

PSM Plenary Session
**FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION: BUILDING A GLOBAL
NARRATIVE TOWARDS 2030**

8th February 2021, Rome

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Thank you Chair for this opportunity to look towards 2030.

As my farming colleague said earlier, we have concerns about the paradigm for this report and the zero draft of the youth report.

First, as a young woman with my own business in the food safety sector, I do not understand the gap in recognizing the role of private sector in this proposed narrative nor the early draft of the one on youth. I work extensively with groups trying to mentor young people into agriculture and food, and I myself have benefited from being a scholar in a global mentorship program. Our narrative for 2030 must surely be one that encourages youth, women, indigenous communities, and others to embrace a future in agriculture.

Instead, the theory of change built into the document seems to say the entire food system is not working. Mr. Chairman, having worked through the COVID crisis with agricultural businesses trying to ensure food safety, worker safety and still get food to people, I think there is a lot to be commended this year. Efforts, though imperfect, were superhuman.

In this respect, the theory of change in this document is interesting but is framed in rather 'black/white'- 'either/or' scenarios. For instance, the

discussion of the digital revolution, does little apart from listing a series of problems and concerns, rather than examining the progress being made. FAO's own website provides much relevant information.

As PSM, we note we submitted many vital references of work from FAO, IFAD, OECD, IFPRI and others as citations to build a stronger narrative and have done so on the youth paper as well. We were, candidly disappointed not to see any of these pieces of research taken up in the final narrative.

Even, the HLPE's own 2018 Report "Multi-stakeholder partnerships to finance and improve food security and nutrition in the framework of the 2030 Agenda" was not cited though it provides a basis for cooperation.

Mr. Chairman, these are difficult times and we must band together as never before to get through it together. That means showing respect for people who are our day to day food heroes, while encouraging leadership towards better system.

Surely our narrative towards 2030 can include more themes of hope and opportunity.

Thank you.