



## WORK PROGRAMME

### Background

1. Eliminating malnutrition in all its forms is imperative to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty, and reach the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Today, almost one person in three globally suffers from at least one form of malnutrition – undernutrition, micronutrient deficiency, overweight or obesity – and a large part of the world’s population is affected by diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The impacts of malnutrition on development, society, health and well-being are serious and lasting, for individuals and their families, for communities and for countries. Different forms of malnutrition co-exist – within the same country, community, household or individual.
2. The root causes of, and factors contributing to, malnutrition are complex and multidimensional, and include:
  - poverty, underdevelopment, unemployment and low socio-economic status in both rural and urban areas, often aggravated by the impact of conflict, post-conflict and humanitarian emergencies and protracted crises, including natural disasters;
  - inequity and inequality, poor infant and young-child feeding and care practices, poor sanitation and hygiene, food-borne infections and parasitic infestations, ingestion of harmful contaminants due to unsafe food production or preparation practices, and a lack of access to education, quality health systems and safe drinking-water;
  - new and emerging challenges and trends such as climate change, pressures from population growth, urbanization, and changing lifestyles and consumption patterns.<sup>1</sup>
3. While some progress has been made recently, the nutrition challenges facing countries continue to evolve and grow, and solutions to them require strong and sustained political leadership.
4. In November 2014, at the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), Member States and the global community committed themselves to eliminating malnutrition in all its forms and articulated a common vision for global action in the Rome Declaration on Nutrition. They also agreed on a voluntary Framework for Action (ICN2 FfA)<sup>2</sup> to implement these commitments.
5. In September 2015, Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, committing them to achieving a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets, indispensable requirements for sustainable development. They placed high priority on addressing malnutrition by committing to all the SDGs,<sup>3</sup> in particular under SDG 2 to “End hunger, achieve food security and improved

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<sup>1</sup> FAO & WHO. 2014. *Second International Conference on Nutrition Rome, 19-21 November 2014. Conference Outcome Document: Rome Declaration on Nutrition* [online]. [Cited 16 February 2018]. [www.fao.org/3/a-ml542e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-ml542e.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> FAO & WHO. 2014. *Second International Conference on Nutrition Rome, 19-21 November 2014. Conference Outcome Document: Framework for Action* [online]. [Cited 16 February 2018]. [www.fao.org/3/a-mm215e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-mm215e.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition. 2017. *By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition and leave no one behind* [online]. Discussion Paper. [Cited 16 February 2018]. [www.unscn.org/uploads/web/news/NutritionPaper-EN-14apr.pdf](http://www.unscn.org/uploads/web/news/NutritionPaper-EN-14apr.pdf)

nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture”. Members further committed, under targets 2.1 and 2.2, “By 2030, [to] end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round” and “By 2030, [to] end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving by 2025 the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under five years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.”

6. In April 2016, the UN General Assembly, through its Resolution 70/259,<sup>4</sup> endorsed the ICN2 outcomes and proclaimed the period from 2016 to 2025 the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (“Nutrition Decade”). The Resolution also called upon the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to lead the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and to identify and develop a work programme based on the Rome Declaration and its Framework for Action, along with its means of implementation for 2016–2025, using coordination mechanisms such as the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN) and multistakeholder platforms such as the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), in line with its mandate, and in consultation with other international and regional organizations and platforms.
7. In May 2016, the World Health Assembly (WHA), through its Resolution 69/8, requested the Director-General of WHO to work with the Director-General of FAO “to support Member States, upon request, in developing, strengthening and implementing their policies, programmes and plans to address the multiple challenges of malnutrition, and convene periodic meetings of inclusive nature to share best practices, including consideration of commitments that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound (SMART) within the framework of the Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025)”.<sup>5</sup>
8. This Work Programme for the Nutrition Decade has been identified and developed according to the mandate given by the UN General Assembly in its Resolution 70/259 and taking into account WHA Resolution 69/8. The Work Programme identifies mechanisms through which Member States and other committed stakeholders should collaborate to achieve the aims of the Nutrition Decade.
9. This Work Programme for the Nutrition Decade describes: its aims, added value and guiding principles; key areas for priority action (action areas); modalities of engagement and roles of Member States and other stakeholders; mechanisms and tools for driving action (means of implementation); and an accountability framework.
10. This Work Programme is a living document developed through an inclusive, continuous and collaborative process, building upon and connecting initiatives of governments and their many partners.

## Aims

11. 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 realization of the SDGs by 2030.
12. The Nutrition Decade:

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<sup>4</sup> UN. 2016. *United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025)* [online]. A/RES/70/259. [Cited 16 February 2018]. [www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/259](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/259)

<sup>5</sup> World Health Assembly. 2016. *United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025)* [online]. WHA69.8. [Cited 16 February 2018]. [http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/WHA69/A69\\_R8-en.pdf](http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA69/A69_R8-en.pdf)

- provides a clearly defined time-bound cohesive framework that works within existing structures and available resources;
- catalyses and facilitates alignment of ongoing efforts of multiple actors from all sectors, including new actors, to foster a global movement to end all forms of malnutrition and to leave no one behind;
- stimulates the effective translation of the ICN2 commitments and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into concrete nationally determined policies and programmes;
- promotes coherence of national, regional and international policies focusing on evidence and results across multiple sectors to combat all forms of malnutrition, including through improved monitoring and reporting of relevant policy impact at national, regional and global levels;
- advocates for mobilization of additional policy and financial commitments;
- establishes, under Member States' oversight, a global accountability framework across sectors and constituencies, building upon existing mechanisms, processes and tools.

## Added Value

13. The added value of the Nutrition Decade is to:

- highlight the urgency to act, guided by a collective vision of a world where all people at all times and at all stages of life have access to affordable, diversified, safe and healthy diets;
- establish a focused period to set, track and achieve impact and outcomes to generate and implement country-specific commitments for action from a diverse range of actors within and beyond the nutrition community;
- provide an unprecedented opportunity to propagate society-wide movements for national policy change to end of all forms of malnutrition, in all countries;
- provide global connectivity among all constituencies working on food and nutrition-related programmes and initiatives to create mutual learning and foster synergies for action to achieve common goals;
- provide an accessible, transparent and global framework for tracking progress and ensuring mutual accountability for the commitments made;
- put the spotlight on nutrition at the highest political level through regular reporting to the UN General Assembly and the Governing Bodies of FAO and WHO, and engaging the CFS and other relevant intergovernmental bodies and multistakeholder forums.

## Guiding Principles

14. The Nutrition Decade:

- is country-owned and country-driven;
- builds on existing efforts;
- promotes alignment among actors and actions;
- supports all countries to address all forms and causes of malnutrition;
- provides an inclusive umbrella for all relevant stakeholders to consolidate, align and reinforce nutrition actions across different sectors;
- recognizes and encourages the emergence of local, national, regional and global movements to end all forms of malnutrition.

15. The Nutrition Decade is inclusive, addressing all forms of malnutrition, maximizing participation by all actors and ensuring that the needs of all people are addressed. To this end, the Nutrition Decade:

- involves all countries, regardless of their income, the nature of their malnutrition challenges and the characteristics of their food and health systems;

- addresses all people everywhere, particularly women and youth, as key stakeholders for success;
  - facilitates action across rural, urban and peri-urban areas and populations alike; urban systems and urban food environments may be settings to show rapid changes and success, while rural settlements, villages and districts provide important settings for production, distribution and consumption of food;
  - addresses the increasing number of emergencies and priority situations (including natural disasters, conflicts and protracted crises) affecting the nutritional status of vast populations;
  - engages and supports all sectors of government, at all relevant levels, to ensure adequate prioritization, funding and action on ending all forms of malnutrition;
  - engages with a wide range of stakeholders, including governments, intergovernmental organizations, international, regional and local organizations, financial institutions, development banks, parliamentarians, cities, civil society organizations, academia, media, philanthropic foundations and the business sector – all of which are invited to contribute their unique and valuable assets (including implementation, advocacy, technical assistance, funds, and convening power), in line with and in support of national policies and programmes;
  - engages with social movements representing peasant farmers, small-scale fishers and fishing communities, pastoralists, refugees and migrants, urban poor, consumers, women, youth, indigenous peoples and agricultural and food workers as key actors to establish a global movement on nutrition;
  - harnesses the wealth of competencies and resources of the private sector, including small and medium-sized enterprises, social enterprises, and larger national and multinational companies, while managing conflicts of interest.
16. The Nutrition Decade provides an enabling environment such that national, regional and international policies and programmes respect, protect and fulfil “the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient, and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger consistent with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other relevant United Nations instruments.”<sup>6</sup>
17. The Nutrition Decade provides an enabling environment such that action taken by governments and other stakeholders relies on the latest scientific evidence and engages with academic institutions to further look for effective solutions.

## Action Areas

18. Action during the Nutrition Decade is centred on six cross-cutting, integrative areas for impact, derived from the ICN2 FfA recommendations and relevant to related SDGs. While each of these thematic areas informs and frames action, they should not be seen as silos; in practice, policies and programmes should normally be linked to several areas at the same time. The six areas are:
1. Sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets;
  2. Aligned health systems providing universal coverage of essential nutrition actions;
  3. Social protection and nutrition education;
  4. Trade and investment for improved nutrition;
  5. Safe and supportive environments for nutrition at all ages;
  6. Strengthened governance and accountability for nutrition.
19. The Nutrition Decade fosters national, regional and global policy dialogue to facilitate and enhance local action, which in turn aims to maximize impact at all levels. A localized approach that involves civil society is important in order: to ensure Member State ownership of initiatives and policies; to adjust to the different political structures and environments in which nutrition initiatives need to be

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<sup>6</sup> Rome Declaration on Nutrition. See note 1.

taken; to address the vast geographic and socio-economic differences within a given society; and to ensure that solutions are equitable, inclusive, people-centred and “leave no one behind”.

20. Priorities and the shaping of specific actions will depend on the interest and commitment expressed by governments, their partners and other potential actors. In support of this, a full and thorough mapping is to be undertaken, building on what has already been done to identify and chart all existing nutrition-related initiatives and movements, financing mechanisms and policy actions, to ensure that the Nutrition Decade reflects the needs of Member States and the global nutrition community and can generate increased focus on identified gaps.

### **Action Area 1: Sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets**

21. Work in this action area is based on ICN2 FfA recommendations:
  - for sustainable food systems promoting healthy diets (nos. 9, 10, 11, 12, 14);
  - on water, sanitation and hygiene (no. 50);
  - on food safety and antimicrobial resistance (nos. 53, 54, 55, 56, 57).
22. Current food systems<sup>7</sup> are not delivering the quality diets needed for optimal health and are putting pressure on the planet’s natural resources.<sup>8</sup> Coherent and innovative actions covering the entire food system – from inputs and production, through processing, storage, transport and retailing to consumption – are needed to ensure access to sustainable, healthy diets for all and reduce food and nutrient losses and waste.
23. This action area also covers national policies and investments to: strengthen local food production and processing, especially by smallholder and family farmers, giving special attention to women’s empowerment; promote crop diversification; and develop, adopt and adapt, where appropriate, international guidelines on healthy diets as well as international standards, guidelines and codes of practice on food safety and quality.
24. Solutions should include: improved production, availability, accessibility and affordability of a variety of cereals, legumes, vegetables, fruits and animal source foods, including fish, meat, eggs and dairy products, produced and consumed sustainably; and diets containing adequate macronutrients, fibre and micronutrients in line with WHO recommendations on healthy diets.<sup>9</sup>
25. In addition, food safety needs to be integrated into the global food security and nutrition agenda to make significant progress in improving nutrition. Food safety problems threaten the nutritional status of populations, particularly vulnerable groups such as older people, pregnant and lactating women, adolescent girls, and children. Food contaminated by chemical or biological hazards, including environmental pollutants, is the origin of many diseases, ranging from diarrhoea to cancer, undermining people’s lives, health and nutrition well-being, directly and indirectly. Morbidity due to diarrhoea, dysentery and other enteric diseases – arising from unsafe food, contaminated water and poor sanitation – has not declined much in recent decades. In some developing countries, children are chronically exposed, through their diets, to aflatoxins, which are not only carcinogenic, but also probably contribute to stunting.
26. One emerging food safety issue of global concern is antimicrobial resistance (AMR). While antimicrobial drugs are essential for both human and animal health and welfare, and critical to food producers’ livelihoods, their imprudent use has led to growing AMR threats to humans and

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<sup>7</sup> FAO. 2013. *The State of the Food and Agriculture: Food systems for better nutrition*. Rome. 99 pp. (also available at [www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3300e/i3300e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3300e/i3300e.pdf)).

<sup>8</sup> UN. 2018. Sustainable Development Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss. In: *UN* [online]. [Cited 16 February 2018]. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg15>

<sup>9</sup> World Health Organization. 2015. Healthy diet. Fact sheet No. 394. In: *WHO* [online]. [Cited 16 February 2018]. [www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs394/en/](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs394/en/)

agroecological environments. While addressing AMR requires a multisectoral “One Health Approach”,<sup>10</sup> significant challenges still remain in translating internationally recognized standards and guidelines into appropriate national policies and actions.

## **Action Area 2: Aligned health systems providing universal coverage of essential nutrition actions**

27. Work in this action area is based on ICN2 FfA recommendations:

- for strong and resilient health systems (nos. 25, 26, 27, 28);
- to address wasting (nos. 34, 35) and stunting (nos. 36, 37);
- on health services to improve nutrition (nos. 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49).

28. Strong health systems are needed to prevent and treat malnutrition in all its forms through the delivery of evidence-informed nutrition interventions and services for all ages, as well as to prevent and treat diseases that can aggravate undernutrition. Health systems also have to deal with the long-term health consequences associated with overweight and obesity and the prevention and control of diet-related NCDs.

29. Access to health services and financial risk protection for all – including the most marginalized and most vulnerable – is needed. This means universal health coverage, which implies that all people have access, without discrimination, to nationally determined sets of the needed promotive, preventive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative essential health services, including oral health and mental health services and essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, while ensuring that the use of these services does not expose users to financial hardship, with a special emphasis on the poor, vulnerable and marginalized segments of the population.<sup>11</sup>

30. Work in this area aims to: integrate all relevant nutrition actions in health system design;<sup>12</sup> support health workers at all levels to deliver nutrition actions; and ensure the availability of the necessary equipment and supplies.

31. This area supports related health and nutrition strategies and goals, including the WHO/UNICEF Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding, the WHO Comprehensive Implementation Plan on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition 2012–2025, and the WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases 2013–2020, through commensurate financing and adequate policies. Special mention should be made of: the detection, referral and treatment of acute malnutrition; the provision of nutrition and health care to women, beginning with adolescent girls and continuing through pregnancy and lactation; the promotion of exclusive breastfeeding up to six months and continued breastfeeding up to two years and beyond, with adequate complementary feeding; and the provision of required micronutrient supplements to pre-school children and women.

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<sup>10</sup> See WHO and FAO action plans:

World Health Organization. 2015. *Global action plan on antimicrobial resistance*. Geneva, Switzerland. 19 pp. (also available at [www.wpro.who.int/entity/drug\\_resistance/resources/global\\_action\\_plan\\_eng.pdf](http://www.wpro.who.int/entity/drug_resistance/resources/global_action_plan_eng.pdf)).

FAO. 2016. *The FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2016-2020: Supporting the food and agriculture sectors in implementing the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance to minimize the impact of antimicrobial resistance*. Rome. 17 pp. (also available at [www.fao.org/3/a-i5996e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5996e.pdf)).

See also the joint FAO, WHO and OIE national action plan guidance:

WHO, FAO & OIE. 2016. *Antimicrobial resistance: a manual for developing national action plans*. Geneva, Switzerland. 25 pp. (also available at [www.who.int/drugresistance/action-plans/manual/en/](http://www.who.int/drugresistance/action-plans/manual/en/)).

<sup>11</sup> UN. 2013. *Global health and foreign policy* [online]. A/RES/67/81. [Cited 16 February 2018]. [www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/67/81](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/67/81)

<sup>12</sup> WHO. 2013. *Essential nutrition actions: improving maternal, newborn, infant and young child health and nutrition*. Geneva, Switzerland. 28 pp. (also available at [www.who.int/nutrition/publications/infantfeeding/essential\\_nutrition\\_actions/en/](http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/infantfeeding/essential_nutrition_actions/en/)).

### **Action Area 3: Social protection and nutrition education**

32. Work in this action area is based on ICN2 FfA recommendations:
- for nutrition education and information (nos. 19, 20, 21);
  - on social protection (nos. 22, 23, 24).
33. In 2012, the UN General Assembly recommended comprehensive universal social protection, beginning with basic or minimum “social protection floors”. Considering the limited and uneven progress in reducing poverty, hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, and the currently dim prospects for economic and employment growth in much of the world, comprehensive social protection is needed to eliminate poverty and malnutrition in all its forms.
34. Social protection measures, such as food distribution, cash transfers, decent job creation and school feeding, can increase incomes and strengthen resilience. When combined with relevant health services, well-designed social protection programmes result in improved height, reduced anaemia, increased dietary diversity and raised consumption of nutrient-dense foods, especially in low-income households with infants and children.
35. Knowledge and education empower people to make informed healthy dietary and lifestyle choices in harmony with nature,<sup>13</sup> to improve infant and young child feeding practices and care, to improve hygiene and health-promoting behaviour, and to contribute to sustainable development. Lifestyle and behaviour change is an important objective of nutrition education. It can also help reduce food losses and waste and boost sustainable resource use.
36. Governments, supported as appropriate by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector and nutrition advocates, can help promote desired healthy lifestyle changes through including food and nutrition knowledge and skills in primary and secondary school curricula (including teaching hygiene, food preparation and culinary practices in schools), public nutrition information, social marketing campaigns, and regulations on food labelling and nutrient and health claims.
37. Implementation of nutrition education and information interventions should be based on national dietary guidelines and coherent policies. Nutrition objectives should be incorporated into social protection programmes, humanitarian assistance safety-net programmes as well as cash and food transfers, including school feeding programmes and other forms of social protection measures for vulnerable populations.

### **Action Area 4: Trade and investment for improved nutrition**

38. Work in this action area is based on ICN2 FfA recommendations:
- to create an enabling environment for effective action (nos. 4, 8);
  - on international trade and investment (nos. 17, 18).
39. Rules governing trade and investment have become increasingly important to food systems. Trade and investment agreements affect how the food system functions at global, regional, national and local levels, influencing food prices, availability, access and consumption as well as nutrition outcomes, food safety and dietary options.
40. Coherence between trade and nutrition policies is vital. Trade policies and agreements should support implementation of nutrition policies and programmes and should not negatively impact the right to adequate food in other countries.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> As also called for by SDG 12.8: “by 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.”

<sup>14</sup> UNGA Resolution 68/177, paragraph 25:

41. This action area focuses on identification of opportunities to achieve global food security and nutrition targets through trade and investment policies, implementation of the Principles for Responsible Investments in Agriculture and Food Systems,<sup>15</sup> implementation of standards and guidelines of the Codex Alimentarius, and improvement in the availability of and access to a safe and nutritious food supply through appropriate trade agreements and policies.

#### **Action Area 5: Safe and supportive environments for nutrition at all ages**

42. Work in this action area is based on ICN2 FfA recommendations:
- for sustainable food systems promoting healthy diets (nos. 13, 15, 16);
  - to promote, protect and support breastfeeding (nos. 29, 30, 31, 32, 33);
  - to address childhood overweight and obesity (nos. 38, 39, 40, 41);
  - to address anaemia in women of reproductive age (nos. 42, 43);
  - on water, sanitation and hygiene (nos. 51, 52).
43. This action area stresses the importance of environmental determinants in malnutrition outcomes, including the school, home, hospital and work environments, food production as well as urban environments. It also focuses on promotion, protection and support of breastfeeding in environments such as hospitals and the workplace. The use of regulatory and fiscal tools, such as labelling, taxation and subsidies consistent with the promotion of healthy diets and supply-side incentives, is needed to achieve a healthy food environment.
44. Access to safe drinking-water and adequate sanitation are essential for health and prevention of diarrhoeal disease, and therefore to improving nutrition status. Children who are affected by undernutrition are more likely to die from diarrhoea. In turn, diarrhoea undermines nutrition by reducing appetite and nutrient absorption. More than one billion people still practise open defecation. In line with the global call for action on sanitation, efforts should focus on improving hygiene, changing social norms, better management of human waste and wastewater, and completely eliminating the practice of open defecation by 2025.

#### **Action Area 6: Strengthened governance and accountability for nutrition**

45. Work in this action area is based on ICN2 FfA recommendations:
- to create an enabling environment for effective action (nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7);
  - for accountability (nos. 58, 59, 60).
46. Effective nutrition action requires contributions from and coordination among all stakeholders and sectors. Governments lead and are responsible for: fostering political dialogue and commitment, coordination, and national planning; ensuring coherence among policies and mechanisms; promoting responsible and sustainable investments; providing information as a public good and as a means of fostering learning and accountability; promoting intercountry collaboration; and strengthening the work of the UN system.
47. Governance processes should be transparent, accountable and conducive to the full participation of all stakeholders. Partnerships and platforms to promote collaboration should take the ICN2 outcomes, the WHA targets, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as essential references providing shared norms and standards. National, regional and global mechanisms to

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UN. 2014. *The right to food* [online]. A/RES/68/177. [Cited 16 February 2018]. [www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/177](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/177)

<sup>15</sup> Committee on World Food Security. 2014. *Principles for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems - decision box* [online]. CFS 2014/41/4 Add.1. [Cited 16 February 2018]. [www.fao.org/3/a-ml620e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-ml620e.pdf)



promote coherence across sectors and facilitate inclusive participation should include robust safeguards against abuse and conflicts of interest.

48. Governments should establish, as appropriate, national nutrition targets with milestones consistent with the timeframe for implementation of the Nutrition Decade, and should strengthen monitoring mechanisms as needed to track progress in achieving national targets. Working with national governments, UN bodies and other relevant regional and international organizations, a global monitoring and reporting mechanism for the Nutrition Decade will be made available online. Biennial reports on progress towards the achievement of the objectives of the Nutrition Decade will be submitted to the Governing Bodies of FAO and WHO and to the UN General Assembly.<sup>16</sup>

## Means of Implementation

49. This section describes the modalities of implementation of the Nutrition Decade by all actors.

### Commitments for Action

50. Under the Nutrition Decade, 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 the above six action areas, represent a broad range of policy actions for addressing malnutrition in all its forms. Commitments that are SMART help all stakeholders understand what action is intended and improve tracking.
51. Member States should: (i) establish nutrition targets in line with the agreed six WHA Global Nutrition Targets (WHA 65.6) and Diet-related NCD Targets (WHA 66.10) by 2025; (ii) commit to implement one or more of the ICN2 FfA recommendations, which are reflected in the six action areas of the Nutrition Decade; and (iii) allocate or mobilize adequate financial resources in support of domestic and international action required to achieve global nutrition and diet-related NCD targets.
52. While many countries have already developed and are implementing food and nutrition policies and action plans, they should continue to review and, if necessary, raise the level of ambition, improve the design, further refine priority for action, and allocate additional resources, in light of the Nutrition Decade, to accelerate and scale up their efforts in achieving the global nutrition and diet-related NCD targets. Country-specific commitments should reflect national priorities and depend on the country's nutrition situation, and current food and health systems. Member States should: (i) establish SMART commitments based on existing food and nutrition policies and action plans; (ii) establish additional SMART commitments in line with the transformative ambitions of ICN2, the SDGs and the WHA targets; (iii) establish SMART commitments in action areas not previously covered by existing policies and action plans; and (iv) allocate additional resources for domestic and international policies.
53. Relevant UN funds, programmes, specialized agencies and other stakeholders are called upon to work collectively across sectors and constituencies to provide guidance and support to countries, upon request, for strengthened commitments. A resource guide, prepared by FAO and WHO, may be used to help in the formulation of country-specific commitments. UN-system agencies should engage with other stakeholders to solicit adequate action in support to countries' SMART commitments.
54. Commitments from Member States should be formalized through communication between the Head of State or Minister and the Director-General of FAO or WHO, or both. Commitments can be

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<sup>16</sup> UNGA Resolution 70/259. See note 4.

submitted continuously throughout the course of the Nutrition Decade. Commitments made by Member States will be included in a publicly accessible repository managed by the joint FAO/WHO Secretariat. Commitments can be made by national authorities at different levels of government, including municipalities, but should always be transmitted through governments' central authorities.

55. High-level commitments on ICN2 recommendations made through Nutrition for Growth (N4G) or other existing platforms and relevant initiatives across multiple sectors may be submitted also to the Nutrition Decade repository. The joint FAO/WHO Secretariat will coordinate these platforms to ensure consistency of the commitments and monitoring.
56. Regional political and economic communities, development banks and UN agencies may also submit their own commitments to the Nutrition Decade directly to the joint FAO/WHO Secretariat. Non-state actors may make their commitments in support of Member States' SMART commitments. They may also do so through international platforms that receive commitments from non-state actors.
57. To the extent feasible, the joint FAO/WHO Secretariat will endeavour to record and analyse commitments made by governments, regional and economic communities, development banks and UN Agencies. Governments and other UN and international organizations submitting commitments should provide information annually to allow regular tracking of progress on implementation and document achievements and successes.
58. Non-state actors should provide tracking information to the governments or the platforms they committed to.

### **Action Networks**

59. Through the convening and catalytic roles of the Nutrition Decade, action networks are to be established. These action networks are informal coalitions of countries aimed at accelerating and aligning efforts around specific topics linked to one or more action areas of the Nutrition Decade, through advocating for the establishment of policies and legislation, allowing the exchange of practices and experiences, highlighting successes and lessons learned, and providing mutual support to accelerate implementation. Action networks will help countries implement their SMART commitments.
60. Action networks have already been established on some topics (e.g. salt reduction, control of the marketing of foods to children) in some regions. Table 1 provides a list of potential action-network areas that require increased policy attention and commitment.
61. An action network may be established at the request of one or more countries, which should define the objectives, scope and initial programme of work, identify other partner countries, convene meetings and manage joint initiatives. Action networks may be regional or global, and operate under the leadership of a government institution. The UN system may support action networks, particularly through the provision of operational tools.
62. The countries convening an action network should decide on how to engage with civil society organizations, academia and the private sector, as appropriate. It is important that the action networks avoid conflicts of interest in both their membership and implementation of activities.
63. The establishment of an action network should be communicated to the joint FAO/WHO Secretariat in writing by the convening countries. The joint FAO/WHO Secretariat will disseminate the action network's information, news and tools.
64. Governments and regional political and economic communities that have made formal commitments and actively support other countries through action networks will be recognized as Nutrition Decade champions. The Nutrition Decade champions are frontrunners and lead by example the global movement to improve nutrition.

## Fora and Conferences

65. The Nutrition Decade was launched on 19 July 2016 in New York on the sidelines of the meeting of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). An advocacy event for the Nutrition Decade was also arranged on 20 September 2016 during the Seventy-first Session of the UN General Assembly.
66. The joint FAO/WHO Secretariat, with the support of IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and other relevant UN organizations and coordinating mechanisms, works with the widest possible range of social actors and institutions to build upon and connect already planned events, and to organize new bridge-building events for planning, sharing of knowledge, recognition of successes, voicing of challenges and obstacles, for promoting collaboration and support in any of the six action areas, and more generally for promoting the Nutrition Decade and its aims.
67. The CFS provides a platform for greater policy convergence as well as space for dialogue and experience sharing among governments and other stakeholders. It could identify gaps, coordinate actions, strengthen collaborations, monitor impacts and build cross-sectoral coherence.
68. Periodic gatherings of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement and Nutrition for Growth provide opportunities to discuss and mobilize financial and political commitments from governments, donors, civil society, UN system and business. Table 2 includes a list of convening opportunities for the first biennium of the Nutrition Decade.

## Accelerating Implementation

69. In order for the commitments to be implemented and the expected impact to be achieved, all stakeholders of the Nutrition Decade should cooperate to ensure the adequate design and rollout of policies and programmes. The joint FAO/WHO Secretariat, with the support of IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, other relevant UN organizations and coordinating mechanisms, and other stakeholders will seek to improve synergies and expand the opportunities to provide technical assistance, building on existing mechanisms, so that countries receive timely, coherent and high-quality support, for example, by encouraging and facilitating multilateral and bilateral policy collaboration in the context of development aid, South–South and triangular cooperation, as well as by NGOs, philanthropic foundations and the UN system.
70. The joint FAO/WHO Secretariat, with the support of IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, other relevant UN organizations and coordinating mechanisms, and other stakeholders of Nutrition Decade, should advocate for the generation of new evidence and guidance on effective nutrition programmes and policies. An emphasis will be placed on peer learning and technology transfer, sharing good practices, knowledge and technologies, innovation and research outcomes.
71. All stakeholders of the Nutrition Decade should advocate for strengthening capacities at all levels, including the community level as appropriate – for example, the inclusion of nutrition elements in the curricula of health and agriculture workers, public and private managers, and other professions relevant to nutrition.
72. As recommended by the Rome Declaration on Nutrition, the joint FAO/WHO Secretariat will strive to implement the Nutrition Decade within available resources. The stakeholders of the Nutrition Decade should collectively advocate in a harmonized way for the mobilization of new financial resources, while considering options for resource pooling to support implementation of national policies and programmes. Funding will be sought from a variety of sources, including development banks and foundations, and via innovative financing mechanisms as well as development assistance. All fundraising is to be conducted in such a way as to avoid both perceived and actual conflicts of interest.
73. Costing of policies and programmes has been developed in several countries, and global costs of the scaling up of effective programmes to achieve global nutrition targets have been estimated by

the World Bank.<sup>17</sup> The Nutrition Decade provides an opportunity to exchange experiences on how domestic resources may be mobilized, for example, through orienting available country resources towards nutrition objectives or leveraging private investments.

74. The joint FAO/WHO Secretariat, with the support of IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and other relevant UN organizations and coordinating mechanisms, will call attention to adequate measures to prevent undue influences on public policy-making that may be associated to offers of financial assistance.

### **Evidence-informed Advocacy and Communication**

75. Advocacy is a key element of the Nutrition Decade. The joint FAO/WHO Secretariat, with the support of IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and other relevant UN organizations and coordinating mechanisms, will connect with existing networks of advocates in different sectors at global and local levels, reach out to media for influencing public figures, and develop common messages to: (i) invite policy makers to make SMART commitments; (ii) draw attention to effective policies and programmes in the six action areas; (iii) mobilize greater resources and capacities in nutrition; and (iv) disseminate achievements and success stories.
76. Specific and specialized campaigns on the Nutrition Decade are to be co-developed by partners to prioritize and promote nutrition impact. These campaigns are being identified and should include civil society platforms, existing nutrition-related campaigns and novel forms of media, including social media.
77. A visual identity<sup>18</sup> has been developed for use across the Nutrition Decade. It is available in all UN languages. Governments and other stakeholders of the Nutrition Decade willing to use the Nutrition Decade visual identity may do so after submitting a formal request and receiving authorization from the joint FAO/WHO Secretariat.
78. Information on the Nutrition Decade is currently available on the respective websites of FAO,<sup>19</sup> WHO<sup>20</sup> and UNSCN,<sup>21</sup> and is to be complemented by combined Nutrition Decade products and activities, including a dedicated website,<sup>22</sup> printed and electronic documentation, webcast events, etc.

### **Governance**

79. The Nutrition Decade facilitates broad consultation among its stakeholders to seek alignment of priorities, policy instruments, and monitoring mechanisms.

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<sup>17</sup> World Bank. 2017. An Investment Framework for Nutrition: Reaching the Global Targets for Stunting, Anemia, Breastfeeding and Wasting. In: *World Bank* [online]. [Cited 16 February 2018]. [www.worldbank.org/en/topic/nutrition/publication/an-investment-framework-for-nutrition-reaching-the-global-targets-for-stunting-anemia-breastfeeding-wasting](http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/nutrition/publication/an-investment-framework-for-nutrition-reaching-the-global-targets-for-stunting-anemia-breastfeeding-wasting)



<sup>18</sup> Formats of this Nutrition Decade logo will be made available for information-use purposes once the request to use it has been approved by the joint FAO/WHO Secretariat.

<sup>19</sup> FAO. 2016. UN General Assembly proclaims Decade of Action on Nutrition. In: *FAO* [online]. [Cited 16 February 2018]. [www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/408970/icode/](http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/408970/icode/)

<sup>20</sup> World Health Organization. 2017. United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition Global Nutrition Summit 2017: Milan. In: *WHO* [online]. [Cited 16 February 2018]. [www.who.int/nutrition/decade-of-action/en/](http://www.who.int/nutrition/decade-of-action/en/)

<sup>21</sup> United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition. 2016. The UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025. In: *UNSCN* [online]. [Cited 16 February 2018]. [www.unscn.org/en/topics/un-decade-of-action-on-nutrition](http://www.unscn.org/en/topics/un-decade-of-action-on-nutrition)

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.un.org/nutrition/home>

80. FAO and WHO will provide secretarial support to the activities of the Nutrition Decade, with the support of IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and other relevant UN agencies, funds, programmes and coordinating mechanisms such as the UNSCN and multistakeholder platforms such as the CFS.
81. Secretarial activities will use existing resources in the UN system.
82. The joint FAO/WHO Secretariat, with the support of IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and other relevant UN agencies, funds, programmes and coordinating mechanisms, will periodically convene Member States' representatives to discuss updates to the Work Programme and progress reports. The Secretariat will periodically convene and consult with other relevant stakeholders, including international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, parliamentarians, civil society, academia and the private sector. The Secretariat will use mechanisms and platforms such as the HLPF, CFS, SUN Movement and the Global Coordination Mechanism on the Prevention and Control of NCDs,<sup>23</sup> and engage with other international and regional organizations and platforms, such as Nutrition for Growth, and the International Coalition for Advocacy on Nutrition. Table 2 illustrates priority activities of the joint FAO/WHO Secretariat for the first biennium of the Nutrition Decade.

### Accountability and Shared Learning

83. Biennial reports on the Nutrition Decade implementation will be submitted to the WHA, the FAO Conference and the UN General Assembly. The reports will describe the overall progress on the implementation of ICN2 outcomes and diet-related SDGs, as well as a mapping of the commitments made by governments, their progress and achievements. The reports will also include a summary of global achievements, including the progress of the work by CFS on nutrition. The reports will contribute to the SDG reporting needs.
84. Tracking implementation of policy progress and country-specific commitments will be based on country self-assessments, facilitated through UN-led policy surveys, and ad hoc validation studies performed by the UN system and academia.
85. The biennial reports will provide opportunities for discussion among governments and other stakeholders of the progress under the Nutrition Decade. Comments made by the FAO and WHO Governing Bodies and by the CFS will feed into the reports to the UN General Assembly. The Work Programme will be updated with each biennial report.
86. An open and inclusive dialogue among all stakeholders to evaluate the progress of the Nutrition Decade will be convened at mid-term (2020–21) and at the end of the Nutrition Decade (2025). Member States will be consulted as to the format of these reviews.
87. A dialogue on accountability, in line with declarations on aid effectiveness (Accra Agenda, Paris Declaration) and the Framework for Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development,<sup>24</sup> will be established, with all relevant initiatives and platforms aimed at soliciting commitments in nutrition and related fields. For example, the 2030 Agenda monitoring and accountability system that lies within the HLPF and the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the SDG 2 accountability framework led by Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN),<sup>25</sup> CFS, SUN Movement, Nutrition for Growth, and Every Woman Every Child will be considered with the purpose of harmonizing the format and process of commitment submission, agreeing on criteria for commitment, ensuring quality and streamlining the tracking systems. Countdown to 2030, the

<sup>23</sup> World Health Organization. 2017. History of the WHO Global Coordination Mechanism on NCDs. In: *WHO* [online]. [Cited 16 February 2018]. [www.who.int/global-coordination-mechanism/history/en/](http://www.who.int/global-coordination-mechanism/history/en/)

<sup>24</sup> Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. 2016. *Better policies for sustainable development 2016: a new framework for policy coherence*. Paris. 292 pp. (also available at [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/commitments/493\\_12066\\_commitment\\_Better%20Policies%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%202016.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/commitments/493_12066_commitment_Better%20Policies%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%202016.pdf)).

<sup>25</sup> Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition. 2017. *GODAN* [online]. [Cited 16 February 2018]. [www.godan.info/](http://www.godan.info/)

Global Nutrition Report and the Independent Accountability Panel may also provide important mechanisms for Nutrition Decade accountability.

88. Progress in achieving the global nutrition and diet-related NCD targets is to be measured throughout the Nutrition Decade at national and global levels. Targeted programme and policy evaluations should be carried out, with the support of the UN system, to identify good practices.

## Living Part

**Table 1**

**Potential topics for the establishment of action networks to ensure policy attention and commitment**

<p><b>Action Area 1: Sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Fruit and vegetables</i>: sustainable intensification of agricultural production and agroecology, post-harvest and processing, markets, public and private investments, incentives for local markets and small farmers and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)</li> <li>• <i>Animal source foods</i>: sustainable livestock and poultry production, sustainable fisheries, markets and value addition, circular economy and waste reduction, equitable access, moving away from intensive farming systems, and supporting small-scale farming and SMEs</li> <li>• <i>Sustainable healthy fisheries, oceans, seas and marine resources</i></li> <li>• <i>Food losses and waste</i>: provide good practices, examples of actions across the value chain, create alliances and inform consumers to reduce food losses and waste</li> <li>• <i>Food reformulation</i>: provide reference ranges for reformulation of products (removal of trans-fatty acids, and reduction of sodium, sugar and saturated fat and portion size), reformulation technologies, and establish country and regional platforms, product monitoring mechanisms; benchmarks/standards for complementary food; fortification; support for food processing SMEs in developing countries</li> <li>• <i>Contrasting antimicrobial resistance</i>: reduction of the use of antimicrobials in food production and use of alternative techniques to protect animal health</li> </ul>
<p><b>Action Area 2: Aligned health systems providing universal coverage of essential nutrition actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Anaemia</i>: delivery in health systems of weekly iron / folic-acid supplements</li> <li>• <i>Acute malnutrition</i>: improving availability and access to ready-to-use therapeutic foods</li> <li>• <i>Adolescent health and nutrition</i>: counselling, adolescent marriage, school health and nutrition</li> </ul>
<p><b>Action Area 3: Social protection and nutrition education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>School food and nutrition</i>: improved school curricula and nutrition standards for school meals</li> <li>• <i>Health promotion</i>: social marketing campaigns and lifestyle-change communication programmes to promote healthy eating and physical activity</li> </ul>
<p><b>Action Area 4: Trade and investment for improved nutrition</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Nutrition-sensitive investments</i>: analysing the nutrition impact of public and private investment policies in the food sector; making the investment case for an investment shift</li> </ul>

<b>Action Area 5: Safe and supportive environments for nutrition at all ages</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Urban sustainable food systems</i></li> <li>• <i>Provision of safe and nutritious food in public institutions</i></li> <li>• <i>Regulatory instruments to promote healthy diets:</i> taxation of food and beverages, pricing policies for sugar-sweetened beverages and foods that do not contribute to healthy diets</li> <li>• <i>Marketing of foods and beverages to children</i></li> <li>• <i>Breastfeeding and early nutrition:</i> appropriate care practices and adequate breastfeeding and complementary feeding, baby-friendly hospital initiative, Code and Net-code, maternity protection laws</li> </ul>
<b>Action Area 6: Strengthened governance and accountability for nutrition</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Action plan development and costing:</i> national nutrition targets should be developed for countries not having these in place yet, as well as food-based dietary guidelines considering the national context and harmonizing relevant frameworks (such as WHA targets, SDGs and ICN2 commitments), while adopting a “leave no-one behind approach” to ensure progress for all</li> <li>• <i>Monitoring and surveillance of nutrition indicators</i></li> <li>• <i>Research and evidence generation</i></li> <li>• <i>Capacity and workforce development</i></li> <li>• <i>Prevention of conflicts of interest</i></li> </ul>

**Table 2**

**Activities in the first biennium (April 2016 – April 2018) by stakeholders of the Nutrition Decade**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Time frame</b>
Request for commitments from Member States	June 2017
Mapping of initiatives and stakeholders	April–June 2017
Approaching potential partners across sectors	June 2017 – April 2018
Resource guide for commitment development	May 2016 – May 2017
Commitment database establishment	May 2017
Advocacy and technical support for the submission of commitments	May 2017 – April 2018
Advocacy and technical support for the establishment of action networks	May 2017 – April 2018
Dialogue on accountability with Every Woman Every Child	May 2017 – April 2018
<b>Fora and conferences</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Convening of Member States for Work Programme discussion	December 2016, February 2017, and March 2017
WHA	May 2016 and May 2017
FAO Council	December 2016

FAO Committees on Forestry, on Fisheries, and on Agriculture	Respectively, June 2016, July 2016 and September 2016
FAO Conference	July 2017
HLPF	July 2016 and July 2017
WHO Regional Committees	2017
FAO Regional Conferences	2018
CFS Session	October 2016 and October 2017
Nutrition for Growth	November 2017
SUN Movement Global Gathering	November 2017
UN General Assembly	September 2016 and September 2017
<b>Reports</b>	<b>Dates</b>
70th WHA	May 2017
FAO Conference	July 2017
CFS 44	October 2017
UN General Assembly	Autumn 2017
State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World	September 2017
Global Nutrition Report	November 2017