The International Platform of Insects for Food and Feed (IPIFF) - the umbrella organisation representing stakeholders active across the insect production value chains towards the Institutions of the European Union salutes the initiative to develop ‘a global narrative on FSN’, with the goal to provide a positive contribution towards the achievement of SDG2 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In our view, actions across the different segments of the agri-food chains are needed to facilitate the transition towards more sustainable food systems, while also addressing the key global challenges of the coming decades, such as the increasing population. Our association supports the concept of a ‘comprehensive approach to food security and nutrition’ - connecting links of the food chain with the view to improving the efficient use of natural resources.

In particular, insect farming has high potential to connect different agri-food value chains, improving the circularity of food production activities, as well as the local self-sufficiency of nutritious products for the food and feed chains. Moreover, IPIFF members bring a positive contribution in the transition from linear to circular farming practices, reintroducing valuable nutrients from underutilised streams (e.g. agri-food by-products, former foodstuffs) into the food and feed chains.

While insect farming is recognised for its high efficiency and reduced environmental footprint (especially in terms of land use area and water consumption), the vertical practices implemented in such systems bring insect production among the leaders in terms of sustainability. According to our members’ estimation, the production of farmed insects in 2030 (on a European level) could complement the increasing demand for protein-rich materials - reducing the necessity to expand agricultural land with an area the size of Belgium.

With regards to insects as food, IPIFF acknowledges that diversified diets require the availability of a wide variety of products and ingredients for the nutritional needs of consumers. Edible insects can complement low-protein diets thanks to their diverse amino acid composition. In addition, insects are more than an alternative to meat. They contain numerous vitamins, minerals and prebiotic fibers - important for the metabolism and immunity of the human body (see IPIFF Factsheet on ‘Edible Insects and Human Nutrition’). Furthermore, insects have traditionally been used in fortifying diets for children, pregnant women or senior citizens. Subsequently, thanks to their physical properties, they can be easily incorporated into various commonly consumed food products such as bakery products, pasta or snacks - improving their nutritional characteristics and their protein content.
On the other hand, **insect farming is a committed partner in improving sustainability in aquaculture, poultry or pig farming.** The amino acid profile of insects corresponds to the dietary needs of fish, poultry or swine animals, with adequate levels of amino acids which are seen as limiting factors (see IPIFF Factsheet on ‘The Nutritional Benefits of Insects in Animal Feed’). The presence of the essential linoleic (omega-6) and α-linolenic acids (omega-3), as well as high levels of lauric and oleic acid are of high importance in the development of personalised feeding strategies. Moreover, antimicrobial peptides found in larvae are presently investigated for their potential in the development of novel antibiotics, mainly thanks to their immune-boosting properties - confirming their contribution in reducing the use of antibiotics.

In conclusion, we see new sources of proteins, such as insects, an integral part in the development of a ‘comprehensive approach to food security and nutrition’. Their high efficiency and versatility make them a valuable addition to both human and animal diets, improving the overall sustainability of food production practices. On behalf of the members of the International Platform of Insects for Food and Feed, we wish to express our interest to remain in close contact throughout the development of the ‘Building a Global Narrative Towards 2030’ report.