [previously in 31] It is important to describe the intended use of the commodity because of the influence this has on the pest risk posed by the commodity, as described in ISPM 32 (*Categorization of commodities according to their pest risk*)

PESTS

- [26] This section should include a list or lists of pests that are known to be both associated with the commodity described. Criteria for inclusion of pests include the availability of a PRA or other technical justification, and regulated by at least one contracting party. The list or lists of pests are presented in tabular format with the corresponding options for phytosanitary measures (see below).

- [27] Inclusion of a pest in a commodity standard does not provide technical justification for its regulation. [previously 32 (edited)] The determination of whether to regulate these pests is at the discretion of the importing country, based on technical justification, using an appropriate PRA or, where applicable, another comparable examination and evaluation of available scientific information.
- [28] This section may also include information of pests known to be associated with the plant species but, based on available scientific information, known not to be associated with the traded commodity described (e.g. pests associated with *Mangifera indica* for propagation but not with the traded commodity, mango fruit).
- [29] The list or lists of pests are not intended to be exhaustive.

OPTIONS FOR PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

- [30] This section presents options for phytosanitary measures, including measures adopted in ISPMs or currently used in trade. Individual or combinations of measures may be provided for each pest and may relate to any stage or stages of international trade prior to import.

[new para, previously 33, modified] Although commodity standards only present measures that may be applied up to the point of import, post-entry measures may be considered by contracting parties, as described in ISPM 20 (*Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system*).

- [31] The list or lists of measures are not intended to be exhaustive but rather to give countries options for consideration.
- [32] .
- [33] .
- [34] The measures are presented in the table or tables of pests known to be associated with the commodity, with each measure being listed against the corresponding pest or pests that it controls. A description of each measure, sufficient to indicate its use and practical application, is provided. When necessary, additional information on the measures may be included in an appendix.

REFERENCES

- [35] All information presented on pests and measures in the standard is referenced in this section.

VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE

- [36] Several ISPMs provide information on verification of compliance. Examples include ISPM 7 (*Phytosanitary certification system*), ISPM 12 (*Phytosanitary certificates*), ISPM 13 (*Guidelines for the notification of non-compliance and emergency action*), ISPM 18 (*Guidelines for the use of irradiation as a phytosanitary measure*), and ISPM 20 (*Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system*).

CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION OF MEASURES IN COMMODITY STANDARDS

5. [paragraph] A measure is considered for inclusion in a commodity standard when it is, or has been, set as a phytosanitary import requirement by at least one contracting party (and hence in operation between at least two contracting parties) or when included at least in one bilateral agreement. Inclusion in the standard is further supported if one or more of the following criteria are met:
 - Experience from use in trade indicates that the measure is effective. For example:
 - interception data indicate that the measure is effective
 - the measure is, or has been, used extensively
 - the measure has been successfully used to manage non-compliant consignments

- information from plant health certification schemes indicate that the measure is effective.
- Experience from domestic use indicates that the measure is effective. For example:
 - the measure has been used extensively in relation to movement of commodities within the country
 - the measure has been used successfully in outbreak management and suppression
 - results from eradication programmes indicate that the measure is effective
 - information from plant health certification schemes indicate that the measure is effective
 - best management practices for the measure are available.
- Experimental evidence indicates that the measure is effective. For example:
 - private and public sector research indicates that the measure is effective.
- Information from PRAs (pest risk management options) or, where applicable, from another comparable examination and evaluation of available scientific information, indicate that the measure is effective.
- Adopted ISPMs exist that are relevant to the pests or commodities.
- Regional standards exist that are relevant to the pests or commodities.

[37] The practicability and feasibility of the measure is also taken into account when a measure is being considered for inclusion in a commodity standard.

CONFIDENCE IN MEASURES

6. [Paragraph] Measures are evaluated by the Technical Panel on Commodity Standards and categorized according to confidence in the measure. There are three categories – high, medium and low – and each category is accompanied by an explanatory description. These categories may be based on factors such as:
- the presence of the measure in an adopted ISPM
 - the presence of the measure in a regional standard
 - the history of the use of the measure by contracting parties
 - the history of the use of the measure by the private sector
 - the inclusion of the measure in a PRA
 - the number of PRAs that include the measure
 - the number of years that the measure has been in use
 - reports of success or failure of the measure, including interception data
 - the volume or frequency of traded commodities subjected to the measure
 - the availability of quantitative or qualitative analyses pertinent to the measure
 - the number and diversity of countries applying the measures.

[38] Confidence depends on the rigour of any supporting analyses and may be increased if there are cumulative sources of evidence, such as information on usage or acceptance.

6. PUBLICATION OF ANNEXES

[39] After adoption by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM), commodity-specific standards, containing lists of pests and options for phytosanitary measures for commodities being moved in international trade, are posted separately on the IPP as annexes to this standard. These annexes have the status of an ISPM and should be considered accordingly. Where appropriate, commodity standards may instead be presented as annexes of other ISPMs.

7. REVIEW AND RE-EVALUATIONS

- [40] Contracting parties should submit to the IPPC Secretariat any new information that could have an impact on the lists of pests or lists of options for phytosanitary measures currently adopted by the CPM. Appropriate information should be provided to support any claims. The Technical Panel on Commodity Standards will review the data and revise the lists if necessary, following the Standard setting process.

Annex 8 – Draft one of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and nutrition

1. Introduction

1.1. Background and rationale

- [41] Malnutrition in all its forms – undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight, and obesity – has become one of the major global challenges that countries face today. Malnutrition in at least one of its forms affects every country in the world and most countries are affected by multiple forms. This represents a major impediment to achieving global food security², the realization of the right to adequate food, and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The impacts of malnutrition and its various manifestations have profound consequences on people's health and wellbeing, physical and cognitive development, lives and livelihoods throughout their lifetimes and from one generation to another.
- [42] Malnutrition in all its forms is associated with various forms of ill health and increased levels of mortality. Undernutrition is a major cause of death among children under five while new-borns with a low birth weight are more frequently affected by infectious diseases during early life and are predisposed to higher risk of contracting non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Stunting and wasting continue to represent significant challenges to achieve the 2030 goals and targets. While wasting, also known as acute malnutrition, represents a greater risk of mortality and morbidity, stunting, or chronic malnutrition is associated with delays in both physical growth and cognitive development. The coexistence of wasting and stunting, as well as stunting and obesity in children under the age of five poses major risks in some regions. Overweight and obesity are increasing in every region, with rural areas catching up to urban settings.
- [43] Micronutrient deficiencies related to the inadequate intake of iron, vitamin A, folate, vitamin D and zinc, affect a large proportion of the global population with serious consequences on health, wellbeing, and development. Children under five, adolescent girls, women of childbearing age, and pregnant women have specific nutritional requirements across their lifecycles and are at risk of being affected by anaemia, in particular iron deficiency anaemia. Also referred to as “hidden hunger”, micronutrient deficiency increases vulnerability to infection, birth defects, and impaired development, and lowers life expectancy.
- [44] Overweight and obesity represent major risk factors globally for diet-related NCDs such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes, as well as chronic respiratory diseases. While undernutrition is still the main form of malnutrition among children under five, overweight and obesity are increasingly prevalent among school-aged children, adolescents and adults.
- [45] The social and economic impacts of malnutrition in all its forms is very high on societies as it is transmitted across generations. Malnourished mothers are more likely to have low-birth-weight babies with higher risk of becoming malnourished children and adults. The effects of malnutrition in children result in reduced stature, poor school performance, reduced economic productivity and opportunities, and increased vulnerability to NCDs and other chronic diseases. These diseases lead to higher spending on health care, putting significant burdens on national health care systems and economies.
- [46] Malnutrition in all its forms has many interrelated and underlying causes that need to be addressed simultaneously. Among them, the lack of stable access to healthy and safe diets and safe drinking water, inadequate infant and young child-caring and feeding practices, poor sanitation and hygiene, insufficient education and health services, and low socio-economic status.
- [47] Poverty and inequality are important underlying causes of hunger and malnutrition in all its forms. Economic slowdowns and downturns have significant impacts on employment rates, wages, incomes, and purchasing power with negative consequences on nutrition and health. These limit the capacity of

² Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, economic and social access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

national governments to ensure the provision of essential social services and the delivery of health care. In this context, inequality influences income and asset distribution, determines marginalization and social exclusion, and further increases the vulnerability of the most affected to malnutrition.

- [48] The most affected by malnutrition in all its forms typically includes those with increased nutrient requirements and those who have less control over their choice of diet, including young and school-aged children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women, the elderly, and disabled people. In addition, urban poor, indigenous people, peasants, rural poor, agriculture and food chain workers, upland and remote communities, and displaced people are particularly vulnerable to malnutrition because of their persistent or temporary poverty.
- [49] Complex and protracted crises also have both immediate and long-term adverse consequences on the nutritional status of impacted populations, particularly pregnant and lactating women and children under five. Conflicts, fragility, and susceptibility to natural disasters pose a major global threat not only to the functioning of food systems and their ability to deliver sustainable and healthy diets but to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as a whole.
- [50] Climate change, agriculture, and nutrition are interconnected. Climate change and variability affects temperature and precipitation, as well as the frequency and severity of extreme weather events. Increases in temperature, heat waves, and droughts impact agriculture, with the largest effects being decreased crop yields and livestock productivity, as well as declines in fisheries and agroforestry in areas already vulnerable to food insecurity. Climate change affects food quantity, quality, safety and ultimately food prices, with significant implications for availability of healthy diets.
- [51] Unhealthy diets represent one of the major risk factors for malnutrition and its related health outcomes. Food systems have become more interconnected from global to local levels, with longer, more complex food supply chains. The enhanced interconnectedness of people and places, globalization, urbanization, and the overabundance of cheap, convenient and often ultra-processed food and beverage, are important determinants of shifts in consumer behaviour toward unhealthy diets. Such dietary shifts have been associated with increasing prevalence of overweight, obesity and NCDs worldwide. An individual's food choices have impacts that resonate far beyond themselves: diets reflect larger systemic issues that impact population, health, sustainability, and justice.
- [52] Current global food systems, with their excessive consumption and waste patterns, are unsustainable. They are inefficient in resource utilization, including labour and energy, and lead to environmental degradation. Current global dietary trends are negatively impacting the world's natural resources, biodiversity, and ecosystems in the context of population growth and pressure. Food systems can be also characterized by inequitable power concentration and imbalances failing to deliver benefits for all. Changes are needed within and across food systems, with the aim to generate positive outcomes along the three dimensions of sustainability – social, economic, and environmental.
- [53] Fostering policy, institutional and behavioural changes among food system actors is key to reshaping or promoting sustainable food systems that improve nutrition and enable sustainable and healthy diets that meet the evolving dietary needs of growing populations. In order to be effective and sustainable, food system-related policies need to focus on their economic, social, environmental, nutritional and health consequences, paying special attention to the poorest and most nutritionally vulnerable, and addressing barriers they face in accessing sustainable and healthy diets.
- [54] New policies are required to address policy fragmentation and its subsequent negative impact on nutrition, ones that are designed and coordinated across sectors such as health, agriculture and food systems, education, environment, water, sanitation, gender, social protection, trade, employment, and finance – all of which impact nutrition outcomes.
- [55] The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) has undertaken a policy process to produce Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN). The preparation of these Guidelines is informed by the findings and scientific evidence provided in the [High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security](#)

[and Nutrition's \(HLPE\)³ Report on Nutrition and Food Systems](#). The preparation of the VGFSyN is also informed by a consultation process that took place between May and November 2019 which involved participation of CFS stakeholders in meetings in Rome, Ethiopia, Thailand, Hungary, Egypt, Panama, and the United States of America, as well as through an E-Consultation.

- [56] This policy process is taking place at the same time as a variety of organizations from different sectors are addressing malnutrition. Food systems and nutrition have received increased attention from the global community, including the United Nations (UN) and its Member States, and is recognized as an essential component of achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In 2014, at the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), Members of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) committed to ending hunger and malnutrition in all its forms⁴. In 2016, the General Assembly of the UN (UNGA) proclaimed the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025)⁵ and called upon FAO and WHO to lead its implementation, in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), using multistakeholder platforms such as CFS. Specific attention on nutrition was given by a number of UNGA Resolutions⁵, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)⁶, the UN Environment Assembly⁷, the World Health Assembly (WHA)⁸ and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food⁹.
- [57] The VGFSyN are expected to contribute to and complement these international initiatives with a view to promoting policy coherence. They will provide evidence-based guidance to help countries operationalize ICN2's Framework for Action¹⁰ recommendations in support of the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security and of the right to health, and of the achievement of SDG 2¹⁰, with particular attention to targets 2.1¹², 2.2¹¹ and 2.4¹². In addition, the VGFSyN should have an essential role in assisting countries to achieve a number of other related SDGs (SDG 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12).

1.2. Objectives and purpose

- [58] The VGFSyN are intended to be a reference point that provides evidence-based guidance mainly to governments, specialized institutions and other stakeholders, including international organizations, on

³ The HLPE is the science-policy interface of CFS and provides a structured evidence base to inform CFS policy discussions drawing on existing research and knowledge, experiences, and policies at different scales and in different contexts.

⁴ FAO/WHO. 2014. ICN2, [Rome Declaration on Nutrition](#).

⁵ United Nations General Assembly Resolutions 70/259 available at <https://undocs.org/A/RES/70/259> and 72/306 at <https://undocs.org/A/RES/72/306> - The Work Programme of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition is available at: https://www.un.org/nutrition/sites/www.un.org.nutrition/files/general/pdf/mv131_rev1_undoa_wp_rev1_en.pdf ⁵ UNGA Resolutions [A/RES/73/2 "Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases"](#), [A/RES/73/132 "Global health and foreign policy: a healthier world through better nutrition"](#), [A/RES/73/253 "Agriculture development, food security and nutrition"](#).

⁶ [Ministerial Declaration of the 2018 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#)

⁷ [Ministerial Declaration of the 2019 United Nations Environment Assembly](#)

⁸ The World Health Assembly has endorsed the [Comprehensive implementation plan for maternal, infant and young child nutrition](#), and the [WHO Global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013-2020](#), which delineate policy options for the prevention of malnutrition in all its forms and the promotion of healthy diets.

⁹ [A/71/282 "Interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food"](#) ¹⁰ FAO/WHO. 2014. ICN2, [Framework for Action](#).

¹⁰ SDG 2, "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture". ¹² Target 2.1, "By 2030 end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round".

¹¹ Target 2.2, "By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons".

¹² Target 2.4, "By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation for climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality".

effective policies, investment and institutional arrangements that will address malnutrition in all its forms from a food systems perspective.

- [59] The objective of the VGFSyN is to contribute to reshaping or promoting food systems to ensure that the food that contributes to sustainable and healthy diets is available, affordable, acceptable, safe, and of adequate quantity and quality while conforming “with beliefs, culture and traditions, dietary habits, and preferences of individuals, in accordance with national and international laws and obligations”¹³.
- [60] The VGFSyN follow a comprehensive, systemic, and evidence-based approach to addressing policy fragmentation with a special emphasis on the food, agriculture, and health sectors, while also addressing the challenges of social, environmental and economic sustainability. The VGFSyN are expected to address the complexity of food systems with the intention to promote policy coherence and foster and guide dialogue among different institutions and sectors.
- [61] Food systems are integrally connected with issues related to trade and investment, food safety, climate change, biodiversity and genetic resources, among others, which are all addressed in dedicated normative intergovernmental processes. Different actors dealing with these matters need to refer to, and build upon, existing international commitments, promoting coherence and addressing the current policy fragmentation, without duplicating efforts or moving beyond their mandates.
- [62] The VGFSyN are intended to be global in scope and to provide guidance to policy-makers and relevant stakeholders when designing context-specific policies, strategies, plans and programmes. They take into consideration different national realities, capacities and levels of development, as well as different types of food systems and the many drivers impacting them.
- [63] Moreover, the VGFSyN provide guidance to relevant actors involved in humanitarian contexts in order to bridge the gap between humanitarian and development work and integrate nutrition and longer-term strategies for sustainable development into emergency and humanitarian responses, with a view toward strengthening the resilience and adaptive capacity of food systems.
- [64] The functionality of food systems and their ability to deliver sustainable and healthy diets is influenced by a number of drivers which indicate that, in order to improve nutrition, context specific changes are needed not only in agriculture and food policy but also in development priorities, economic policies, and social norms. These drivers can be categorized as follows:
 - (a) biophysical and environmental (natural resource and ecosystem services, biodiversity, climate change, water, and soils);
 - (b) innovation, technology, and infrastructure;
 - (c) political and economic (leadership, globalization, foreign investment, trade, food policies and regulatory frameworks, land tenure, conflicts, and humanitarian crises);
 - (d) socio-cultural (culture, religion, rituals, social traditions, poverty, inequalities, and women’s rights and empowerment);
 - (e) demographic drivers (population growth, age distribution, urbanization, migration, and forced displacement).

1.3. Nature of the voluntary guidelines and their intended users

- [65] The VGFSyN are non-binding and should be interpreted and applied consistently with existing obligations under relevant national and international law, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments, and with due regard to voluntary commitments under applicable regional and international instruments. CFS guidance should build on and integrate existing instruments and frameworks for action adopted in the context of the UN system, including Member States-endorsed guidance and recommendations.

¹³ FAO/WHO. 2014. ICN2, [Rome Declaration on Nutrition](#). Paragraph 5.b.

[66] The VGFSyN are expected to build upon and complement related guidance contained in other CFS products, and are intended to avoid duplication of the work and mandate of other international bodies. In order to ensure policy coherence, specific attention should be paid to:

- [CFS Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of the national food security](#) (2004),
- [CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security – VGGT](#) (2012),
- [CFS Principles for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems – RAI](#) (2014), and
- [CFS Framework for Action for food security and nutrition in protracted crises – FFA](#) (2015)
- [CFS Policy Recommendations on Connecting Smallholders to Markets](#) (2016).

[67] The VGFSyN are primarily targeted at governments to help them design public policies. They are also meant to be used in policy discussions and implementation processes by relevant stakeholders such as:

- Governmental actors, including relevant ministries and national, sub-national, and local institutions, and parliamentarians;
- Intergovernmental and regional organizations, including specialized agencies of the UN;
- Civil society organizations, including those representing indigenous people, vulnerable groups and communities;
- Private sector;
- Research organizations, academics and universities;
- Development partners, including international financial institutions;
- Private donors, foundations and funds;
- Consumer protection associations; and
- Farmer organizations.

2. Key concepts and guiding principles

2.1. Key concepts concerning food systems and nutrition

[68] Food systems “gather all the elements (environment, people, inputs, processes, infrastructures, institutions, etc.) and activities that relate to the production, processing, distribution, preparation and consumption of food, and the output of these activities, including socio-economic and environmental outcomes”¹⁴.

[69] Sustainable food systems “are food systems that ensure food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition of future generations are not compromised”¹⁵.

[70] Sustainable and healthy diets “promote all dimensions of individuals’ health and wellbeing; have low environmental pressure and impact; are accessible, affordable, safe and equitable; and are culturally acceptable. The aims of sustainable [and] healthy diets are to achieve optimal growth and development of all individuals and support functioning and physical, mental and social wellbeing at all life stages for present and future generations; contribute to preventing all forms of malnutrition (i.e. undernutrition, micronutrient deficiency, overweight and obesity); reduce the risk of diet-related NCDs; and support the preservation of biodiversity and planetary health. Sustainable [and] healthy diets must combine all the dimensions of sustainability to avoid unintended consequences”¹⁶.

¹⁴ HLPE. 2014. [Food Losses and Waste in the context of Sustainable Food Systems](#). A report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security, Rome.

¹⁵ HLPE 2017b

¹⁶ Adapted from [FAO and WHO. 2019. Sustainable healthy diets – Guiding principles. Rome](#)

- [71] The right to adequate food “is realized when every man, woman and child, alone or in community with others, have the physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement”¹⁷.

2.2. Guiding principles for reshaping or promoting sustainable food systems

- [72] Food systems serve and support multiple objectives within the three dimensions of sustainable development. While food systems might differ greatly, they offer important opportunities for public policies, mechanisms, instruments and investment that aim to advance the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- [73] The VGFSyN include a number of guiding principles¹⁸ that should be followed to contribute to reshaping or promoting sustainable food systems, enabling sustainable and healthy diets, improving nutrition, and promoting sustainable development.
- [74] These guiding principles are:
- Systemic, holistic and evidence-based approach. Promote a systemic, multi-sectoral, and science and evidence-based approach that considers food systems in their totality, integrates indigenous and traditional forms of knowledge, seeks to simultaneously maximize outcomes across all sustainability dimensions, and looks at the multidimensional causes of malnutrition in all its forms.
 - Coherent and context-specific policies. Contribute to the formulation and implementation of coherent, context-specific and evidence-based policies and related investment through coordinated actions among different actors and across all relevant sectors at international, regional, national, subnational, and local levels.
 - Governance and accountability. Support efforts in strengthening governance and accountability mechanisms that contribute to fostering citizen participation in national debates on food security and nutrition, and transparent and inclusive decision-making processes.
 - Healthy people, healthy planet. Promote policies that enhance the livelihoods, health, and wellbeing of the population, ensuring sustainable food production and consumption as well as the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems.
 - Gender equity and women’s empowerment. Promote gender equity and women’s and girls’ empowerment, promoting and fulfilling their rights and considering the importance of creating the conditions for women’s involvement in decision-making and strong engagement in shaping food systems that improve nutrition, given their key role in care, education, health promotion and food consumption.
 - Nutrition knowledge and awareness. Strengthen nutrition education, knowledge and literacy at individual and community levels to facilitate producers’, food processors’ and consumers’ decisions and to foster informed choices about food products for sustainable and healthy dietary practices. Health professionals, especially, should be trained on nutrition.
 - Realization of the Right to Adequate Food. Promote the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security going beyond ensuring minimum requirements and including access to food that is nutritionally adequate.

¹⁷ The definition of the right to adequate food is given by [the Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights \(CESCR\) which, through the general comment 12](#), is interpreting Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

¹⁸ These guiding principles make reference to already agreed international documents and tools, such as the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action of ICN2.

- Capacity building. Strengthen human and institutional capacities, particularly among nutrition and food system actors, to reshape food systems to deliver sustainable and healthy diets, and to promote adequate food habits.

3. The voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition

[75] The VGFSyN provide guidance on actions at multiple points across food systems, recognizing that food systems are interconnected and that any action to address one part will impact another. These actions can have both benefits and unintended consequences. Founded upon the principles of the right to adequate food, the VGFSyN provide a framework to promote policy coherence and to bring various stakeholders – people and organizations – who are involved in food systems to work holistically and together to deliver sustainable and healthy diets for optimal nutrition outcomes. The VGFSyN provide policy entry points, tools, and mechanisms across the constituent elements of food systems, namely food supply chains¹⁹, food environments²⁰, and consumer behaviour²³. They provide a range of actions that States, and other actors can consider to improve food systems to achieve better nutrition outcomes, with governments being critical in orchestrating effective enabling environments.

[76] This part is structured around the following six main sections:

- on governance of food systems which underpins and cuts across the other five sections;
- on food supply chains which determine the availability of safe and nutritious food;
- on actions to be taken to ensure accessibility of sustainable and healthy diets;
- on the notion that people are central to nutrition knowledge and education;
- on women's empowerment in food systems - as they are often the most vulnerable - but with great potential for reshaping food systems for the future; and
- on humanitarian contexts.

3.1. Transparent, democratic and accountable governance of food systems

[77] This part of the VGFSyN addresses the governance of food systems for enhancing nutrition. It covers issues of leadership and accountability, from global to local levels, across food systems.

3.1.i. Building on multi-sectoral actions and coordination

[78] States should facilitate an inclusive dialogue ensuring the participation of a range of stakeholders working with or in food systems, including national and international organizations from civil society, indigenous people, the private sector, the UN, donors and national researchers. This dialogue should cover all dimensions of food systems, including production, distribution, marketing and consumption. Marginalized and the most vulnerable social groups should participate in the process of defining policies and strategies at national and local levels to prevent and combat hunger and malnutrition.

[79] Considering the pivotal role of the private sector in the production, distribution and sale of food, States should facilitate an inclusive dialogue with the private sector to build strategies that improve food environments.

[80] States and inter-governmental organizations should encourage increased financial investment to support food systems that deliver sustainable and healthy diets.

¹⁹ Food supply chains “consist of the activities and actors that take food from production to consumption and to the disposal of its waste”, including production, storage, distribution, processing, packaging, retailing and marketing. HLPE 2017b

²⁰ Food environments “refer to the physical, economic, political and socio-cultural context in which consumers engage with the food system to make their decisions about acquiring, preparing and consuming food”. HLPE 2017b ²³ Consumer behaviour “reflects all the choices and decisions made by consumers on what food to acquire, store, prepare, cook and eat, and on the allocation of food within the household”. HLPE 2017b

3.1.ii. Promoting policy coherence by integrating nutrition into national development

- [81] States should align policies that affect nutrition across sectors, ministries and agencies, and strengthen legal frameworks and institutional capacities to deal with the multiple causes and consequences of malnutrition. This can be done by establishing or strengthening multi-sectoral, multistakeholder mechanisms that oversee the implementation of evidence-based policies, strategies and interventions.
- [82] States should integrate food system approaches that promote nutrition in national development, health, economic, and disaster risk reduction plans. This should be complemented with increased budgetary allocations to food system activities that relate to improving diets and nutrition, and transparent indicators to track and assess the full cost of addressing malnutrition in all its forms.
- [83] States should foster policy coherence across sectors to reduce all forms of malnutrition. These sectors include agriculture, environment, energy, water, sanitation, hygiene, health, education, fiscal policies, trade, investment, and economic and social development.
- [84] States, UN agencies, and international organizations should identify opportunities to achieve national and global food and nutrition targets set out by the WHA and the SDGs.

3.1.iii. Instituting accountability mechanisms, monitoring and evaluation

- [85] States should institute strong and transparent accountability mechanisms that pertain to different food system actors. These mechanisms should promote good governance, public deliberation, independent bodies monitoring compliance and performance, remedial actions to improve accountability, and capacity to manage conflicts of interest and settle disputes that may undermine public health.
- [86] States should ensure that multilateral and bilateral trade and investment agreements are consistent with nutrition, food and agriculture national policies and favour the transition towards more sustainable food systems, assessing how the health, environmental, social and economic outcomes of food systems are likely to be affected. This should include an assessment of how competition will be impacted, and whether and how levels of concentrated market power will change.
- [87] States should improve the availability and quality of multi-sectoral information systems that capture and harmonize food security and dietary indicators (particularly the dietary intake/consumption of food for the nutritionally vulnerable), food composition, and nutrition-related data for improved policy development and accountability. States should ensure there is robust technical capacity to analyze food system information in a comprehensive manner to support the planning and monitoring of actions.

3.2. Sustainable nutrition-oriented food supply chains in the context of climate change

- [88] Food chains operate at assorted scales and levels, from the shortest supply chains, to long, highly complex and globalized chains. The decisions made by the actors at any stage have implications on the availability, affordability, accessibility, acceptability, and safety of nutritious food for a healthy diet. Climate change and other environmental constraints are also making food supply more challenging.

3.2.i. Ensuring sustainable use and management of natural resources

- [89] States, farmers and other food producers should ensure that soil fertility is addressed as central to agriculture production systems, because nutrient-rich soils are critical to the production of food necessary for healthy diets. States should encourage the use of ecosystem services which maintain soil biodiversity and nutrient balance, and promote carbon storage.
- [90] States should ensure the management, control and sustainable use of water resources for agriculture and food production through regulation and community participatory approaches. These approaches should foster the reduction of water wastage in irrigation, ensure the systematic use of appropriate water-saving technologies, minimize water pollution stemming from agriculture, and promote the multiple uses of water (including wastewater) without compromising the ability of farmers and food producers to grow sufficient, nutritious food.

- [91] States should foster the protection of biodiverse landscapes and food and agriculture production systems including crops, livestock, forestry and plantations, fisheries and sustainable aquaculture. They should encourage the adoption of practices, including agroecological approaches, that ensure that the biodiversity of landscapes, including forests, waters and coastal seas, other agro-ecosystems, and sylvo-pastoral systems, is conserved and sustainably used.
- [92] States and private sector food actors should protect the biodiversity of forests and fisheries that are currently over-sourced, over-exploited, and endangered, by implementing the VGGT and other relevant international agreements.
- [93] States should promote the diversification of crops and animals including neglected and underutilized traditional crops, fruit, vegetables, legumes, nuts, and seeds, and animal-source food, applying sustainable food production and natural resource management practices.
- [94] States should protect the rights of indigenous people and other communities with customary tenure systems that exercise self-governance of land, fisheries and forests, to land, territories and resources they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired. They should be provided with equitable and sustainable rights to those resources, their livelihoods should be maintained, their indigenous knowledge and practices should be valued, their access to traditional food should be protected, and their diets, nutrition and wellbeing should be prioritized.

3.2.ii. Promoting nutrition within agriculture and food production

- [95] States should promote nutrition-sensitive agriculture and diversified food production through the integration of nutrition objectives into national food and agriculture policies.
- [96] States, private sector food actors and development partners should support and incentivize smallholders, particularly within developing countries, to adopt sustainable production practices and to produce diverse crops that will contribute to the availability, affordability and accessibility of nutritious food, while enhancing farmers' income and livelihood.
- [97] States, private sector food actors and development partners should support sustainable livestock, small animal and fishery systems (including artisanal fish and other aquatic systems) because they contribute to the protection and development of livelihoods, provide income, and supply key nutrients for health and wellbeing.
- [98] States and private sector food actors should ensure farmers and other food producers have access to seeds, modern and sustainable technologies, as well as skill training and capacity development to be able to use those technologies that could improve the production and quality of crops. These include, among others, biofortified crops, through on-farm conventional breeding, and sustainable agriculture technologies including better management of pollination and nutrient cycling, as well as new technologies.
- [99] States should integrate urban and peri-urban agriculture and urban land use into national and local agricultural development strategies, food and nutrition programmes, and urban planning, as a viable input into healthy diets for growing urban populations and social cohesion of communities.
- [100] States should invest in research and innovation for commercial development of nutritious crops, such as fruit, vegetables, healthy oils, nuts and seeds, legumes, biofortified crops, and diverse animal-sourced food, which are developed through conventional on farm breeding and are sustainable for smallholders.

3.2.iii. Improving food storage, processing, transformation and reformulation

- [101] States and private sector food actors should foster the development and uptake of adapted and affordable storage facilities, or invest in adequate storage, including cold storage, to allow for smallholders and food actors to have greater flexibility when they can sell their products, and to allow consumers to buy such products at adequate prices. States should also invest in transportation and road infrastructure to ensure the production of smallholder farmers are able to reach markets. These supply chain investments

should be complemented with improved and accessible information technology, training and capacity building to increase farmers' opportunities to deliver diverse, perishable, safe and nutritious food to market and for consumers to access those markets.

- [102] States and private sector food actors, including farmers and their associations, should facilitate minimizing food and nutrient loss on farms, during post-harvest storage and throughout processing and transportation, particularly of perishable food such as fruit, vegetables, dairy, and animal source food. Facilitation includes training and capacity, management practices and fostering the adoption of appropriate technologies, such as cold chambers storage units, solar walk-ins, refrigerators and dry storage, storage drums and drying facilities.
- [103] States should incentivize private sector food actors to work towards more sustainable and safe packaging of products such as nanotechnology, waxing, plant-based wrapping, and biodegradable plastics.
- [104] States should establish guidance for the use and scale-up of processing technologies that can improve the nutritional content of food (fortification/biofortification), minimize nutrient postharvest losses, and promote longer-term storage of food, particularly during periods of drought and poor production. Such technologies could include flash and solar drying, converting food to pastes and spreads, and fortification through conventional on farming breeding of staples and oils. States should set guidelines and monitor the level of processing as highly processed food have associations with unhealthy diets, overweight and obesity.
- [105] States should institute regulatory instruments to promote reformulation, complemented with warning labels and taxes on less nutritious food products that do not adhere to national food based dietary guidelines.
- [106] Private sector food and beverage actors should strive to meet public health goals by reformulating food to ensure less nutritious ingredients – such as sugars, salt/sodium and unhealthy fats such as trans fats – are minimized or eliminated in food and beverage products and nutritious ingredients such as fibre, fortificants, and other health promoting ingredients are increased.

3.2.iv. Making markets work for nutrition

- [107] To reduce food price volatility of nutritious food, states should promote transparency across food-related market transactions in real-time, with more emphasis on nutritious commodities, including enhanced tracking of food supply and stock data, and future prices.
- [108] States should increase public investment in market infrastructure (roads and bridges, physical markets, storage facilities), to reduce transaction costs and enhance food market performance particularly for perishable and nutritious food.
- [109] States and private sector actors should support smallholders to meet safety and quality standards of nutritious food that enable them to fulfill demand for the local consumption whilst reaching broader markets and getting higher profits for their products.

3.2.v. Improving nutrition and health of farm and food system workers

- [110] States and private sector actors should ensure that those who grow the world's food, have sufficient livelihoods to ensure they too can access healthy diets for their own optimal nutritional status. This means ensuring food producers and workers are food secure, have decent wages, and can access health services.
- [111] States should ensure that right to decent work are respected, protected and fulfilled, that farmers and other food producers and workers are protected and safe, and there is no unnecessary burden or undue labour which could negatively impact their health.

3.2.vi. Prioritizing climate adaptation and mitigation

- [112] States should support and assist farmers and other food producers to lower the environmental impact of food systems. This could be done by fostering appropriate technology and changes in management to improve crop yields and reduce non-organic fertilizer and pesticide usage. States could promote optimization of agricultural outputs per unit of water, energy, and land, and manage the carbon footprint of agriculture activities.
- [113] Development partners and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) should provide technical assistance to farmers and other food producers to help them adapt to, and ensure food supply chains are resilient to, climatic shocks and humanitarian crises. Interventions could include access to finance, insurance, better forecasting data, and productive-asset creation initiatives (e.g. rehabilitating degraded land and infrastructure building).
- [114] States should assist farmers and other food producers to protect crops and livestock and their production systems from the anticipated impacts of climate change in the form of pests, diseases, weather-related shocks, extreme price volatility through cover crops, no-till farming, crop and weather insurance, and renewable energy technologies.
- [115] States should support investment in diverse and nutritious crops and animal production systems, enhanced storage and marketing, reduced food loss and resilience-focused adaptations. Donors and investors should diversify agricultural investment based on ecological suitability, such that a greater diversity of production systems are supported, varied and at scale to meet the needs of both large and small farmers.
- [116] States should include dietary quality indices and other food system metrics as part of climate related target-setting agendas and in related surveillance systems (including early warning systems) to monitor changing conditions and the effectiveness of policy responses.
- [117] Researchers should promote the generation and use of rigorous evidence on investment along food supply chains that are resilient to climate change while also delivering positive dietary outcomes. Research should focus on potential interventions and policy entry points to ensure agricultural production, processing and packaging, retail and markets, and consumer demand are adaptable to climate change and disruption.

3.2.vii. Empowering youth in food systems

- [118] States should engage and empower youth by enhancing their access to productive land, natural resources, inputs, productive tools, extension, advisory service, and financial services, education, training, markets, information, and inclusion in decision-making.
- [119] States and private sector food actors should provide appropriate training, education, and mentorship programmes for youth to increase their capacity and access to decent work and entrepreneurship opportunities to stimulate their contribution to reshaping food systems.
- [120] States and private sector food actors should promote development and access to innovation and new technologies along food supply chains that enhance nutrition, especially to attract and enable youth to be drivers of improvement in food systems.

3.2.viii. Supporting food safety across food supply chains

- [121] States should prioritize food safety within their food systems and consider actions concerning handling, preparation, storage, and distribution of food in ways that prevent food-borne illnesses, transmission or contamination of naturally occurring toxins, pesticides, antibiotics and heavy metals. Investment should be made to train food handlers and adopt scientific, riskbased practices that can provide safe food while retaining their nutritional value.
- [122] States should develop, establish, enforce and strengthen, as appropriate, food control systems, including reviewing and modernizing national food safety legislation and regulations to ensure that food

producers and suppliers throughout the food chain operate responsibly. Considering the centrality of the Codex Alimentarius Commission on nutrition and food safety, States should implement, as appropriate, internationally adopted standards at the national level.

- [123] States should participate in, and contribute to, international networks to exchange food safety information, including the management of emergencies to improve the safety of food across a range of issues such as pesticide residues, antimicrobial residues, endocrine disrupters, chemical and unsafe food additives, pathogenic bacteria, viruses, and parasites.
- [124] To address global antimicrobial resistance (AMR), States should develop and implement national guidelines on the prudent use of antimicrobials in food-producing animals according to internationally recognized standards adopted by competent international organizations. This is to reduce the non-therapeutic use of antimicrobials and to phase out the use of antimicrobials as growth promoters in the absence of risk analysis as described in the Codex Code of Practice CAC/RCP61-2005.

3.3. Equitable access to sustainable and healthy diets

- [125] Policies and programmes aimed at improving food environments to ensure healthy diets are available, accessible, affordable, culturally acceptable, and safe, should be prioritized by States in the interest of their citizens. For many people, physical access to nutritious food can be problematic as it may not be available in local markets. Nutritious food can also be unaffordable, particularly food that is perishable or comes from a longer distance.

3.3.i. Improving physical access to nutritious food

- [126] States should ensure people's physical barriers are minimized to purchase or order diverse types of nutritious food in a given food environment. This can be done by instituting policies that encourage healthy outlets to populate "food deserts²¹" with markets that sell nutritious, affordable food, and stop the spread of "food swamps²²" by creating robust zoning laws that restrict food retail outlets which sell an overabundance of less nutritious food.
- [127] States should encourage zoning laws and tax incentives for farmers' markets and mobile food retailers that sell nutritious food in low-income areas, and reduce the density of fast-food vendors that sell less nutritious food.
- [128] States should take into consideration an equity lens when examining access to food environments and ensure members of historically marginalized and vulnerable communities, residents of low-income communities, indigenous people, and those living in rural areas have sufficient access to diversified food markets.
- [129] States should improve the availability and access of the food supply through appropriate trade and investment agreements and policies and ensure that such agreements and policies do not have a negative impact on the realization of the right to adequate food in other countries.
- [130] States should facilitate access to nutritious food for poor households through vouchers, cash or food supplement programmes. These programmes could substitute basic staple food (such as rice or wheat flour) with more nutritious food in the food basket provided to poor households.

3.3.ii. Improving the availability of nutritious food

- [131] States should promote the provision of nutritious food through local farmers markets, community cooperatives and other community building efforts that engage citizens around local food culture.

²¹ "Food deserts" are geographic areas where access to food is restricted or non-existent due to low density of "food entry points" within a practical travelling distance. HLPE 2017b

²² The term "food swamps" describes areas where there is an overabundance of less nutritious food but little access to nutritious food. HLPE 2017b.

[132] States should encourage small and medium enterprises to competitively participate in wet markets, local, domestic and informal markets, and incentivize street vendors to improve the health composition of prepared food through financial incentives and certifications.

[133] States should strengthen public procurement systems by ensuring nutritious food is more accessible and convenient in institutions such as schools, hospitals, foodbanks, and prisons. States should consider promoting home grown school meals, where food served in schools is procured from local and/or family farmers, which can have multiple food system benefits by establishing stable markets for producers while serving more recommended, healthy diets to children.

3.3.iii. Making nutritious food more affordable

[134] States should consider pricing policies of perishable fruit and vegetables, whole grains, legumes, nuts and seeds, and animal source food to ensure they are affordable and competitive compared with highly-processed food (which can be inexpensive but high in added sugars, sodium and trans-fats or unhealthy fats). This can be done through input subsidies, access to credit, and tax.

[135] States can be instrumental in reducing the prices of nutritious food by helping farmers reduce their production costs. This can be accomplished through grants, subsidies and non-financial support services to reduce inefficiencies and promote value of nutritious food in the supply chain.

[136] States and local governments, in collaboration with consumers' associations, can institute regulations and incentives to help existing food retailers increase the number and variety of nutritious food products they sell. This can be done by creating local food policy councils to give residents a voice in how best to improve access to healthy diets in their communities.

[137] States should institute tax incentives and other fiscal policies to promote more nutritious food in the food industry. This can be done by creating disincentives including excise or sales taxes on less nutritious food, such as sugar sweetened beverages and less nutritious highly-processed food, or removing industry tax benefits for the development and marketing of less nutritious food. Tax revenues can also be used for health promotion strategies including retail, manufacturing, or agricultural incentives to reduce the price of nutritious food.

3.3.iv. Monitoring new technologies and trends for healthy diets

[138] States and researchers should understand the influential roles of the internet, social media and online shopping on the access to healthy diets, addressing the digital divide among different demographics through the use of portable tools to minimize disparities in access to food.

[139] States and private sector food actors should ensure that with the emerging trend of increased consumption of food consumed away from home, restaurants are incentivized to promote nutritious food options, display information about food on menus (i.e. calories, and other nutritional content), and adhere to food safety regulations.

[140] With regard to environmental sustainability, States should understand, scrutinize and govern new food technologies (e.g. lab grown meats, gene editing, biofortified crops, etc.) through CODEX standards as any new food product does in international regulatory frameworks.

3.4. People-centered nutrition knowledge, education and information

[141] People, both individuals (rights-holders) and members of institutions (duty-bearers), are at the centre of food systems, acting as drivers and experiencing outcomes. Access to knowledge, education and the quality of information available to people on nutritious food, healthy diets and nutrition should become a priority. This prioritization could be done by utilizing available and effective tools, key actors across food systems, and the places in which people access food in their daily lives. It is also important to consider the range and diversity of food cultures, social norms and traditions that influence healthy diets.

3.4.i. Putting people at the centre of nutrition knowledge, education and information

- [142] States should pay particular attention to dietary and nutritional needs across the entire lifecycle including pregnant and lactating women, women of reproductive age and adolescent girls, infants, children under five, people living with HIV and tuberculosis, the elderly and people with disabilities. States should ensure food systems are delivering healthy diets for these populations and mitigating against all forms of malnutrition.
- [143] States should use the best scientific evidence to promote education and knowledge of healthy diets, physical activity, food waste and safety, adequate breastfeeding and complementary feeding, taking into consideration cultural and social norms and adapting to different audiences and contexts.
- [144] States, civil society community leaders, and health professionals should promote food culture amongst communities, including access to culinary skills and stressing the importance of food within cultural heritage, as a vehicle to promote nutrition literacy. This can be done through community participation, associations and educational institutions.
- [145] States should protect and promote the knowledge that indigenous people have with regard to methods of producing, preparing and preserving food that imparts nutritional and environmental benefits.
- [146] Private sector actors should increase the acceptability of nutritious food by producing and marketing packaged food of this kind in a way that is convenient for people to prepare, cook and eat.

3.4.ii. Utilizing policies and tools to increase knowledge, education and information

- [147] States should develop national food-based dietary guidelines that define context-specific, sustainable and healthy diets by taking into account social, cultural, economic, ecological and environmental drivers.
- [148] States should develop nutrition standards and regulations for the marketing of food and beverages to children and ban advertising of less nutritious food to children, as they are particularly susceptible to the influence of food marketing.
- [149] States should institute easy-to-read front-of-pack labelling of evidence informed metrics/warnings such as overall fat quality (e.g. unsaturated to saturated fat ratio), trans-fats, carbohydrate quality (e.g., carbohydrate to fiber ratio), added sugars, and sodium. Food with warning signs should be regulated – i.e. not sold in or near schools and not advertised to children.
- [150] States should regulate the marketing of commercial infant formula and other breast-milk substitutes and implement the full set of WHO recommendations on the marketing of breastmilk substitutes and of food and non-alcoholic beverages to children. The International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes²³ needs to be enforced through accountability mechanisms and international legislative enforcement.
- [151] Private sector food actors should consider the design of food markets, restaurants and other places where food is sold or served to shape nutritious food choices and decision making. Incentives, sales and discounts should be put into place that encourage the placement and promotion of nutritious food products in retail spaces.
- [152] States, chefs, dietitians, private sector food actors and NGOs should implement nutrition education and information interventions based on Food-Based Dietary Guidelines and other policies related to food and diets, through improved school curricula, nutrition education in the health, agriculture and social protection services, and community interventions.

²³ [International Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes](#). WHO, 1981. Geneva.

- [153] States should consider the inclusion of nutrition information within agriculture extension technical packages as a way to support producers in increasing the production of high nutrient density crops and crop diversification.
- [154] NGOs, dietitians, and chefs should consider coupling nutrition education and counselling with maternal and child nutrition programmes (e.g. food supplements, micronutrient supplements, or conditional cash transfers) to double down impacts on dietary and nutritional outcomes.
- [155] States, UN and NGOs should promote social and behavior change communication (SBCC) and social support interventions as a way to improve nutrition. SBCC can be used by different actors as a way to influence behaviour change by positively influencing knowledge, attitudes and social norms, coordinating messaging across a variety of communication channels to reach multiple levels of society.
- [156] States, chefs and private sector food actors should educate all food system stakeholders to prioritize the reduction of food waste. Actions could include awareness campaigns at national, regional and global levels, labelling schemes, and updating Food-Based Dietary Guidelines to align recommendations with policies and programmes to tackle food waste.
- [157] States should draw on the knowledge, experience and insights of individuals who are not usually regarded as members of the nutrition community - e.g. community leaders, chefs, supermarket buyers, influencers on social media, youth leaders, young entrepreneurs, mayors and local communities - in the development of multi-component, community-based media campaigns promoting nutrition education and the benefits of healthy diets.

3.4.iii. Promoting “hubs” for nutrition knowledge, education and information

- [158] Universities and schools should institute a nutrition curriculum for all medical and nursing students during training.
- [159] States should support school and worksites to serve nutritious food to school-aged children and workers and promote culinary skills among school age children, adolescents and in adults, to promote communal meal times, socializing around food, the consumption of healthier diets and the need to reduce food waste.
- [160] States should link the provision of healthy school meals with clear nutritional objectives and be adapted to the needs of different age-groups, with special attention to the needs of adolescent girls. Policymakers should review education curricula to incorporate nutrition education principles, while adopting practical teaching tools such as school gardens and culinary lessons, and providing technical support to help schools implement changes.

3.5. Gender equity and women's empowerment across food systems

- [161] Gender relationships and norms are among the most significant drivers of healthy diets. In many countries, women make decisions about the household's diet and, as primary caregivers, they have an influence on the family's nutritional status. Therefore, women's and girl's empowerment through education, information and access to resources and services is key to improving nutrition. Improving women's wellbeing, ensuring access to financial, technical and biophysical resources, improving agency, voice and status, and challenging the power relationships that limit choices, are promising policy entry points to empower women and ultimately, improve food security and nutrition.

3.5.i. Recognizing women's nutritional status and deprivation

- [162] States, UN agencies and NGOs should prioritize the nutritional wellbeing of adolescent girls and women and provide health and nutritional care and services through various sectors. This can be done by ensuring they are central to national development strategies, and the recipients of social protection policies and benefits, which can break the inter-generational cycle of malnutrition.
- [163] Acknowledging the significant time and work burden of women in the preparation of nutritious food at the household level, and their roles in agriculture and food production, States should recognize and

value the importance of unpaid care work at household level through protective laws, social protection programmes and other benefits.

- [164] States should create an enabling environment to promote breastfeeding, ensuring that decisions to breastfeed do not result in women losing their economic security or any of their rights. This would include removing workplace-related barriers to breastfeeding (breaks, facilities, and services) and labour laws to protect women who chose to breastfeed.

3.5.ii. Promoting and acknowledging women as food system entrepreneurs

- [165] States should advance women's equal tenure rights, and their equal access to and control over productive land, natural resources, inputs, productive tools, and promote access to education, training, markets, and information in line with the VGGT. This can be done by strengthening women's access to natural, physical, financial, human, and social capital, so they can effectively contribute to sustainable food systems that promote nutrition.
- [166] States should enhance women's roles in agriculture by giving women decision-making power over what is produced, why, and how. Women should be offered extension and advisory services for crops and animal products that they produce or process, capacity-building to engage with traders, financial services (credit and savings mechanisms), and innovative entrepreneurial opportunities across food systems.
- [167] States should promote labour and time saving technologies for women such as food preservation and processing equipment, cold storage, heat and thermal processing, grinding/blending devices, energy saving stoves, and modern farm equipment for ploughing, cultivating and harvesting nutritious food.
- [168] States should facilitate women's access to opportunities to generate income and increase their participation in decisions on the use of household income. This would include activities such as household and business budget training, and tools to help men and women strengthen their intra-household communication and decision-making skills.

3.5.iii. Empowering women across food systems

- [169] States should enhance women's meaningful participation in partnerships, decision-making, leadership roles, and the equitable sharing of benefits. A priority should be to strengthen rural women's participation and representation at all levels of policymaking for food security and nutrition, to ensure their perspectives are equally taken into account.
- [170] States should increase women's human capital by ensuring that women and girls have access to education and literacy, health care services and social services, as a way to increase household nutritional status.
- [171] States should enshrine laws that give women and men shared participation in political decision making and equality, supporting women holding leadership roles in decision making bodies – parliaments, ministries and local authorities at district and community levels – so that they can be part of the process of devising solutions to the malnutrition challenges they face.

3.6. Food systems and nutrition in humanitarian contexts

- [172] This part build upon the 11 principles in the FFA. In situations of humanitarian crises, there is a critical need for nutrition interventions that link humanitarian responses with longer-term strategies to strengthen the resilience of food systems and improve food security and nutrition. For populations with optimal nutritional status at the onset of a humanitarian crisis, their status needs to be protected so that it does not worsen. For those who are already dealing with a malnutrition, emergencies can be a tipping point which can exacerbate malnutrition issues.

3.6.i. Improving the nutritional quality of food and nutrition assistance

- [173] States, all parties involved in conflicts, natural disasters and food assistance, including humanitarian organizations, should ensure that food security and nutrition assessments are undertaken throughout a crisis. These assessments should adhere to internationally accepted methods, and be impartial, representative and well-coordinated with governments.
- [174] States, parties involved in conflict and natural disasters and humanitarian organizations should provide timely, safe, and sufficient assistance in response to humanitarian crises in a flexible manner, conforming with the beliefs, culture, traditions, dietary habits and preferences of individuals, in coordination with all stakeholders. The assistance should promote survival, uphold dignity and build resilience.
- [175] States should ensure the basic nutritional needs of those people affected by a humanitarian crisis, including the most nutritionally vulnerable. The food items provided should be of appropriate quality, acceptable, and can be used efficiently and effectively. Food must conform to the food standards of the host country's government as well as to the Codex Alimentarius standards about quality, packaging, labelling and fitness for purpose.
- [176] States and humanitarian assistance organizations should explore partnerships with industry to ensure micronutrient-fortified food is available through social protection mechanisms and acute malnutrition management programmes, with improved coverage during times of crisis. States, UN agencies and NGOs should work to ensure infant and young child feeding practices are promoted and improved upon during humanitarian crises.
- [177] UN agencies and humanitarian assistance organizations should ensure that when implementing cash and voucher assistance, the minimum expenditure basket and transfer value is promoting nutritious food that is locally available and sufficient to provide a healthy diet.

3.6.ii. Protecting nutritionally vulnerable groups

- [178] States and humanitarian organizations should pay particular attention, protection, and facilitate access to nutritious food and nutritional support to pregnant and lactating women, women of reproductive age and adolescent girls, infants, children under five, people living with HIV and tuberculosis, the elderly and people with disabilities.
- [179] States and parties involved in conflicts should respect and protect the equal and unhindered access of all members of affected and at-risk populations to food security and nutrition assistance, in both acute and protracted crises, in accordance with internationally recognized humanitarian principles, as anchored in Geneva Convention of 1949. The design and delivery of food assistance should minimize the risk to recipients and contribute to preventing and ending gender-based violence.
- [180] States, with the support of the UN system and international assistance and cooperation where appropriate, should ensure access to nutritious food and nutritional support for refugees and asylum seekers in their territory in accordance with their obligations under relevant international legal instruments.

3.6.iii. Making food systems resilient

- [181] States should develop early warning systems and food and agriculture information systems that are able to detect and monitor threats to livelihoods. These early warning systems should integrate with broader food analysis systems including the monitoring of available and affordable nutritious food at the local level.
- [182] States should invest in disaster risk reduction measures that benefit those most at risk or most in need. In particular, productive assets should be protected from severe weather and climate impacts in a way that strengthen the resilience of affected populations and their ability to cope with shocks from conflicts, climate change or natural disasters. Measures include social safety

[183] nets, investment in protecting fragile livelihoods, emergency fiscal and food reserves, the reduction of transaction costs, and the identification of platforms for integrated interventions. States should encourage local procurement and the use of local organizations in the implementation of humanitarian food assistance and livelihood programmes to support economic recovery and development, to strengthen sustainable local food systems and to foster the ability of smallholders to access productive resources and markets.

4. Implementation and monitoring of the use and application of the voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition

[184] All CFS stakeholders are encouraged to promote at all levels within their constituencies, and in collaboration with other relevant initiatives and platforms, the dissemination, use and application of the VGFSyN to support the development and implementation of national policies, programmes and investment plans across all sectors. States are invited to promote the use and implementation of the VGFSyN through coordinated and multi-sectoral policies and interventions, ensuring that activities of different ministries converge toward the promotion of sustainable food systems that enable sustainable and healthy diets and improve nutrition.

[185] The VGFSyN should be used to foster dialogue between different actors across sectors, ensuring that all relevant stakeholders, including representatives of the most nutritionally-vulnerable groups, are involved and engaged, and promoting policy coherence while avoiding duplication of efforts.

[186] The VGFSyN should be used to influence policy discussions within existing regional and national multistakeholder mechanisms, including national councils, as well as the design of food and nutrition strategies. Effective actions at cross-sectoral level should be promoted through coordinating mechanisms above individual ministry level.

[187] Development partners, specialized agencies of the UN, and regional organizations are encouraged to support voluntary efforts by States to implement the VGFSyN. Such support could include technical cooperation, financial assistance, the provision of evidence-based policy advice, institutional capacity development, knowledge sharing and exchange of experiences, and assistance in developing national policies.

[188] Donors, financing institutions and other funding entities are encouraged to apply the VGFSyN when formulating their policies for loans, grants and programmes to support both right holders and duty bearers' endeavors. The VGFSyN should contribute to the design of nutrition-sensitive investment that aims to increase the production, affordability, and access to diverse and nutritious food, as well as to promote the integration of nutrition and health dimensions into agriculture and food sector investment plans. The VGFSyN should support the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025 with the objective to increase the visibility, coordination and effectiveness of nutrition actions at all levels, as key aspects toward the realization of the SDGs by 2030. The implementation of the VGFSyN is expected to contribute to the achievement of the six Global Nutrition Targets (2025) endorsed by the WHA in 2012 and its diet related NCD targets.

[189] The intention is to support countries in making "SMART" commitments²⁴ and achieving nutrition objectives as well as the creation of informal coalitions of countries as a way to accelerate and align efforts around specific topics linked to one or more action areas of the Nutrition Decade. This can be done through advocating for the establishment of policies and legislation, allowing the exchange of practices and experiences, highlighting successes and lessons learnt, and providing mutual support to accelerate its implementation.

²⁴ In the context of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and ICN2 follow-up process, the next step is to translate the recommended policy options and strategies into country-specific commitments for action. These commitments should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound.

https://www.who.int/nutrition/decade-of-action/smart_commitments/en/

- [190] Multistakeholder platforms, partnerships and frameworks at local, national, and regional levels, and across multiple sectors, have to be established or strengthened as a key element contributing to reshaping and promoting sustainable food systems for improved nutrition. Particular attention should be paid to those partnerships and platforms that are already promoting multistakeholder efforts for improved nutrition at country level, such as the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement. Actions should be taken to improve partners' capacity to design, manage and participate in these partnerships, to ensure transparency and accountability and promote good governance as a way to ensure effective results. Moreover, actions and synergies should be implemented through the United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN), which is responsible for promoting policy coherence and advocacy for nutrition throughout the UN system.
- [191] Efforts should be made to increase the human and institutional capacity of countries to implement the VGFSyN and to identify priorities toward their operationalization at national level. The organization of multistakeholder workshops and training, as well as the development of user-friendly and technical guides, are important to contextualize and adapt the agreed global policy guidance to local contexts.
- [192] Parliamentarians and their regional and sub-regional alliances have a key role in designing policies, raising awareness and promoting dialogue among relevant stakeholders, and allocating resources for the implementation of laws and programmes dealing with food systems and nutrition.
- [193] The dissemination and uptake of the VGFSyN should be facilitated through the identification of "champions" that could raise awareness across sectors, and the organization of advocacy campaigns at different levels. CFS provides a forum where all relevant stakeholders can learn from the experiences of others in applying the VGFSyN and assess their continued relevance, effectiveness and impact on food security and nutrition.