



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FOOD INDUSTRY

1

FOUR OVERARCHING TOPICS TO HELP SDG ALIGNMENT OF THE FOOD SECTOR

We strongly recommend that food industry leaders undertake a series of actions to better align corporate practices in the food sector with the SDGs. Most importantly, **we urge the industry to address all four dimensions of SDG alignment** emphasized in our Four Dimension Framework.

- Products that contribute to healthy and sustainable dietary patterns;
- Sustainable production practices;
- Sustainable global supply chains;
- Good corporate citizenship.

2

COMPARABLE MONITORING AND REPORTING STANDARDS STRUCTURED AROUND THE FOUR DIMENSIONS

In order to align corporate practices in the food sector with the SDGs and to deal with such challenges, we emphasize the importance of adopting meaningful and targeted reporting and monitoring standards. Most importantly, **we call on the industry to support the harmonization of reporting and monitoring** to entail a systematic assessment of the existing and planned international reporting standards for their consistency, gaps, and overlaps, with the intention of the food industry agreeing upon a systematized SDG reporting and monitoring process.

Such **harmonized reporting and monitoring standards should be built on the existing platforms** (among others, the UN Global Compact, GRI, WBCSD, World Benchmarking Alliance, the Science-Based Targets Network, International Chamber of Commerce, SASB, Integrated Reporting, etc.) and **should be structured to address all four pillars of alignment** emphasized in the Four Dimension Framework. Since most companies will rely upon third-party monitors and compliance processes,

the industry should also agree (pre-competitively) on the financing and standards of these reporting and monitoring processes in a manner that ensures the independence, credibility, and accuracy of the resulting data.

Harmonization should induce reliable and comparable measurements. Such comparability will support the efforts by companies to set ambitious targets in terms of the four dimensions of our framework.

3

BETTER PRODUCTS AND MORE AWARENESS TO ACHIEVE HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE DIETS

Through the previous commitments, the harmonization of reporting and monitoring should also entail industry efforts **to expand the public's awareness of sustainable and healthy diets and lifestyles** through the use of social media, public events, online free educational programs and materials, and of course useful product labelling and marketing. Companies **should promote sustainable and healthy diets, improving their products** and cooperating with research and other institutions to conduct scientifically-grounded evaluations and assessments on public health issues related to dietary habits. They should also **inform consumers about the nutritional content of their products and the role that each product plays within healthy and sustainable dietary patterns.**

Such awareness efforts and the proactive implementation of targeted actions, in partnership and in accordance with their respective roles, with institutions at the international and local level, academia, NGOs, and retailers, should address the needs of distinct groups in society — notably children and the elderly, and specific attention should be given to the role of cities.

The harmonized reporting system should cover each major product line along the entire global supply chain. The goal should be **to track the supply chain of each product line** from the upstream sources to the final users, to monitor and ultimately **to ensure economic, social, and environmental sustainability along the entire supply chain**. In particular, supply chain leaders should promote the profitability of local producers and foster rural development, thereby also reducing the pressures for out-migration. The sustainable management of supply chains should also promote gender equality, end child labor, and promote the education, wellbeing, and empowerment of youth.

The industry's growing reliance on intermediaries for supply-chain monitoring puts increased scrutiny and responsibility on **the monitors**, including Fair Trade, the Rainforest Alliance, the CDP, and others. These organizations **need to ensure their own alignment with the transformation to sustainable land, food, water, and oceans**. Moreover, the industry needs increased monitoring of the downstream supply chain, and to seek to positively contribute to healthier and more sustainable diets and less waste from processing and packaging.

Finally, **companies should foster innovations** in order to address the environmental, health, and social challenges consistent with sound financial performance. Innovations will include new products and processes, new digital solutions, social innovations, and adoption of the principles of the circular economy. To promote such innovations, the food industry should partner with the scientific community, including agronomists, nutritionists, ecologists, engineers, climatologists, social scientists and business experts, to address the unprecedentedly complex challenges facing the industry and society, especially the complexity of combining environmental sustainability and healthy diets for all of the world. Regarding corporate citizenship, emphasis should be put on ensuring fairer and more transparent tax payments by companies in the food sector.