

Private Sector Mechanism (PSM) Statement
In Response to “Draft Terms of Reference (ToR)”
CFS Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Nutrition
30 April 2018

On behalf of the Private Sector Mechanism, we thank the Chair of the Open Ended Working Group and the CFS Secretariat for their excellent work preparing today’s session.

Today we face the reality that **the number of hungry globally is on the RISE**. The most pressing issues of development must have adequate space in the Terms of Reference, including SDG 2.1 and SDG 2.2 particularly stunting and wasting of children, along with child and maternal health.

When we are moving **BACKWARDS** on our Goal of Zero Hunger, our lens must be bigger than just exclusively focusing on the developed, urban food environment. ***By broadening the ambition of the Policy guidelines***, the current draft of the TOR represents an improvement on earlier drafts. The PSM would like to recommend further enhancements to the structure and content of the TOR in an effort to ensure equal distribution of matters at both the front lines of hunger and within urban environments.

First, we are concerned that ***Availability and Affordability***, two of the pillars of food security, appear as two small subheadings rather than being given prominence in the structure of the Terms of Reference. As many of you have heard us call for focus on the four well-known pillars of accessibility, availability, affordability and utilization, we request that these be placed prominently in the structure of the TOR and not as subheadings.

Second, there is a need for harmonization of approaches that empower the consumer to increase their knowledge and shift towards a diverse and healthy diet. Public policies and interventions that promote healthier options, strengthen regulations for advertising and

marketing, and increase transparency of information on labels go hand in hand with **consumer education**. Education campaigns to help consumers read labels, value good nutrition, establish healthy habits, and implement food-based dietary guidelines are key to achieving diverse and healthy diets for all. We recommend Point 27, Promotion, Advertising, Information and Nutrition Education, be combined under one policy section called **Promotion, Information and Education**.

Third, achieving coherent integrated policies working across sectors to support enhanced food systems and diverse consumption requires emphasis on institutional and human capacity building. Strong institutions and well-formulated guidelines are necessary for effective implementation. To provide space for appropriate policy instruments and guidance, in line with HLPE recommendations #1 and #7, we recommend **capacity building**, such as *strengthening the integration of nutrition with national policies, programs and budgets* along with **improving data collection and knowledge sharing** on food systems and nutrition as separate sections of the TOR and fully developed within the Guidance document.

Fourth, Point 28 in the TOR on Food Quality and Safety is currently framed with a focus on consumption patterns and ignores or understates the way in which **Food Safety** problems perpetuate stunting and other long-term health impacts. We propose the following WHO language replaces the existing subpoint under food safety.

“Food safety, nutrition and food security are inextricably linked. Unsafe food creates a vicious cycle of disease and malnutrition, particularly affecting infants, young children, elderly and the sick. Foodborne diseases impede socioeconomic development by straining health care systems, and harming national economies, tourism and trade.” We encourage the OEWG to recommend creation of new metrics to measure the essential roles that food safety and quality play across all elements of food systems and demonstrate the linkages that WHO highlights among safety, nutrition and food security.

Fifth, we encourage the OEWG to aggressively reach out to all of the stakeholder groups identified in TOR point VII and encourage their participation in committing to deploy their tools, capabilities and expertise to collaborate on multi-sector, multi-disciplinary initiatives to implement the recommended guidance for specific areas and countries.

Finally, and in closing, private sector pledges to continue its efforts to build partnerships characterized by openness, transparency, and pre-competitiveness that avoids real or perceived conflicts of interest. Then, real meaning will be given to SDG 17 and the work of this OEWG in developing Terms of Reference that achieve the UN's 2030 agenda and deliver safe, diverse, healthy and nutritious foods to all people.

Thank you.