

Mid-term Review of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025

Concept Note

I. Background

In April 2016, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2016-2025 the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (“Decade”) through Resolution 70/259.¹ In April 2018, a first report giving an overview of progress made in implementing the Decade was submitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Paragraph 91 of this report² elicited that the Decade’s Work Programme³ provides for the convening of dialogues among all stakeholders to review progress in implementing the Decade at mid-term and at the end of the Decade, in consultation with Member States as to the format and modalities of such reviews.

In July 2018, the report of the Secretary-General was reviewed by the General Assembly, which noted in Resolution 72/306 the “intention of convening open and inclusive dialogues at mid-term (2020/21) and at the end (2025) of the Decade, building upon and connecting initiatives of Governments and their many partners”.⁴ It also noted the development of the Work Programme of the Decade through an inclusive, continuous and collaborative process. In addition, it called upon FAO and WHO to further strengthen their efforts in continuing to lead and monitor the implementation of the Decade, in collaboration with the World Food Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the United Nations Children’s Fund, using coordination mechanisms such as the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition and multi-stakeholder platforms such as the Committee on World Food Security.⁵

In January 2019, the Director-General of WHO submitted to the WHO Executive Board the 2nd biennial report on the outcome of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), indicating that the status of implementation of commitments of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition will be reviewed at mid-term of the Decade. It also signalled that during the preparation of the third biennial report, the review will be aligned with the convening of the 2020 meeting of Nutrition for Growth in Japan.⁶ Furthermore, both the progress report on the outcome of ICN2 submitted for the World Health Assembly in May 2019⁷ and the progress report on the implementation of the Decade

¹ Resolution 70/259 - United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025), 1 April 2016 (www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/259).

² Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025). Report of the Secretary-General, A/72/829, 11 April 2018 (<https://undocs.org/A/72/829>).

³ Para. 86 of the Work Programme of the Decade reads as follows: “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” (www.un.org/nutrition/sites/www.un.org.nutrition/files/general/pdf/mv131_rev1_undoa_wp_rev1_en.pdf).

⁴ Resolution 72/306 - Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025), 24 July 2018, para. 2 (<https://undocs.org/A/RES/72/306>).

⁵ Resolution 72/306, para. 5.

⁶ Outcome of the Second International Conference on Nutrition. Report by the Director-General, EB144/50 Rev.1, 28 November 2018, para. 25 (http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB144/B144_50Rev1-en.pdf).

⁷ Outcome of the Second International Conference on Nutrition. Report by the Director-General, A72/58, 25 March 2019 (https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA72/A72_58-en.pdf).

and follow-up to ICN2 submitted for the FAO Conference in June 2019⁸ addressed the mid-term review of the Decade.

Such reviews of the Decade are in keeping with ECOSOC Resolution 1989/84⁹ regarding international decades, which provides that an appropriate inter-governmental body should appraise the implementation of a decade's programme of work at the mid-point and at the end of the decade.

This concept note addresses proposed objectives, content, process and format for the Mid-term Review (MTR) of the Decade.

II. Objectives of the Mid-term Review

The objectives of the MTR should be:

1. To assess and evaluate the achievements in individual policy areas of the ICN2 Framework for Action, as reflected in the action areas of the Work Programme of the Decade, over the time period from 2016 to 2020, with a view to: (i) highlighting specific advances, initiatives and partnerships in nutrition during the first half of the Decade; (ii) identifying the constraints encountered and the action needed to overcome them during the second half of the Decade.
2. To revise the 'living part' of the Work Programme of the Decade as appropriate, including the identification of focus areas for priority action during the second phase of the Decade.
3. To plan for the end-term review of the Decade and outline tentatively its possible format and modalities.

III. Content of the Mid-term Review

In terms of content, the MTR should cover:

- Progress in specific action areas under the Decade, considering the broader developments regarding nutrition globally over the time period from 2016 to 2020, with specific reference to the focus areas of the ICN2 Framework for Action;
- Collaboration established and engagement of actors in implementing the first half of the Decade (2016-2020);
- Progress in implementation modalities outlined in the Work Programme of the Decade during the review period: commitments for action, action networks, forums, conferences and evidence-informed advocacy and communication;
- A synthetic forward-looking storyline based on the review of these different elements.

⁸ Progress Report on the Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition and Follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), C2019/29, May 2019 (www.fao.org/3/mz353en/mz353en.pdf).

⁹ ECOSOC Resolution 1989/84 - Guidelines for international decades in economic and social fields, 24 May 1989 (<https://undocs.org/en/E/RES/1989/84>).

IV. Process of the Mid-term Review

The process leading to the MTR should include:

- 1) Preparation of a background paper compiled by the FAO/WHO joint Secretariat of the Decade based on available global data covering the time period from 2016 to 2020. Integrating information from FAO and WHO databases. This background analysis will be done in collaboration with other major global nutrition actors, including the authors of the Global Nutrition Report and the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, as well as those working on a framework of accountability of the private sector (Access to Nutrition Index) and civil society organizations. As a result, a meaningful narrative will be developed highlighting areas of progress and areas without progress.
- 2) Convene a series of consultations and dialogues with various stakeholders at different levels, with the aim of evaluating progress made in implementing the Decade (towards implementing the ICN2 global commitments) and seek guidance on future priority action and the way forward for the second half of the Decade, including as feasible:
 - An informal global consultation with Member States, following the model of the ICN2 Open-ended Working Group meetings. Delegates from Representations in Rome and Permanent Missions in Geneva, as well as non-State actors, could be brought together through a video conferencing facility to reflect on the progress achieved in implementing the Decade and on the way forward;
 - Regional dialogues dedicated to the implementation of the Decade on the occasion of the meetings of the WHO Regional Committees and the FAO Regional Conferences in 2020;
 - Civil society engagement in the MTR process through, *inter alia*, the quarterly dialogue with the Civil Society Mechanism and the Civil Society ICN2 Nutrition Group;
 - Structured engagement of the private sector in the MTR process through ways to be identified by the Nutrition Decade Secretariat;
 - Dialogue with UN partner agencies, facilitated by the UN System Standing Committee on Nutrition, to seek their inputs to the MTR process;
 - Leveraging of stakeholders' global and regional gatherings (e.g. SUN Global Gathering, EAT Food Forum) and UN meetings (e.g. High-level Political Forum, CFS);
 - Online consultations to give all stakeholders at global, regional and country levels the possibility to contribute inputs to the MTR process, based on a set of guiding questions.
- 3) Development of a revised version of the 'living part' of the Work Programme of the Decade by the Nutrition Decade Secretariat, on the basis of the afore-mentioned background paper and the outcomes of the above consultations and dialogues.

- 4) Have an event that links the various related UN Decades: Nutrition – Biodiversity – Water – Family Farming – Ecosystem Restoration. This event could be coordinated by the Nutrition Decade Secretariat or UNSCN.

V. Format of the Mid-term Review

In conjunction with the MTR, a global conference/event should be organized to underscore the achievements of the first half of the Decade (2016-2020) and set the stage for the priorities during its second half. Such conference/event could be convened by one or more Decade champion countries.

Regarding the format of the proposed conference/event, the following options could be considered:

- A conference/event for the MTR of the Decade at the High-level Political Forum in New York in July 2020;
- In addition, a meeting could be arranged as a part of the 2020 Global Nutrition for Growth Summit in Japan for a more forward-looking world dialogue on the priorities of the second half of the Decade and its further implementation;
- A stand-alone, high-profile conference/event for the MTR of the Decade.

VI. Funding of the Mid-term Review

Funding for the MTR process will need to be identified and mobilized. Costs incurred for preparing and conducting conferences, events, consultations and dialogues should be financed through voluntary contributions.

The Nutrition Decade Secretariat will provide support to the entire MTR process, acting in collaboration with partner agencies and relevant stakeholders, and using appropriate coordination mechanisms.