

CODE OF CONDUCT

Task Force 1 – Food Consumption Patterns (for healthy and sustainable diets)

Report of the first meeting – 17 March 2021

(DRAFT)

The first meeting of Task Force 1 dedicated to the theme of “food consumption patterns (for healthy and sustainable diets)” concentrated on deliberation of members’ **thematic prioritization, potential aspirational objectives, indicative actions and enablers** for operationalizing the identified potential aspirations.

A **compilation of members’ feedback** to the “homework” questions was presented by the rapporteur. It was clarified that the scope of Task Force 1 covers healthy and sustainable food consumption patterns.

In the ensuing deliberations, the **main points** included:

- **Clarification of signatory responsibility/role**, namely the difference between EU-level association and actors signing up to aspirations and concrete actions;
- Consensus to specify explicitly in the Code that each entity shall act within their **sphere of activity (remit), mandate and capacities**;
- **Language** ought to be inclusive and flexible, rather than exclusive and divisive, so as to facilitate consensus around aspirations, enablers, potential indicative actions;
- Still to decide **categorization of identified thematic priorities** which overlap between thematic areas (I, II, or III), as is the example of “food waste / loss” between chapters I and II;
- Still to decide the **categorization of identified thematic priorities** whether as aspirational objectives or as enablers and/or actions, such as “consumer engagement” (in all its variations, forms, and methods);
- Still to agree about the place and role of **existing actions** undertaken by entities along the chain, especially vis-à-vis the Code’s strategic foresight
- Still to decide on the whether **actions** are “open” or “indicative”, as follows:
 - Open: general, flexible language, allowing broad range of entities to devise their actions according to their remit, capacity, pace;
 - Indicative: broad language featuring indications of priority actions, but still respectful of entities’ different realities (remit, capacity, pace, etc.)

A suggested format was presented by the Chair around 2 themes/SDGs (see slides). The structure with clear aspirational objectives and flexible actions was broadly supported by the participants.

The following points were raised in relation to this:

- *(Still to decide on need to have)* a stronger overarching environmental focus, beyond food waste only, in Task Force 1 (or to discuss this in T2)
- Still to decide if a third aspirational objective “*How to empower consumers to make informed choices*” should be added
- Consensus on the need for balanced diets
- Clarification that enablers should support and incentivise actors in taking actions and should come from stakeholders other than middle of the chain (e.g public authorities).

All members were invited to think and present ideas for **input** to any of the Code’s other segments, such as preamble, rationale, scope, principles, general commitments, potential framework for specific commitments, monitoring mechanism. Participants reaffirmed the need to embed the **three facets of sustainability** into the Code’s content and structure – from the preamble, through the aspirational

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objectives to any potential indicative actions. It was reiterated that **economic viability** is on par with **environmental and social sustainability**.

Building on the progress made during the meeting, preparatory **questions** for the **next meeting (8 April 2021, 10:00-13:00)** were presented, the feedback of which is **due** by 1 **April 2021** close of business.
