

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Monday, 7 June 2021 17:00 GMT +02:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Coherent Policy for Healthy Diets (Option 1)
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	NCD Alliance
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/20772/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/20772/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	No borders

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

# 1. PARTICIPATION

## TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

35

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

25 31-50

10 51-65

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

Male

Female

35 Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops  
Fish and aquaculture  
Livestock  
Agro-forestry  
Environment and ecology  
Trade and commerce

Education  
Communication  
Food processing  
Food retail, markets  
Food industry  
Financial Services

Health care  
Nutrition  
National or local government  
Utilities  
Industrial  
Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan  
Large national business  
Multi-national corporation  
Small-scale farmer  
Medium-scale farmer  
Large-scale farmer  
Local Non-Governmental Organization  
9 International Non-Governmental Organization  
Indigenous People  
22 Science and academia

Workers and trade union  
Member of Parliament  
2 Local authority  
Government and national institution  
Regional economic community  
2 United Nations  
International financial institution  
Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance  
Consumer group  
Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

### HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

Two sessions of the same-invitation only dialogue were convened by NCD Alliance, with support from Resolve to Save Lives and WHO to facilitate engagement of stakeholders from different time zones – the other held on June 10, 2021. Country and global perspectives were presented in plenary (Monday past and present policy makers from the UK and Chile) and participants then broke into discussion groups with facilitators and note takers. Invitees spanned sectors and regions, many active on health, nutrition, NCDs, law, trade. Dialogue participation was limited to 40 maximum to ensure a small, protected space for open and inclusive discussion and dialogue, particularly during the smaller breakout sessions. The event was held under Chatham House rules – that organizers and note takers did not attribute of comments or quotes by name. Group discussions included questions that intended to cover opinions on the main enablers and barriers/challenges to support a policy package (nutrition labelling, fiscal policies, food marketing restrictions) to prevent diet-related NCDs and promote health within and beyond the next five years. Another question intended to explore the immediate steps and shifts necessary to address the challenges. Principles of Engagement were incorporated at the core of the discussions in the sense that there was recognition of the urgency of promoting and supporting sustainable and effective action to reach the 2030 SDGs and protect the health of the population. The discussion was focused on solutions that would protect and improve the health and well-being of populations recognizing also the complexity of food systems. The common support obtained from the discussions was intended to promote trust and increase the motivation of relevant stakeholders (with no conflicts of interest) to participate by being evidence-based, transparent and accessible with the clear idea of the importance of holding accountable for commitments made with mechanisms in place to uphold this accountability.

### HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Principles for Engagement of the Food Systems Summit were reflected in: -Urgency: We recognize the utmost urgency of sustained and meaningful action at all levels to reach the respective 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Progress on reducing diet related NCDs (a form of malnutrition) is off track to achieve targets due to decades of neglect and de-prioritization – this summit is an opportunity to elevate and accelerate action for this and other urgent issues. Respect: Within our respective capacities and circumstances, we will support the promotion of effective policy packages for the protection of the health and well-being of individuals by preventing diet-related NCDs. Complexity: We recognize that food systems are complex, and are closely connected to, and significantly impact, human and animal health, land, water, climate, biodiversity, the economy and other systems, and their transformation requires a systemic approach. NCD prevention has long been recognized as a multisectoral issue which requires a systemic response, in particular to tackle upstream barriers and wider social, political and commercial determinants of health and nutrition, however busting siloed thinking and improving coherence requires processes like the Summit to help dismantle silos and improve coherence. Commit to the Summit: We commit to practice what we preach personally and professionally to contribute to the vision, objectives and the final outcomes of the Food Systems Summit. Complement the work of others: Recognizing that issues related to food systems are being addressed through several other global governance processes, we will seek to ensure that the FSS aligns with, amplifies, and accelerates these efforts where practicable. These topics represent the urgency needed for transition and are constructed to deliver actions to support healthier food environments. The possibility for participants to listen to either English, or Spanish was a way to acknowledge the diversity of participants and ensured respect to local cultures and their contexts.

### DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

Generate instances with participants to not only know about the Principles of Engagement but also to allow for discussions, divergence and criticisms in order to improve the Summits governance. Ensure diverse voices are included, particularly civil society and people affected by food systems decisions – including people living with diet related NCDs. Provide opportunities for global actors to meet with local actors for peer learning and exchange. Facilitate meaningful involvement of all participants by allowing plenty of time for interaction, listening, inviting contributions, learning and reporting back what has been heard to reinforce messages. Request that principles of engagement are improved to require declaration of interests for all participants in advance of engaging with Dialogues or any other Summit related initiatives.

# 3. METHOD

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The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

**DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?**

**Yes**

**No**

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

The overarching theme of this Independent Dialogue focused on creating healthier food environments by way of a package of effective and evidenced based policies (including front-of-package labelling, marketing restrictions and taxation of unhealthy foods) to help to address diet-related NCDs, leveraging the opportunity presented by the UN Food Systems Summit and beyond. Some of the key issues raised or emerging from this discussion were the need to identify common ground to improve diets, the importance of identifying the barriers and challenges that need to be addressed in order to pursue a food system transformation, also how policy packages can respond to specific local contexts. Further, the Dialogue emphasised the importance of strengthening appreciation that healthy or unhealthy diets are not a personal choice but rather a consequence of the food environment that needs to be shaped and nurtured with collective and coherent decisions around these policy areas, and how the pandemic has also shown the need to invest more in sustainable food systems and environments. The environment must enable and facilitate healthy choices and it must be coherent also in the sense that marketing restrictions, clear information on packaging and taxes of unhealthy products should be jointly promoted, while policies in areas such as trade, urban design and development and education should be complementary and coherent and not undermine the development of sound public health policy. It is important to level the playing field of competition, and incentives the availing of better options, so that unhealthy food steps back and healthy food comes forward. While the agenda influences consumers, producers and retailers, and supporting the environment, but also about changing the economic dynamics and levelling the playing field. It is difficult to prove large impact if the environment is not coherent. The idea behind a coherent policy package is that by implementation of it we are creating a health promoting food environment, and supporting all people's right to health and food including children and those most vulnerable.

### ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- ✓ Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

### KEYWORDS

- Finance
- Innovation
- ✓ Human rights
- Women & Youth Empowerment
- ✓ Policy
- ✓ Data & Evidence
- ✓ Governance
- Trade-offs
- ✓ Environment and Climate

## MAIN FINDINGS

The following key messages and themes emerged from the interactive dialogue and plenary with guided discussions among representatives from governments, civil society, :

- Consensus on the need for complementary package of policies to address diet related NCDs and that such package includes restrictions to marketing and taxation of unhealthy foods, and front-of-package labeling systems on food products to provide clear and easy information to consumer and support healthier choices. Given the regulatory nature of these measures, and the evidence of industry interference in these types of nutrition policy-making processes, participants noted a need for tools, transparency and protective mechanisms to minimize risk of industry interference in public health policy and avoidance of conflicts of interest.
- Participants recommended a common global definition of what is healthy or unhealthy food/diets, clarifying and including terms like ultra-processed food.
- The UK experience highlighted that isolated voluntary initiatives have not been universal and industry partnerships have proven slower, less effective and thus less successful compared to mandated approaches established by government. where regulation exists, such as around school meals, where it is not reinforced by other complementary and coherent measures, these regulatory measures are not optimized. Further, taxation of sugar sweetened beverages is working and is a good way to stimulate change – but not quickly, nor enough. The UK government has realized more must be done to reduce diet related NCDs and obesity, hence moving to implement further ‘policy package’ measures as part of a wider strategy to accelerate health improvements to support more sustained and deeper actions pushing down to rectify an environment where unhealthy industries to expand their products and drive people to make unhealthy choices.
- The Chilean experience concluded about the importance of Chile’s promoting a law which includes front-of-package labeling, marketing restrictions and ban on the sale of products “high in” in schools; how essential it was to form an alliance of key members from the academia, the legislative sector and the executive sector and to have a well-defined set of evidence-based arguments (e.g. prevalence of overweight and obesity and associated costs). The Chilean example, recognized as pioneering and world leading in terms of front of pack labelling rules, demonstrated the importance of, not wait for all the evidence and taking a precautionary approach, as it was the case with tobacco control. In that sense, it was also pointed out how an global instrument with provisions such as those in the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) could also benefit food policy making.
- The majority of participants also showed interest in being part of a coalition in support of a policy package for healthy diets within the Summit context and beyond.

Discussants also noted:

- the need to address governance issues, policy coherence (or lack thereof), conflicts of interest and power imbalance within the Summit but also in the food system as a whole.
- the need to use a child and human-rights protection framing should also be prioritized.
- the need to reset default in framing the conversation about healthy/unhealthy diets, to shift the perception that individuals are to be blamed for making unhealthy food choices when diets are shaped, if not determined by environments, options and circumstances.

Nutrition has a much wider definition than single micro-nutrients, and food poverty should not be defined by low calories, but food poverty should be better understood as poor diet quality, as the issues to be addressed.

- Countries want to share learnings and experiences in implementing these kinds of policies. Promote learning between countries and sharing information and lessons.
- The Food System Summit is an opportunity for change, but we need to make sure that what comes out of it is really game changing. Important to also recognize limitations of the Summit.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

From this Independent Dialogue and according to the questions discussed the break-up groups, the main conclusions include de following:

1.Expectation of participants on what the UNFSS would achieve for diet-related NCDs:

- It will important for the Summit to plant the seed for more coherent policies with less interference from food industries and have a movement towards strong international agreement with package of measures for countries to implemented (inspired by Framework Convention on Tobacco Control) including a systemic and integrated approach to healthier food environments considering all forms of malnutrition. - For Member States, it is crucial that they promote the policies WHO recommends. They can scale up on others who have already promoted these policies. Governments should prepare to regulate.
- There is a need and an urgency to address diet-related NCDs through the recognition that we need to address ultra processed foods as the way to go- not to just address reformulation.
- Interested in governance of the food systems summit - hopes it will mark a change from the moment of being seen as doing something to actually doing something.
- The summit's focus should be in food as a human right and shift more to also focus on the demand side measures required to transform the food system and resist the temptation to split everything into silos.
- Ensure that we keep in mind that health and people are at the centre and that there is greater transparency in the way that food policies are made.
- Important for food policies to be people centred and people driven. Discussions should focus on how the policies can be translated at community level.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

### 2. Challenges to support a policy package to sustainably prevent diet related NCDs

- There is lack of public awareness and consumer confusion
- A main challenge is continuing interference of food industry in policy processes and the lack of management of conflicts of interests of those participating in policy discussions. We need mechanisms to protect against this.-
- Need to focus on food quality and nutrition rather than ingredients and single nutrient approaches.
- Limited engagement of health departments in trade related policies
- Globalization of food industry tactics and arguments with cross border influence
- Lack of research (regional and local) on policy monitoring and evaluation
- Lack of coordination within UN System (FAO, IMF, WHO, UNICEF, etc.)
- Failure of the Summit to engage the people in its processes.
- Dealing with the economics of food
- framing of food as consumer good instead of a human right
- Weak government action across different levels

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

### 3. What are the immediate steps and necessary shifts to address the challenges

- Increase public awareness why are these policies needed. Stop promotion of UP foods worldwide
  - Consensus on non-interference of food industry in public health needed (Framework Convention or alike). Need to recognise that business as usual is not good enough. We need to deal with governance. Finalise and put into action guidance for global governance and conflicts of interest (WHO guidance).
  - Pushing ultra processed terminology
  - Building the investment case. Evidence shows that following dietary guidelines is a win for countries
  - Engage stakeholders from global to local and across sectors
  - National capacity building and strengthening
  - Peer learning among countries: share ideas, strategies, evidence, industry arguments
  - Promote a Rights' framing and align with environmental sustainability
  - The burden of responsibility should be shifted away from consumers
  - Engage youth: youth led campaigns
  - Need to recognise the limitations of the summit: We need to recognize the limitation of the way that the summit has been set up. We need revised versions of the principles of engagement that will generate productive discussions and the summit process. We need to address conflicts of interest. People that are involved with the organisation of the summit want to see a positive outcome that the Summit is set up and address them. How we prioritise things. Two things that are not discussed in the summit are ultra processed foods and agroecology. It is necessary to talk about these issues.
  - Need to ensure focus on the Summit and not get distracted by other global events. The food systems Summit is the starting point not the end to the conversation. What are the changes that will be needed for future actions.
  - We need to change the environment not the product. Reformulation is an attempt to pretend that we can shift from really bad to really good products and have an impact.
- Reformulation is a barrier to coherence. As are voluntary initiatives.

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Although participants did not show divergent opinions on the need to promote a package of actions to address diet related NCDs and on the importance of dealing with conflicts of interest and food industry interference, it is important to note that the need to include more Member States in these discussions and to allow for other actors to take part of discussing policy challenges. Important to include people in the “supply” side of the issue. Hopefully the Summit will enable some of these discussion and perhaps some conflict, which would be healthy.

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### KEYWORDS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Finance        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Innovation                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data & Evidence         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human rights   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Governance              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women & Youth Empowerment | <input type="checkbox"/> Trade-offs                         |
|  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environment and Climate |

# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## ATTACHMENTS

- **Agenda**  
[https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/NCDA-Dialogue\\_MONDAY-7\\_Food-systems-dialogue-Participant-agenda\\_final.pdf](https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/NCDA-Dialogue_MONDAY-7_Food-systems-dialogue-Participant-agenda_final.pdf)