Global policies for nutrition – Commitments and tools to eradicate hunger and malnutrition in all its forms

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UNSCN has been established as a UN System Standing Committee by ECOSOC Resolution in 1977.

**Mandate**

- Keep under review the overall *direction, scale, coherence and impact* of the UN System response to nutrition problems;
- Be point of *convergence* to harmonize UN policies, activities;
- Provide initiative in development and *harmonization of concepts, policies, strategies and programs* in UN System;
- *Appraise* experience and progress towards achievement of objectives, and lay down *guidelines* for mutually supporting action at UN interagency and country levels.

*Inclusive* and *open* to all *UN agencies* having significant interest or engagement in nutrition. Members include IAEA, UNWomen, UNEEnvironment, UNHCR, OCHA, UNDESA, UNIDO and CEB. Bioversity/CGIAR is associate member.
UNSCN

- Is universal in scope
- Advocates a human-right based approach to nutrition
- Concentrates on the UN system

- Works on all forms of malnutrition
- Promotes intersectoral analysis and action
- Focuses on global issues that relate to local realities and needs

UNSCN Strategic Objectives

1. Maximize UN Policy coherence and advocacy on nutrition
2. Support consistent and accountable delivery by the UN System
3. Explore new and emerging nutrition-related issues
4. Promote knowledge sharing across the UN System
The malnutrition challenge

- **Nutrition-related** chronic diseases are among the leading causes of death worldwide
- Progress **uneven** between countries and among population groups

- **Multiple** forms of malnutrition
- **Multiple** causes of malnutrition
  - power relations
  - right to food and health
  - political, economic, environmental and cultural characteristics of human societies, and their interactions
  - daily living conditions
  - underlying norms, values, policies, institutions and processes at local, national and global levels

**More than 820 million people do not have enough to eat**

FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, WHO - SOFI 2019

Political impetus for action against malnutrition

2016 - UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025

The aim of the Nutrition Decade is to accelerate implementation of the ICN2 commitments, achieve the Global Nutrition and diet-related NCD targets by 2025 and contribute to the realisation of the SDGs by 2030.
WHEN

• In November 2014, FAO and the WHO co-hosted the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), which adopted the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and its Framework for Action. The ICN2 placed FS in the forefront of relevant international and national agendas across sectors including agriculture, food, nutrition and public health.

• In 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development launched seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Goal 2 aims explicitly to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030, however the intersectoral nature of the determinants of malnutrition means that many, of the SDGs have implications for nutrition.

• In April 2016, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) agreed on a resolution proclaiming the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition from 2016 to 2025. By agreeing to the resolution, governments endorsed the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and Framework for Action adopted by ICN2 in November 2014.

UN agencies and governments committed to...
WHAT

**WHA Nutrition targets**
1. 40% Reduction of **stunting**
2. 50% Reduction in **anaemia** in women
3. 30% Reduction of **low birth weight**
4. No increase in childhood **overweight**
5. 50% increase in the rate of exclusive **breastfeeding**
6. Reduce and maintain childhood **wasting** to less than 5%

**NCD targets nutrition related**
1. 25% reduction in mortality from **cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes**
2. 10% reduction in prevalence of insufficient **physical activity**
3. 30% reduction in population **intake of salt/sodium**
4. 25% reduction in the prevalence of **raised blood pressure**
5. Halt the rise in **diabetes and obesity**
6. At least 50% of eligible people receive **drug therapy and counselling** (including glycaemic control) to prevent heart attacks and strokes
HOW

- Member States, regional political and economic communities and the global community are called upon to translate the commitments made through the Rome Declaration on Nutrition into **SMART commitments** for action in the context of national nutrition and nutrition-related policies, and in dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders, particularly people and communities most affected by nutrition challenges.

- The **60 recommendations** of the ICN2 FfA, reflected in **six action areas**, guided by 24 thematic guidance sheets.

**Nutrition Decade Action areas**

- Sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets.
- Aligned health systems providing universal coverage of essential nutrition actions.
- Social protection and nutrition education.
- Trade and investment for improved nutrition.
- Safe and supportive environments for nutrition at all ages.
- Strengthened governance and accountability for nutrition.
Integrating Nutrition into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

• Assist United Nations Country Teams (UNTCs) with the integration of nutrition into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (that supersedes the UNDAF) using a multi-stakeholder approach.

• Ensure an effective response by the UN system to assist Member States to prepare and implement coherent and balanced development policies that effectively tackle malnutrition.

• It includes how best to reflect the risks and opportunities related to all forms of malnutrition in the Common Country Analysis (CCA), as well as in the Cooperation Framework.
Transforming Food Systems

The **ICN2 Framework for Action** presents recommendations to be implemented to ensure that food systems become more **sustainable** and promote **healthy diets**. Following ICN2, UNGA adopted a Resolution proclaiming the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition to ensure universal access to healthy and sustainable diets.

**Rec.9.** Strengthen local food production and processing, especially by smallholder, family farmers, giving special attention to women’s empowerment.

**Rec.10.** Promote the diversification of crops including underutilized traditional crops, more production of fruits and vegetables and appropriate production of animal-source products as needed.

**Rec.11.** Improve storage, preservation, transport and distribution technologies and infrastructure to reduce seasonal food insecurity, food and nutrient loss and waste.

**Rec.12.** Establish and strengthen institutions, policies, programmes and services to enhance the resilience of the food supply in crisis-prone areas, including areas affected by climate change.

**Rec.13.** Develop, adopt and adapt, where appropriate, international guidelines on healthy diets.
Food Systems for sustainable and healthy diets

FIGURE 1.4: Conceptual framework for the links between diet quality and food systems

Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition – Foresight report on Food systems and diets (2016)
Food Systems for sustainable and healthy diets

ONGOING TRANSFORMATION...

• **CFS: Voluntary Guidelines: Sustainable diets**
  - Environment, climate
  - Governance and equity
  - Diversity and local contexts
  - Relink production and consumption

• **Rural Urban linkages:** Important for local economic growth AND opportunity to optimise planning for better nutrition.

Food System and Climate Change

- The global food system is one of the main contributors to climate change and environmental degradation and leaves 1 out of 3 people suffering from one or more forms of malnutrition.

- Food production and consumption is responsible for:
  - Up to 37% of human caused greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
  - Up to 70% of the freshwater use
  - More than 60% of the terrestrial biodiversity loss, with animal based foods being major contributors of these environmental changes

Increased pressure:

- Dietary changes (urbanization, economic growth)
- Climate change and growing population.
- Growing inequity
Global Governance for Nutrition

• At the global level, the concern for nutrition and the recognized connections between health, food and the environment, bring together many parts of the UN system and beyond, across different and multiple policy areas

• Greater diversity and volume of actors involved

• Direct or indirect influence on people’s nutritional status

Global nutrition governance: the network of actors whose primary, designated function is to improve nutrition outcomes through processes and mechanisms for convening, agenda setting, decision making (including norm-setting), implementation and accountability

Governance for nutrition: the process by which impact on nutrition by non nutrition policies is leveraged or mitigated
Key actors in global nutrition

- UN System
- Civil society and non-government organizations (NGOs)
- Multilateral development banks and financial organizations
- National governments/plurilateral organizations
- Philanthropic organizations
- Public-private partnerships/ multi-stakeholder initiatives
- Private industries
- Research institutes, networks and associations

167 actors and networks of actors identified as prominent in nutrition (2017)
Conclusions

• There is a **global agenda** (2030 Agenda, supported by concrete ICN2 recommendations), there is momentum (Nutrition Decade): now time for **implementation**
• Mobilize more actors and stakeholders, the agenda is more challenging than 20 years ago. **Actors beyond the traditional nutrition actors**!
• **Investments** for food system transformation: policies, regulation, disinvestments, and investments
  • Foster diversity: promote undervalued crops/products: pulses, fish, indigenous
• We know enough in order to take action, but more **evidence** is needed: nutrition sensitive actions, local contexts, diets of specific groups
• More **commitments** are needed: financial and political. Identification in the run up to the N4G summit

Thank you!
UNSCN vision

A world free from hunger and all forms of malnutrition is attainable in this generation