

The UN Decade of Action on Nutrition

Working together to implement the outcomes of the Second International Conference on Nutrition

A Side-event co-hosted by Ecuador, Italy, Japan, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom
DRAFT 19 September 2016

On Tuesday, 20 September 2016, the Governments of Ecuador, Italy, Japan, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom will co-sponsor a special event on strengthening national commitments to end malnutrition in all its forms. The event will be supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization, and will take place in Conference Room 11 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Key Messages

- The Decade, under the normative framework of ICN2 and the SDGs, marks a new direction in global nutrition action: Our shared goal is to end malnutrition in all its forms.
- Our immediate task is to translate the commitments of ICN2 and the SDGs into effective action: in the form of policies, programs, and partnerships.
- Governments are leading, and are engaging and working with all stakeholders.
- The vision of the Decade is to provide an umbrella for all nutrition champions to coordinate action, strengthen collaboration, and monitor impact within the shared framework of the ICN2 outcomes, the SDGs, and the global nutrition targets.
- The work programme is being developed through an open, inclusive process that builds upon existing and emerging alliances, institutions, initiatives, movements and platforms.
- This event is about assuming ownership, through concrete commitment and effective action, by all stakeholders.

The aim of the event is to draw attention to the ways in which countries are deciding on and implementing actions to advance the improvement of nutrition in their countries. Specifically, it seeks to catalyse clear, evidence-based commitments by Member States as a first step toward the implementation of national policies, programs and investments under the ICN2 framework. The event will showcase how governments, from across the world, are embedding nutrition in their national strategies and plans, looking at policies and investments in health, food systems, education, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and social security that contribute to ensuring that no one is left behind. It will encourage country leadership and shared learning as Member States prepare their own national plans, to translate their ICN2 commitments and the 2030 Agenda into national programmes, policies and partnerships. The participation of countries from the north and the south highlights the universal nature of the fight against malnutrition and the need for action by all governments.

To encourage the spirit of belonging and ownership, **the event, like the Decade itself, is designed to foster dialogue among existing as well as new nutrition actors.** Participants will include representatives from global, regional and national levels; high, low and middle income Member States; UN agencies and coordination mechanisms such as the Standing Committee on Nutrition; multistakeholder platforms such as the Committee on World Food Security; and delegates from civil society, academia, and the business community. These stakeholders work in different sectors, in different settings, including emergencies, and address all forms of malnutrition (undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and overweight/obesity).

Organising Partners

The side event will be **co-hosted by Ecuador, Italy, Japan, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland.**

The co-hosts will be supported by the two lead agencies of the Decade of Action on Nutrition (WHO and FAO) and the United Nations Secretariat working in nutrition (UNSCN, UNICEF, WFP and IFAD).

The event will be an open to Member States missions in New York, and representatives from the UN system, business, civil society, financial institutions, regional bodies, parliamentarians and donors that work in multi-sectoral ways in support of the Decade of Action on Nutrition and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Expected Outcomes

Participants are expected to come away with deeper understanding of two issues:

- **Vision for the Decade:** How the decade is being organized to support more coherent, effective and strategic action by governments and their partners at all levels,
- **Ownership of the decade:** The event will illustrate how state and non-state actors are called upon to take advantage of the decade to plan and work together in mutually supportive ways to achieve ICN2 commitments.

Agenda and speakers

Master of ceremony for the event: Dr. Nata Menabde, Executive Director, WHO UN Office in New York

The event is proposed to consist of 3 blocks:

- Block one: on the Decade of Action on Nutrition
- Block two: on country commitments for action
- Block three: on other actors' role and commitments for action

Time	
	Master of ceremony : Dr. Nata Menabde , Executive Director, WHO New York
	Opening remarks
11:02 11:07	H.E. Ms. Esther Lungu , First Lady of Zambia
11:08 11:23	<i>Theme: The Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025 as a unique Member State-driven and unifying global opportunity to end all forms of malnutrition</i> Dr. Margaret Chan - Director-General WHO Mr. José Graziano da Silva - Director-General FAO Panel 1 : Countries inform participants on current nutrition action and new commitments
	<i>Moderation: Mr. Michel Mordasini UNSCN Chair</i>
	Italy: Mr. Giuseppe Ruocco , Director General for Nutrition, Food Hygiene and Safety, Ministry of Health.
11:24 11:40	Russian Federation: Dr. Vyacheslav Smolenskiy , Director Department of Science and International Cooperation, Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumers' Rights Protection and Human Well-Being
	Japan: Mr. Koichi Aiboshi , Ambassador, Assistant Vice-Minister, Director-General for Global Issues
	Ecuador: Ms. Helena Yáñez Loza , Minister, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Ecuador
	Kindly note that speaking order will be according to protocol
11:41 11:45	Remarks by Mr. Keith Hansen Vice President of the World Bank
	Panel 1 : Countries inform participants on current nutrition action and new commitments (continued)
11:46 11:56	Finland: Ms. Pirkko Mattila , Minister of Social Affairs and Health
	United States: Ms. Beth Dunford , Assistant Administrator, USAID and Deputy Coordinator for 'Feed the Future'
	Brazil: Dr. Alexandre Fonseca Santos , Deputy Secretary of Health Surveillance, Ministry of Health
11:57 12:01	Remarks by Mrs. Maria Calivis , Deputy Executive Director a.i. UNICEF
12:02 12:06	Entre'acte - Yvonne Chaka Chaka
12:07 12:12	H.E. Mrs. Aisha Muhammadu Buhari , First Lady of Nigeria
	Panel 2 : Women leadership for nutrition: comments and commitments from different constituents (civil society, foundations, multistakeholder partnerships)
	<i>Moderation: Ms. Helena Semedo (Deputy Director-General FAO)</i>
12:22 12:47	Ms. Lucy Sullivan , Executive Director of 1,000Days
	Ms. Peggy Liu , Advisory Board Member EAT Foundation and Chairperson of JUCCE, China
	Ms. Kate Hampton , CEO Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF)
	Ms. Gerda Verburg , Global Coordinator Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement
	Ms. Paula Johns , ACT+ Brazil, Organic farmer

12:48	12:53	Dialogue with panel members and audience
		Closing remarks
12:54	12:59	Dr. Oleg Chestnov - Assistant Director-General - Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health
		Mrs. Helena Semedo - Deputy Director-General FAO
12:59	13:00	Thank you message – Dr. Nata Menabde – Executive Director, WHO New York

Background

Preventing malnutrition in all its forms is essential for achieving the ambitions of the Second International Conference on Nutrition and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Malnutrition, in all its forms, represents a significant barrier to equitable and sustainable social and economic development. Variations in nutritional status and access to healthy diets are both a driver and an outcome of inequity. Undernutrition inhibits cognitive development and educational achievement, both important determinants of labour productivity and economic growth. Malnourished children in the poorest income groups are most likely to face multiple deficits and require effective intervention coverage for prevention, treatment and care. Overweight and obesity are important risk factors for noncommunicable diseases like Type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.

By investing in improved nutrition, Member States and their partners in sustainable development can ensure that all people, societies and nations can reach their full potential, and contribute to the attainment of commitments of the Second International Conference on Nutrition and the Sustainable Development Goals, and can ensure that all people, societies and nations can reach their full potential and people's right to health, to safe water and to adequate nutrition is fulfilled.

Multiple malnutrition burdens disproportionately affect women and girl children. Improved food security and nutrition helps foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies, and when addressed in ways that promote sustainable consumption and production, can protect the planet from degradation, and mitigate the effects of climate change. Investing in nutrition has the potential to pay significant dividends in breaking the poverty cycle and in stimulating economic development. Estimates suggest that up to 11% of gross domestic product is lost to maternal and child undernutrition; and the total economic impact of obesity is estimated at 2.8% of GDP worldwide. Well-nourished children are 33% more likely to escape poverty as adults and investments in nutrition are able to generate benefit-cost returns of 16-to-1.

Detailed Description of The Decade of Action on Nutrition, 2016-2025

On 1 April 2016, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2; Rome 19–21 November 2014); decided to proclaim 2016–2025 the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition, while relying on existing resources and institutions; and invited Governments and other relevant stakeholders to actively support the implementation of the Decade, including through voluntary contributions, as appropriate. In doing so, the General Assembly also reaffirmed its commitment under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to end malnutrition in all its forms.

The Decade of Action on Nutrition is an unprecedented opportunity for nutrition action and sets a concrete timeline to increase activities conducted at national, regional and global levels in order to implement the actions recommended in the Framework for Action from the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), so as to achieve existing global targets for nutrition by 2025 and to attain by 2030 the corresponding targets in the Agenda for Sustainable Development. As an umbrella for consolidating and aligning nutrition actions, the Decade will facilitate policy processes across the areas identified in the ICN2 outcome documents. Co-convened by FAO and WHO, an open and inclusive process will be established for Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international organizations and platforms, and non-State actors to set, track and achieve SMART policy commitments to end all forms of malnutrition worldwide. These commitments should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound, and their implementation and impact be tracked and monitored, by means of existing indicators. Where possible, SMART commitments which target overweight and obesity and nutrition-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs); and at the same time reduce undernutrition (so-called double-duty policy actions) could be considered.