

PSM Plenary Session – CFS Voluntary Guideline Endorsement
February 10th, 2021

Mr. Chairman, good afternoon.

Thank you for giving me the floor. My name is Els de Groene, Global Director Nutrition Standards & Advocacy at Unilever, and active member of the Private Sector Mechanism. It is my pleasure to take the floor to reiterate our support for the guidelines and the multi-stakeholder process leading to this outcome.

As the Chair noted, we have dedicated countless hours to the negotiation and even more so over the course of the past years. This investment of time and expertise was important to ensure the output was a relevant one to all stakeholders, but also one we can effectively advocate for in the future phase.

With this in mind, we want to focus on the further commitment PSM can undertake for the uptake and implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines.

The PSM looks to build on the lessons learned during this process and its past experience with the endorsement of the CFS Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI). As we did post-endorsement with RAI, PSM would like to support the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition now. The PSM aims to focus on an information and training campaign and hopes to count on the support of the CFS Chair and the Nutrition workstream Chair, Ambassador Hoogeveen, its secretariat, as well as its wide membership.

A series of three virtual webinars will be arranged according to various time zones to promote a wide and diverse geographical participation of all multi-stakeholder groups.

These webinars will serve to disseminate the Voluntary Guidelines and to highlight their tenets. It will also share examples from Private Sector activities and impactful partnerships which are currently underway that are aligned with the CFS voluntary guidelines. Through sharing lessons learned and best practices, participants will be able to fast track future programs and contribute to scaling up existing ones.

This will be part on ongoing efforts of PSM to facilitate uptake of the Guidelines within private sector and also in the Food Systems Summit and beyond.

In parallel, the PSM continues to strive towards active participation of its broad constituency group representing the entire value chain at the UN Committee on Food Security: from farmers to input provider, cooperatives, processors, small-medium enterprises, food companies, and more, within the national food systems dialogues leading to the UN World Food Systems Summit.

Mr. Chairman, again, let us provide our sincere thanks for helping us arrive at this point today.

Thank you.