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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

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**Update on the implementation of the Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work
in Nutrition**

Queries on the substantive content of the document may be addressed to:

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I. Background

1. In March 2019, the 126th Session of the Programme Committee, in discussing the *Evaluation of the Strategy and Vision for FAO's Work in Nutrition*, recommended an update of the vision and strategy. In April 2019, the 161st Session of FAO Council endorsed this recommendation.
2. FAO, through a consultative process that included all technical units across headquarters and decentralized offices, produced a draft document for further consultation with external stakeholders and Members.
3. The draft was discussed at all Technical Committees, including the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG).
4. The final document PC 130/5 Rev.1,¹ the Vision and Strategy for FAO's work in nutrition, was welcomed at the 130th Session of the Programme Committee in March 2021, and endorsed at the 166th Session of the Council in April 2021.

II. Update on requests from the 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture

5. Encouraged by the Committee, FAO continued the consultative efforts to develop its work in nutrition, including carrying out the Implementation Plan that takes into consideration many comments received and the current global challenges to address malnutrition, particularly for the most vulnerable, including smallholder producers.
6. As noted with satisfaction by the Committee, the comprehensive nature of FAO's work in nutrition highlights the central role of healthy diets, to be achieved through the agrifood systems approach. Therefore, FAO's work in nutrition consists of coordinated actions to tackle malnutrition in all its forms by accelerating impactful policies and actions across agrifood systems that will enable healthy diets for all. FAO's vision for nutrition is a world where people consume healthy diets from efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agrifood systems.
7. As noted by the Committee, the importance of sufficient and relevant data on diets and the affordability of nutritious food constitute an integral part of FAO's work in nutrition. Therefore, the first area of FAO's work in nutrition asserts that FAO will generate, collate and share data on people's diets and on agrifood systems. This will support Members' ability to use more and better data to guide impactful policies and actions across agrifood systems for healthy diets for all.
8. As stressed by the Committee, food safety is important for healthy diets, and thus the Codex Alimentarius definition of food safety is included in the glossary of terms accompanying FAO's work in nutrition.
9. Steered by an agrifood systems approach, FAO's work in nutrition recognizes the crucial role of the agricultural sector in enabling healthy diets for all.

III. Update on the implementation of FAO's work in nutrition

10. The Implementation Plan for FAO's work in nutrition outlines the enabling factors FAO must foster to realize the Organization's ambitious mission and aspirational vision for nutrition. Organizational change addressing people, processes and culture is required.
11. FAO has pursued the creation of a stronger enabling environment for FAO personnel and offices to promote healthy diets as an integral part of its Strategic Framework 2022-31 for *better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life*. Specific progress under the three aspects of organizational change includes:

¹ www.fao.org/3/ne853en/ne853en.pdf

People – nutrition awareness, knowledge and expertise

12. To raise awareness, in 2021 FAO invested significantly in socializing its work in nutrition. Tailored seminars were held with technical and functional units across headquarters and decentralized offices of all six FAO regions. The discussions highlighted the relevance of the Organization's work in nutrition for each unit and the prioritization of action for nutrition based on regional context.

13. A high-level event was held with Members and focused on FAO's work in nutrition in the context of its Strategic Framework 2022-31. Members highlighted the need for more coordinated multisectoral efforts on nutrition across agrifood systems in order to achieve healthy diets for all.

14. In support to knowledge and expertise, FAO leveraged the coordinated action towards the mission for nutrition outlined in its work in nutrition to prioritize efforts for capacity strengthening. FAO also embarked on the development of an e-learning module to raise nutrition literacy of all its employees, regardless of their area of expertise.

Culture – collective ownership and leading by example

15. To strengthen and maintain collective internal ownership of its work in nutrition, FAO has convened numerous webinars, roundtables, workshops, and other communications activities highlighting the relevance of different sectors, including agriculture, in realizing the Organization's vision for nutrition.

16. FAO has embarked on action planning to move from strategy to concrete, context-specific action. At global level, the action focuses on the Organization's normative function. The regional action planning, developed collaboratively by headquarters and decentralized offices, focuses on operationalizing its work in nutrition to the context, conditions, and priorities of each region.

17. FAO convened the Organization's Technical Network on Nutrition, consisting of experts from all technical areas of FAO at headquarters and decentralized offices, to guide its work in nutrition and improve access to expertise, knowledge, and resources across the Organization.

18. FAO developed a Healthy Food Environment Checklist to guide all FAO offices in creating a food environment that supports its mission in nutrition.

19. Leading by example, FAO announced ambitious and measurable pledges² at the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit that reflect the Organization's commitment to better policy and to global- and country-level action.

Processes – financial resources and monitoring

20. In order to set and reach targets for programmatic and financial goals for nutrition, FAO has continued improving its use of a Nutrition Marker³ to quantify the Organization's programmes and projects in terms of their level of nutrition sensitivity.

21. The Nutrition Marker helps to integrate nutrition considerations in all stages of FAO's work, and can monitor its efforts to increase nutrition-sensitive projects and programmes in terms of number, percentage and financial contribution.

22. FAO has enhanced its ability to capture country-level activities in support to Members, including those from across agrifood systems that enable healthy diets. An internal system for data collection and visualization aims to minimize burden to decentralized offices while maximizing the utility of data.

² https://nutritionforgrowth.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Tokyo-Compact-on-Global-N4G_Annex_Dec-14.pdf

³ www.youtube.com/watch?v=fG-I2xRvxdY&ab_channel=FoodandAgricultureOrganizationoftheUnitedNations

IV. Next steps

23. FAO's advancements in creating an enabling environment to fulfil its mission in nutrition, including action planning that takes into consideration global and regional contexts, will support the operationalization of FAO's work in nutrition in all contexts throughout the 2022-23 biennium.

24. Through communications, normative work, and global engagement, FAO is maintaining attention on the critical role of MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agrifood systems for healthy diets and improved nutrition, while leveraging opportunities offered by the *four betters* under its Strategic Framework 2022-31 to enhance this work.

25. FAO will hold itself accountable to its efforts to fulfil its mission in nutrition by monitoring the indicators of the Accountability Framework and the Implementation Plan of FAO's work in nutrition.