

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Thursday, 10 June 2021 09:00 GMT +02:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Coherent Policy for Healthy Diets (Option 2)
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	NCD Alliance
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/20832/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/20832/</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

23 31-50

12 51-65

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

12 Male

23 Female

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

35 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

6 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

3 United Nations

International financial institution

12 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 – this was the second of the 2 sessions, (June 7 2021). Country and global perspectives were presented in plenary (policy makers from India and Finland) 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. The event was held under Chatham House rules – that organizers and note takers did not attribute of comments or quotes by name. 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, to contribute with this discussion to the goals by promoting and leading bold actions and solutions to support healthier, more sustainable and more equitable food systems, 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 Dialogue also supported inclusive multi-stakeholder approaches to design policy options that deliver solutions and protect people. Also, the idea behind the discussions planned in this Dialogue took into account the need to avoid duplication and encourage new thinking to deliver a real transformation. Finally, 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 the following way: -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. Participants were encouraged to engage and support the Summit and asked how they would do so. 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 Food Systems Summit aligns with, amplifies, and accelerates these efforts where practicable, avoiding unnecessary duplication, while encouraging bold and innovative new thinking and approaches, and encouraging coherence through integrated, multisectoral dialogue and development of policy measures.

### 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

- |                                     |                           |                                     |                         |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input 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 type="checkbox"/>            |                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 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 (restrictions to marketing and taxation of unhealthy foods, and front-of-package labeling systems on food products). 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. It is not possible to have a one policy approach. A policy package approach is essential towards a vision of an environment that is coherent and all the messages that are coming from that environment come from a healthy direction. It is about saying to large food corporations what is acceptable and what is not and having a leverage playing field for healthier choices.

- Participants recommended a common global definition of what is healthy or unhealthy food/diets, clarifying and including terms like ultra-processed food products.

- Insights were gained on how India is responding to the double burden of malnutrition and building healthy food systems by recognizing that undernutrition and inappropriate nutrition (which contributes to diet related NCDs) are all interlinked. It was important also to recognize the need for good balanced nutrition policy during all the life course. India has an approach of eating healthy, eating safe and eating sustainably (including a health, environmental, sanitation, etc. connectivity). It was also highlighted the importance of bringing this connection to the SDG agenda and engage with multiple stakeholders across the country in a practical way at the district level (e.g. school meals).

- The experience shared by Finland on notable wins and success factors in the country included the reduction of premature mortality through changes in the diet (e.g. reduction of salt and saturated fats); the adoption of a universal approach which targets the whole population and age groups: food belongs to everybody and every person need a good diet; the health-in-all-policies approach which is supported by legislation and intersectoral mechanisms; the economy of wellbeing approach emphasizing the interlinkages between social, economic and environmental sustainability; the political leadership for SDG's in the Prime Minister Office nurtures coherent sectoral policies, supports government programmes, promotes healthy diets, coherent policies, and political leadership. As challenges, it was pointed out that the past 10 years it has become increasingly difficult to maintain success. School meals investment pays back (e.g. 1 dollar of investment pays 9 dollars back) but other approaches are needed (e.g., agricultural policies, fiscal measures, public procurement, warning labels, among others), Transforming food systems is a challenge but comes with opportunities and success stories. It is important that there is a joint effort towards better cooperation and coordination at the global level.

- 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 as main challenges to implementation of a package of policies:

- Multiple stakeholders having a place at the table at the policy making level, including those with conflicts of interest.

- The dominant prosperity/capita/development narrative being consistently focused on what will damage economies instead of also considering investment in health, environment and well-being aspects as keys to development and prosperity.

- Silo policy making within governments and trade offs between government departments which are not fully transparent, understood and foster incoherence

- The negative impact the food industry lobby has on political processes, funding and biasing research and driving the narrative and definition of what foods are unhealthy, coopting tenuous health and sustainability attributes as a marketing tool even when a product's nutritional value is negligible or harmful.

On immediate steps and shifts necessary to address the challenges participants agreed on the need to:

- Engage and align with new allies from other sectors rather than only the health sectors.

- Influence the influencers (the cooks, the bloggers, etc) to also influence policy making

Build the bridge between academics and the policy makers to enable policy makers to be better informed.

- Share tips and lessons learned between countries (peer to peer) and a global governance to encourage multiple country support

- Increase transparency in policy discussions

- highlight the importance of NCDs and dietary options, and making sure these are incorporated within the pandemic response.

- Tackle and expose lobby power of food industry, build the evidence and take action

- Build and grow civil society competency and national protection for underage consumers

- Have more courageous Member States engaged in this agenda.

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## KEYWORDS

- Finance
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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

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

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

- That there is more policy cohesion between law, trade and nutrition
- That the Summit considers health consequences of food systems
- That nutrient-based approaches (deficiencies, fortification, reformulation) are balanced with a holistic approach including the consequences of food processing and food systems
- That coalitions are formed to move the dial
- That the Summit facilitates a shift to health and sustainability (human, animal and planetary health) as a primary objective for policymaking
- That food systems narrative is changed, that silos are broken and the mindset around multi-stakeholder action (risks and benefits) is changed
- That an agreement is established between food systems and links with climate change and economic growth. Nutrition should be seen as a tool that can support both agendas.
- That policies that shape the food environment are identified and invested in, not expecting individuals to have full control over diet behaviour
- That there is stronger ministerial will and strong leadership from governments, such that diet is moved to the top of the priority list at the summit.
- That there is a common definition of nutrient profiling -especially for children.
- That better fiscal policies to promote healthy diets are recommended.
- That there is recognition of the negative role of ultra-processed food industry in policy promotion (Conflicts of interest)
- That more Indigenous people's voices are heard

### ACTION TRACKS

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

2. Challenges to support a policy package to sustainably prevent diet related NCDs
- Perception that health behaviour is a personal choice and government policy is made bearing that in mind
  - Infectious disease prevention, deficiency and treatment is a priority over health promotion and that is a bottleneck for policy promotion affecting also resources in place for the health promotion agenda
  - The economic narrative that these policies damage the economies
  - Silo policy-making within governments and the trade-offs between different government departments when implementing these policies
  - Not enough public pressure for the promotion of these policies
  - Globalization
  - The impact of the food industry lobby (especially large multinational corporations) in building the narrative, funding research and influencing policy making
  - For small countries it is difficult to implement healthy food policies (e.g. locally grown foods) as larger countries have a lot of influence on the marketing of unhealthy commodities.
  - Trade not prioritising, and thus undermining, public health
  - Need for more evidence (e.g. cost-effectiveness analyses) on policy action focusing on implementation of the package of policies rather than instrument by instrument
  - There is no single silver bullet, multiple actions on multiple fronts are required
  - No sufficient tools to manage conflicts of interest and industry interference in policy shaping and making (especially when having multisectoral participation)
  - Ministries of health do not have the lead on the promotion of these policies
  - Need for demonstrating and communicating the broad public support base for these policies and the demand for change up against corporate capture of consultation processes and lack of access and poor infrastructure for civil society to influence decision making
  - Misconception driving a siloed approach to food policies and regulations (not including a life-course approach).
  - Weak collaboration within governments regarding food and nutrition, eg. with education, agriculture sectors.
  - Absence of a clear definition of what is "healthy" and "unhealthy"
  - Reformulating existing foods is necessary but not sufficient
  - COVID has made NCDs fall down the list
  - Companies are not being targeted. There is a need for policies that address power imbalance.
  - Industry resources to dominate consultation processes (need for guidelines on consultation processes).
  - Persistent argument against regulatory measures and deference of responsibility to the individual
  - Industry actions on the pandemic: Social responsibility actions (e.g. Sponsoring vaccination)
  - No plan for obesity prevention and the need of civil society to speak out
  - Worsening of some behaviors due to the pandemic. Pandemic also increased barriers to healthy foods, influenced affordability and increased exposure to unhealthy food marketing.
  - Multisectoral collaboration/policy coherence is absent - coordination of government agencies is very difficult - e.g. trade/industry or agriculture will often adopt policies that make unhealthy food cheaper, or foreign affairs will take trade-motivated positions in diplomacy
  - Lack of transparency in policy processes

### ACTION TRACKS

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

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

- Talk about the true costs of ultra processed foods and the opportunity of healthy and sustainable industries to be genuinely part of the solution
- Redefine economic growth as healthy and productive workforces is really important to consider
- Invite all sectors to think short and long term goals
- Mobilize new allies (those who are not the regular groups involved in diet-related NCD prevention): This could include recruiting more economists into public health and partner with anti-corruption organizations to address conflicts of interest
- Implement effective capacity-building actions for all actors involved
- Manage conflicts of interest
- Implement mechanisms for different countries to increase exchange and sharing of experiences in implementing these policies (including evidence, tips and lessons learned)
- Increase transparency about what the trade-offs are when discussing these policies over the short and long term
- Make sure that these policies are integrated into the pandemic response and take the opportunity COVID imposes to prioritize this agenda
- Have a global coordination and accountability mechanism to tackle this issue (similar to tobacco) including a 5.3. article about industry interference for food policy (as it is the case of the FCTC)
- Ban unhealthy food and beverage marketing to children
- Involve more academia into policy making processes to make sure policies are evidenced-based
- Include a regional approach (e.g. the success PAHO has had in implementing warning labels on food products) to move as a coherent global body
- Increase economic evaluations and build the economic case of the benefits of implementing this package of policies (cost-benefits assessments) and the benefits on inequalities
- Include civil society and marginalized groups such as Indigenous people within the Food Systems Summit
- Building civil society competence around IP data and build legal frameworks and instruments to respond to that in order to protect consumer data and also protect targeting special audiences like children.

#### ACTION TRACKS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
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| ✓ | Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns              |
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#### KEYWORDS

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

## 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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# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## ATTACHMENTS

- **Agenda**  
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Virtual-Dialogue-on-Coherent-Policy-for-Healthy-Diets-Thurs.pdf>