

**166th Session of the Council**  
**Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members - English version**  
Item 12 - Report of the 47th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (8-11 February 2021)

Member Name	Comments
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Zimbabwe - Member</b> (Wed 14/04/2021 09:37)</p>	<p>Zimbabwe welcomes the Report of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), which highlights the work of multiple stakeholders in identifying the challenges faced globally in attaining food security and in prescribing requisite solutions. The all-encompassing platform affords multiple stakeholder participation, which is critical, for it is collaborative action that is required to end hunger, through the provision of sustainable, adequate and nutritious food. Efficient food systems and nutrition are essential for achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p> <p>Zimbabwe commends the due attention given to important issues in the Report, <i>inter alia</i>: the food security situation in protracted conflict, given that in most cases, conflict exacerbates already precarious situations brought on by climate induced droughts or floods and cyclones; the work of the Committee to combat the negative impacts of COVID 19; and the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition and their critical contribution to the UN Food Systems Summit.</p> <p>Zimbabwe particularly welcomes the ongoing work to establish Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition, scheduled to be presented for endorsement by the 50th Session of the CFS. Disadvantaged women and girls play a critical role in food systems and it is important to recognize that they bear the brunt in this sector and to give them all the support they require. Zimbabwe supports the endorsement of the conclusions and recommendations of the 47th Session of the Committee of World Food Security as outlined in document C 2021/20.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dominican Republic – Member</b> (Wed 14/04/2021 16:00)</p>	<p>The Dominican Republic welcomes the report of the 47th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and congratulates the Committee Chairperson, Thanawat Tiensin, on the success achieved in the CFS plenary.</p> <p>The key outcome has been the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, in support of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition, 2016-2025, which will be a valuable input to the 2021 Food Systems Summit.</p> <p>We applaud the fine work done by the Co-Chairs of the Open-Ended Working Group for these purposes, and encourage CFS stakeholders to support and promote the dissemination, use and implementation of the Guidelines at all levels, and in collaboration with other relevant initiatives and platforms, while recognizing the diversity and complexity of food systems.</p> <p>In relation to the endorsement of the Terms of Reference for the preparation of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition, we wish to continue providing input to discussions on this document.</p>

	<p>We value the global thematic event on the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA), which the Dominican Republic led during its presidency of the UN Security Council in April 2020, to highlight the FFA in a special session to address the linkages between food insecurity and conflict. We call on members and other stakeholders to raise awareness of the Framework for Action in other fora, and to promote its implementation and use.</p> <p>We recognize the global importance of the CFS as an open and inclusive platform, especially in the context of SDG 2; and we share the deep concern at the alarming increase in the number of people affected by chronic undernourishment and malnutrition, which threatens to reverse decades of global progress.</p> <p>We believe the CFS can make a positive contribution to combating the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on food security and nutrition. In this regard, food security needs to be placed at the top of the political agenda, to which the Dominican Republic is firmly committed.</p> <p>We add our voice to the request that the three Rome-Based Agencies continue to share the costs of the CFS Secretariat budget equally.</p>
<p><b>The United States of America - Member</b> (Wed 14/04/2021 16:56)</p>	<p>The Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition are the endpoint of an enormous effort by the Committee on World Food Security to reach consensus on a set of recommendations to improve performance across food systems for nutrition.</p> <p>The Guidelines lay the foundation for a “sustainable food systems” approach to food security and nutrition that recognizes the complexity of food systems and the fact that decisions made at one point in a system can reverberate throughout the system. This approach seeks to balance the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and recognizes the need to assess and manage tradeoffs. The balanced, holistic sustainable food systems approach outlined in the Guidelines provides a strong foundation for our efforts to build more sustainable food systems and for the UN Food Systems Summit.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i><b>U.S. Explanation of Position:</b></i></p> <p>Paragraph 3.2.4(d) of the Guidelines: We interpret the comment on “agreed relevant international and national standards” to mean that the Guidelines should be complementary to standards adopted by international standards setting bodies and adapted to national contexts, given that national standards do not need agreement from outside parties. We emphasize that specific recommendations contained in the Guidelines should be considered as one option out of many possible tools depending on local contexts.</p> <p>Paragraph 40 of the Guidelines: The Guidelines should be applied consistent with other instruments only as far as each of these instruments are relevant and applicable and as far as they have been agreed, acknowledged and/or endorsed by respective Member States and without prejudice to prevailing international agreements. The United States underscores that paragraph 18 of the 2030 Agenda calls for countries to implement the Agenda in a manner that is consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law. We further note that the 2030 Agenda is non-binding and does not create or affect rights or obligations under international law, nor does it create any new financial commitments. We also highlight our mutual recognition that 2030 Agenda implementation must respect and be without</p>

prejudice to the independent mandates of other processes and institutions, including negotiations, and does not pre-judge or serve as precedent for decisions and actions underway in other forums.

Paragraph 44 of the Guidelines: Economic sanctions, whether unilateral or multilateral, can be a successful means of achieving foreign policy objectives. In cases where the United States has applied sanctions, we have used them with specific objectives in mind, including as a means to promote a return to rule of law or democratic systems, to insist on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, or to prevent threats to international security. We are within our rights to deploy our trade and commercial policy as tools to achieve our objectives. Targeted economic sanctions can be an appropriate, effective, and legitimate alternative to the use of force.

Paragraph 45 of the Guidelines: The United States would like to note that the negotiations to eliminate agricultural export subsidies referenced in paragraph 45 of the Guidelines, were finalized during the Tenth World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference (MC10). The United States maintains that it is incorrect to imply that the Doha Development Round negotiations were concluded on these issues, and any reference to the Doha Development Agenda should be avoided.

Paragraph 65 of the Guidelines: It is our view that the CFS must respect the independent mandates of other processes and institutions, including trade negotiations, and must not involve itself in decisions and actions in other forums, including at the WTO. This includes calls that undermine incentives for innovation, such as technology transfer that is not both voluntary and on mutually agreed terms. The United States would also like to note that implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines should be consistent with paragraph 18 of the 2030 Agenda, which “emphasizes that the Agenda is to be implemented in a manner that is consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law.

Paragraph 66 of the Guidelines: We note that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for action by all. We regret that language was inserted into these voluntary guidelines that seeks to selectively highlight different elements of the 2030 Agenda that are not broadly germane to the topic at hand and distract from its focus. This language should not be seen as a precedent for future documents. We underscore here that recalling selective paragraphs from the 2030 Agenda does not change their meaning or application, and paragraph 66 of the Guidelines indicates that they are recalled only to the extent relevant. For example, by recalling paragraph 12 of the 2030 Agenda, which reaffirms all the principles of the Rio Declaration, it should not be understood that all of the principles of the Rio Declaration are applicable to the range of issues addressed in these guidelines. Furthermore, with respect to the quoted footnote language on common but differentiated responsibilities, we note that the 2030 Agenda only reaffirmed that principle as it was set out in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, where it was explicitly limited to certain types of global environmental degradation. Recalling paragraph 12 of the 2030 Agenda in this context does not imply, and the United States does not accept, that this principle has relevance or application to the broad range of issues addressed in these voluntary guidelines, the 2030 Agenda, food security or to sustainable development as a whole.

Paragraphs 3.1.1(c) & 3.3.1(a) of the Guidelines: The United States would like to note its concern on two references to multilateral trade: paragraph 3.1.1(c) and paragraph 3.3.1(a). In both paragraphs, the language appears to blend references from the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with references to multilateral trade under the World Trade Organization (WTO). We are concerned that blending voluntary commitments from the SDGs, with legally binding

	<p>obligations agreed to by WTO Members, creates confusion around the scope of what has been agreed to in the WTO. For greater clarity, these two sentences should reference “...a rules-based, open, non-discriminatory, transparent, and predictable multilateral trading system...”, to reflect concepts that have been agreed to by WTO Members and are foundational principles of the multilateral trading system. These two sentences should exclude “universal” and “equitable”, terms used in the context of voluntary commitments.</p> <p>Paragraph 3.1.4(a) of the Guidelines: The United States reaffirms its support for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. As explained in our 2010 Statement of Support, “the United States recognizes the significance of the Declaration’s provisions on free, prior and informed consent, which the United States understands to call for a process of meaningful consultation with tribal leaders, but not necessarily the agreement of those leaders, before the actions addressed in those consultations are taken.</p>
<p><b>Argentina – Member</b> (Wed 14/04/2021 16:58)</p>	<p><b>A.- Point II “Food Security and Nutrition: building a global narrative towards 2030”</b></p> <p>Argentina reiterates the need to properly address the requirements of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), as it is one of the regions most affected by COVID-19, with devastating effects on food security and nutrition. As has been eloquently stated, the effects of the crisis are already visible in the food systems of LAC: workers are more vulnerable and domestic food prices have risen sharply in some cases, destabilizing access to the basic food basket. Consequently, this trend has meant that many people are unable to purchase enough food and many others have to opt for cheaper products of lower nutritional quality.</p> <p>Faced with this difficult situation, we would like to once again highlight the central role of international food trade (equitable, without any distorting barriers), because this will facilitate access to varied, safe, affordable and low-cost food to ensure regional and global food security while boosting job creation along the various value chains that supply markets on different scales.</p> <p><b>B.- Point III “CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises”</b></p> <p>We wish to emphasize that the guidelines and recommendations set out in the Framework for Action, mainly in Principles 1, 2, 5, 7, 9 and 10, contain a series of extremely useful good practices and guidelines. These allow governments to design specific actions according to their individual capacities and circumstances, build resilience and properly address the underlying causes of protracted crises.</p> <p>We are concerned to see that protracted crises, which may occur for multiple reasons, are still a distinct presence in certain regions and are affecting some of the four dimensions of food security in different ways, with particular emphasis on food availability and access. For this reason, we stress the importance of holding regional consultations with a view to obtaining updated information on the needs of different countries.</p> <p>Regarding the implementation of context-specific plans, in order to carry out programmes that address the causes of protracted crises, it is crucial to be able to call on appropriate international cooperation mechanisms and multilateral funding in order to change the situation in affected countries. Without these instruments, it will be impossible to shape lasting solutions to bring about change on the ground.</p>

**C.- Point IVb “Terms of Reference for the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition”**

Argentina reiterates its support and deep commitment to this CFS initiative. We believe that it is essential to draw up a document that addresses the different problems faced by rural women in a holistic manner.

In our country, gender issues and especially the contributions of rural and indigenous women and the LGBTIQ+ community are valued as essential elements for achieving sustainable food production mechanisms and, consequently, food security.

As we stated during our discussions on the terms of reference, we understand that the content of the Guidelines should focus on the design and implementation of public policies to strengthen economic independence and do away with gender gaps in production. We feel that it is very important to ensure that future debates cover the need for dialogue between governments and social and trade union organizations in order to put together strategies to strengthen the theme of equality within food systems.

Lastly, we would like to reiterate that the Argentine Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity is able to share the substantial progress it has made in fundamental conceptual approaches for addressing policies for preventing, combating and eradicating gender-based violence.

**D.- Point V “Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition”**

We believe that the “Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition” make up a worthwhile and necessary document – and not merely in terms of the recommendations they provide on production system management and nutritional strategies.

We believe that the document provides a broad, plural and consolidated overview of the various realities, contexts, capacities and national priorities that are laid down in the reference frameworks within which food systems operate. We must naturally pursue the goal of improving and strengthening our food production schemes, bearing in mind that these processes cannot be addressed by one single model and that it is essential to encourage the balanced development of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the Systems, as set out in the 2030 Agenda.

We feel it is essential to approach the analysis of food systems based on conceptual schemes and technical terminologies that form the subject of multilateral agreements between States. This methodology allows us to understand the contents and scope of the document’s recommendations. It facilitates understanding by potential users of the Guidelines and establishes sound foundations that will form a starting point for future discussions, for example at the Food Systems Summit, on notions or assessments related to agricultural production mechanisms.

Special mention should be made of the way the document recognizes the essential role played by medium and long supply chains and local, regional and international food trade (transparent, equitable and without distorting barriers), in terms of their key contribution to facilitating access to varied, safe and affordable commodity baskets. Against the backdrop of COVID-19, international trade has amply demonstrated its capacity for adaptation and resilience and has proved crucial in containing the rise of global food insecurity. We therefore welcome its inclusion as a prominent component.

	<p>We would also like to emphasize the way the document highlights the key role played by rural and indigenous women, youth and farmers in food systems. If we want to come up with ways of achieving more sustainability and better resilience, it is essential to include these groups in our discussions and provide them with opportunities for empowerment, autonomy and decision-making power in strategic frameworks for food security.</p> <p>Lastly, we believe that it is vital to understand the document's proposals and recommendations in the context of cooperation schemes and mechanisms for resource transfer, capacity-building and technological development that make it possible to implement the Guidelines in developing countries. Therefore, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities enshrined in the Rio Declaration, South-South Cooperation mechanisms and the spirit of the 2030 Agenda plays a central role in ensuring that the Guidelines are realistic and applicable and not simply another document full of good intentions.</p>
<p><b>Australia – Member</b> (Wed 14/04/2021 17:09)</p>	<p>Australia notes the conclusions and recommendations of the 47th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). We applaud the commitment of all CFS stakeholders, and acknowledge the significant amount of work which has been undertaken on a wide range of food security and nutrition topics. In our current operating environment, we appreciate the importance of this work in relation to managing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as supporting the UN Food Systems Summit. We respectfully highlight the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the importance and value of the data-collection and analysis work stream in the CFS Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW), noting the necessity of data to support robust evidence-based policy guidance is well understood and is instrumental in our collective efforts to deliver against the 2030 Agenda;</li> <li>• the importance of not overloading the work program and the value of dedicated attention to one work stream at a time in order to encourage and maximise fulsome engagement of Members;</li> <li>• the value of integrating cross-cutting issues, such as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, for consideration in existing work streams so as not to create additional resource burden and adverse funding implications; and</li> <li>• the importance of CFS operating within its mandate and the importance of the Committee augmenting, not duplicating, existing work.</li> </ul>
<p><b>European Union - Member</b> (Wed 14/04/2021 23:10)</p>	<p>I am honoured to address you on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.</p> <p>We welcome the comprehensive discussions at the 47th Committee on World Food Security (CFS) plenary session in February 2021 and we take this opportunity to reiterate our support and commitment to the CFS as a unique multi-stakeholder platform to discuss food security and nutrition issues and an important example of multilateralism and inclusiveness.</p> <p>We welcome the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN), that will contribute with valuable inputs to the preparation for the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 and pre-Summit, as well as in its follow-up. We emphasise the need for the wide dissemination and implementation of those important voluntary guidelines. Inclusivity is of key importance for the CFS and for the process of preparation of its products. The EU and its Member States regret Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSM) withdrawal at the end of Voluntary Guidelines</p>

	<p>on Food Systems and Nutrition negotiations, not being able to endorse it during the last CFS session and expect that CSM would finally join the consensus regarding these guidelines. We urge the CFS and its members to engage and improve the dialogue with the CSM as it represents an invaluable contribution for our discussions on food security and nutrition, including for the Food Systems Summit. We would also like to commend the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) for its important expert work and support to the CFS. In this regard we would like to emphasize its role in providing valuable science- and evidence-based inputs for the CFS discussions.</p> <p>Advancing gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment is critical to achieving food security and nutrition for all and ending hunger, as well as for achieving all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of Agenda 2030. Therefore, the EU and its Member States welcome the endorsement of the Terms of Reference for the preparation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition. We look forward to engaging in the inclusive consultative process that will follow.</p> <p>We welcome the updated Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2020-2023 and we stress the need to include, besides the medium- and long-term objectives, the bases for the CFS reaction and adaptation of its response to current and future crises. With these comments, we endorse the CFS 47 Report.</p>
<p><b>Japan – Member</b> (Thu 15/04/2021 14:32)</p>	<p>Japan welcomes the report from the Committee on World Food Security. Nonetheless, we would like to make the following points.</p> <p>We recognize that the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN) will be an essential input for the discussion and following-up process of the United Nations Food System Summit 2021. Japan also would like to support the dissemination and use of the VGFSyN. Besides, since the culture and lifestyles of each country vary, it is vital to take an approach that allows adjusting to the characteristics of each region when disseminating and using the VGFSyN.</p> <p>To realize a sustainable food system, it is necessary to transform to an environmentally friendly agricultural production system while maintaining and improving producer's income. For that purpose, it is important not only to introduce and strengthen regulations on production activities but also to substantially promote investment that contributes to the transformation to sustainable food systems such as smart agriculture. Also, there is no 'one size fits all' solution, as it varies greatly depending on each country's geographical and socio-economic conditions. It is important to implement various approaches, including the proper application of fertilizers and pesticides, by utilizing digital agriculture, according to each country or region's conditions. At that time, it is crucial to protect intellectual property rights adequately.</p> <p>Concerning ESG investment, to build the resilience of food systems, it is necessary to look into a mechanism that can promote resource mobilization from the private sector. It should be encouraged by proactively evaluating the environmental burdens derived from production activities and applying technologies that have positive impacts on the environment, including the conservation of ecosystems and the efforts made by the food processing industry. It is also important to increase private investment, which can lead to the protection of the environment, human rights, etc., to</p>

	<p>promote innovation, such as smart agriculture. Such innovation and efforts should lead to the transformation of production forms (e.g., digitalization and application of agriculture-related technology) and GHG reduction.</p>
<p><b>Thailand on behalf of the Asia Regional Group</b> (19 April 2021 15:01)</p>	<p>The Asia Regional Group welcomes the Report of the 47th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and appreciates the continued efforts of CFS members and stakeholders towards achieving food security and related SDGs.</p> <p>We commend the prompt action taken by CFS to address the challenges and impacts posed on food systems by the COVID-19 pandemic. In Asia, we have been seriously impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic on food insecurity and malnutrition, and related disruptions of the global food supply chains. The Covid-19 crisis has particularly affected family farmers, small holders, and vulnerable people that we need to build resilience for those people and bring back better livelihoods for all.</p> <p>We welcome the 15th Report of the <b>CFS High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (CFS HLPE) entitled ‘Food security and nutrition: building a global narrative towards 2030’</b> and the proposed two new dimensions of food security – namely “agency” and “sustainability”. We highlight the importance of putting people at the center of sustainable development at local level to achieve global food security and nutrition.</p> <p>We welcome the adoption of the <b>Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN)</b>. We underline the valuable inputs the VGFSyN will provide to the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 discussions and follow-up processes. We encourage their uptake and implementation taking into due consideration different national capacities, levels of development, policies and priorities as well as individual circumstances, in particular its climate and natural environment. We encourage all members and stakeholders to share lessons learned from using the VGFSyN and to disseminate the VGFSyN to the widest possible audience.</p> <p>We welcome the updated <b>CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2020-2023</b> with its six thematic workstreams and request the Rome-based Agencies to honor their verbal agreement to share equally the costs of CFS Secretariat budget as a symbol of effective Rome-based Agencies collaboration.</p> <p>With this statement, Asia Regional Group endorses the report of the 47th Session of the Committee on World Food Security.</p>