

## WSPA's input to the CFS e-consultation on the rai zero draft

For the CFS rai to deliver food security, the first draft needs to be strengthened and to become more comprehensive than the zero draft. To quote the 'Core civil society points for new rai Zero Draft' of the Civil Society Mechanism: 'Investments in agriculture must support environmentally sustainable forms of agriculture which preserve and increase soil fertility, preserve biodiversity, respect animal welfare, use water resources within sustainable limits, and contribute to the reduction and mitigation of climate change.' The CSM already made valuable suggestions for improving the draft towards this goal. Below, in answering the Chair's questions, WSPA would like to draw specific attention to the above mentioned issue of animal health and welfare.

1. *Are all relevant issues and areas related to fostering responsible agricultural investments adequately addressed in the Zero Draft? If not, what should be changed?*

The Zero Draft does not address all relevant issues. It especially fails to address the issue of animal health and welfare. The agreed Terms of Reference of the rai state that the principles should take into consideration the impact of agricultural investments on environmental, economic, social and cultural aspects. This means that animal welfare could be clearly identified as priority issue within the scope of the rai principles.

Including animal health and welfare is particularly critical because:

- Sustainable livestock production, of which animal welfare is an integral part, is core to achieving socially and environmentally responsible outcomes on food security, poverty eradication and sustainable development. This was formally recognised at the UN Rio+20 Conference in June 2012 where the importance of promoting sustainable livestock production and enhancing livestock health was agreed in Paragraphs 111 and 112 of the 'Future We Want' and again in 2013 in General Assembly resolution A/RES/68/233 on Agriculture development, food security and nutrition.
- Enhancing animal health and welfare increases productivity, particularly in systems with current low productivity, thus improving food security and livelihoods for the world's poorest billion people that depend on livestock for food, fertilizer, transport, income and as social safety net. Better animal health and welfare practices also contribute to minimizing food waste.
- Enhancing animal health and welfare increases public health. Around 75 per cent of new diseases affecting humans over the past ten years have been caused by pathogens originating from animals or animal products.<sup>1</sup> How animals are treated has a significant impact on the emergence of new diseases and the spread of disease – the use of industrialised systems can

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<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization (WHO). See [www.who.int/zoonoses/vph/en/](http://www.who.int/zoonoses/vph/en/)

increase risks. Excessive consumption of animal products, particularly processed meat, is also a major contributor to the global rise in diet-related diseases including cancers, heart disease and stroke.<sup>2</sup>

- The disregard to animal welfare concerns in industrialized intensive livestock production systems has led to a growing use of antibiotics for non-therapeutic and disease preventative purposes. This practice is now contributing to increasing antibiotic resistance in humans with devastating outcomes for human health and the ability of national health systems to provide affordable healthcare for all.
- Animal welfare is a globally emerging issue, amongst citizens, farmers and farmer organisations, businesses, academic institutions and intergovernmental organisations and governments. For example, most leading global food companies have public animal welfare policies; the World Animal Health Organisation (178 member states) has developed animal welfare guidelines and a growing number of governments (67 at the moment of writing) agreed, in principle, to support a Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare.
- Without a clear acknowledgment of the value of animal health and welfare in the rai, a large part of livestock investments is prone to be invested in industrialized livestock production systems that take insufficient account of animal welfare, thus ignoring society's growing awareness of animal sentience and the proper treatment of animals, disregarding cultural beliefs of good animal care, harming small and medium farms that practice humane and sustainable agriculture and causing excess pollution and resource use.

In addition, WSPA believes that the zero draft does not sufficiently address the possibility of using responsible investment in agriculture to re-frame the efficiency debate away from 'how can we squeeze more food out of the same amount of resources' and towards 'which food types are most resource efficient and have the lowest environmental footprint'. Taking into account that over 40% of all cereals and 50% of all oil crops are currently being used as animal feed as well as the fact that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) finds that, on the current trajectory, the livestock sector alone will produce 70% of the sustainable level of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, it should follow that investment in grain-fed intensive livestock production systems will not contribute to enhancing food security for all.

2. *Are the roles and responsibilities of relevant stakeholders clearly defined in order to facilitate implementation of the principles? If not, what should be changed?*

WSPA considers it vital to include and ensure that (bilateral) trade and investment treaties meet the following conditions:

- Do not harm human and social rights, environmental sustainability and animal welfare
- Do not undermine national sovereignty and democracy
- Are fully transparent

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<sup>2</sup> McMichael et al, (2007). Food, livestock production, energy, climate change, and health. *Lancet*, 370: 1253.

- Include accountability measures

3. *Does the Zero Draft achieve the desired outcome to promote investments in agriculture that contributes to food security and supports the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security? If not, what should be changed?*

To achieve policy coherence, the RAI principles should also be in line with ISO26000, the international guidance on social responsibility.

4. *The principles are intended to provide practical guidance to stakeholders; therefore: Are the current structure and language used clear and accessible for all relevant stakeholders to apply? What steps need to be taken for the CFS-RAI principles to be used and implemented by different stakeholders after endorsement by CFS?*

To meet the need for clarity and practical guidance, animal health and welfare should be mainstreamed throughout the document.

To enable implementation, a global coordination mechanism, including all CFS Advisory Group stakeholders, should be established.