

71<sup>st</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly

**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

On Tuesday, 20 September 2016, the Governments of Ecuador, Italy, Japan, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland co-sponsored a special event on strengthening national commitments to end malnutrition in all its forms. The event was supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization, and took place at the UN Headquarters in New York, at the side-lines of the 71th session of the UN General Assembly, 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.



## PURPOSE

**The aim of the event was 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 sought to catalyze 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 showcased 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 encouraged 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 highlighted 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, was designed to foster dialogue among existing as well as new nutrition actors.**

Participants included 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; 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).

## ORGANIZING PARTNERS

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

**The co-hosts were supported** by the two lead agencies of the Decade of Action on Nutrition (WHO and FAO).

**The event was 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.

## OUTCOMES

**Participants came 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 illustrated 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

## KEY MESSAGES OF SPEAKERS

1. In her opening remarks, Her Excellency, the First Lady of the Republic of Zambia, called for taking ownership of the Decade of Action on Nutrition, as it is a common responsibility and all actors need to work together.
2. The WHO Director-General stated that now is a “critical political moment for nutrition” and focussed on **the current extremes in the food system of hunger for 800 million people and abundance for others, the problem of food waste and food loss** as half of the grown or produced food never reaches the market. Dr Chan emphasized **the role of women as change agents** and reports that most of small holder farmers are women and as such are “the backbone of economy”. She continues to underline the importance of SMART policies. Drivers/Determinants of malnutrition and the need for a movement that engages whole of society. The DG then referred to the launch of the new WHO-UNICEF-World Bank joint malnutrition estimates including childhood obesity figures and indicated that food systems need to produce healthy diets.
3. The FAO Director-General provided background information on the Decade of Action on Nutrition, and mentioned that the process of building political momentum started years ago resulting in a current explosion of global interest in nutrition. He mentioned the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) which took place 22 years after the 1<sup>st</sup> ICN. The DG FAO continued stating **the importance of nutrition for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and considered the Decade of Action on Nutrition a “leap forward for galvanizing fundamental issues in nutrition”. He indicated **the important role of the UN Agencies leading the implementation of the Decade** and stressed the importance of healthy foods, healthy diets and healthy food systems. He clarified that the purpose of the Decade of Action on Nutrition is to draw attention to combating malnutrition in all its forms and **turning the ICN2 commitments into policy actions**, with a multistakeholder, multisectoral approach. He mentioned the case of Brazil as a successful example of nutrition policies and actions and refers to the SUN Movement and Nutrition for Growth commitments. The DG then closed his remarks by inviting all to join the WHO/FAO December 1-2 Symposium taking place in Rome.
4. In the first panel, moderated by the UNSCN Chair, Mr Michel Mordasini, representatives of the co-hosting member states took the floor. Ecuador’s representative highlighted **the importance of sustainable access to nutrition and healthy/balanced diet** as well as the need for attention to **nutritional needs of pregnant women, adolescents and children – including breastfeeding**. Ecuador is committed to give access to all children to adequate **nutrition as a fundamental human right** and the country passed legislation on food labelling (traffic light system). The representative from Ecuador closed by underlining that the **principles of inclusion and sustainability should be part of Decade of Action on Nutrition** and that the Decade is important for Ecuador to help face several obstacles and promote healthy eating.
5. The representative from Italy considered that the Decade of Action is indeed a reflection of the “multifaceted” nature of nutrition and an excellent opportunity to address malnutrition in all its forms. The speaker reminded the audience that the **ICN2 marked a crucial point to renew nutrition commitments and provided a sharper vision for nutrition**, including through the 60 recommendations for specific policy actions. He continued to reaffirm Italy’s commitment to the Agenda 2030 and informed the country’s financial support to projects that contribute to the SDGs. Italy is also improving coordination and accelerating implementation **of policy actions that contribute to improved nutrition**. Italy recognized the important role of the UNSCN and the CFS, both based in Rome. Reference was made to EXPO 2015 as a unique experience for addressing the issue of “**feeding the planet**”. Italy is welcoming the December symposium on “**sustainable food systems for healthy diets and improved nutrition**” in Rome. To conclude, the speaker stated that no one should be left behind, and referred specifically to domestic actions including for the aged people who can suffer from undernutrition, the work with the food sector on **the reformulation of foods and nutrition education in schools** as well as internationally financing specific projects and providing food assistance to partner countries.

6. The representative from the Russian Federation informed participants that his country dedicates **high importance to food policies and that the ICN2 Rome Declaration** is already reflected in the Russian legislation. The Russian Federation is helping to resolve food problems internationally by providing funding (*more than 20 countries receive food assistance, school feeding assistance and social assistance*) and expertise. Domestically, **Russia is committed to provide safe, proper and high-quality nutrition**, especially for pre-school and schoolchildren, through for example, the implementation of a strict state system of monitoring and analysis of the safety of the foods, based on risk assessment approaches. **The Russian government has handed over its National nutrition policy report to the FAO** and in 2016, on the orders of the President of the Russian Federation, the Government of Russia adopted a strategy on **“enhancing the quality of food production up to 2030”**. The representative from the Russian Federation then mentioned the national goals in Russia **to reduce by 30% nutrition illnesses and obesity by 2020 and increase to 80% the availability of high-quality and balanced diets in public institutions**. **Russia has funded and leads many programs in Northern Africa (including Tunisia, Jordan and Morocco), Middle East, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Armenia, mainly focused on school nutrition programs**. The Russian government remains engaged to ensure “food quality production”. The speaker concluded that the ICN2 commitments must be put into action and offered the **country’s knowledge and experience to contribute** in the fight against antibiotics in foods, strengthen laboratory capacity together with FAO for countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. All participants were invited to attend the International conference on risk analysis on food and nutrition safety, organized jointly with FAO in May 2017 in Sochi. **The Russian Federation is highly interested in working directly with FAO and WHO**, in working out practical measures to implement the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition.
7. Based on the concept of **human security**, Japan has been **promoting the improvement of nutrition**. The Japanese representative referred to Japan’s hosting of the G7 and the 6th Tokyo **International Conference of African Development (TICAD VI)** in Nairobi and highlighted the importance of nutrition issues in the outcome documents of these meetings. Japan is an important partner in the **Nutrition for Growth (N4G)** initiative. In 2015, Japan developed its nutrition policy in the field of international cooperation as **“Basic Design for Peace and Health”**. Japan addresses **the challenge of malnutrition** effectively by utilizing innovation of private sector, efforts by CSOs and expertise of academia. As the concrete actions, Japan has recently established Nutrition Japan Public Private Platform (NJPPP) for the **improvement of business environment of nutrition-related private companies** which contributes to nutrition improvement in developing countries. Japan also launched the **Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA)** at the TICAD VI with the aim to accelerate nutritional improvement in Africa using a multisectoral approach (health, agriculture, education, etc.) together with the **New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD)**. Japan is passing the chair of G7 to Italy and hopes for an even better leadership. Japan expressed its hopes for the **Decade of Action on Nutrition to catalyse opportunities for addressing nutrition**.
8. The World Bank representative stated that, besides a moral and humanitarian case, **nutrition is also an economic case** and said that investing in the early years is a strategic priority for the World Bank: **the economic returns of these (nutrition) investments are indisputable** and opportunities for long-term learning and earning gains for children and adults. The speaker continued that **nutrition is a crucial investment** in these early years and especially in the first 1000 days of a child’s life, that it is not only high impact but also cost-effective. **“Stunting is a marker and a maker of poverty”**. The World Bank has estimated that in order to **“move from advocacy to action”** and thus **to scale up nutrition-specific interventions** to meet four out of the six World Health Assembly global nutrition targets, USD 7 billion per year will be needed. Given the potential returns, this is a modest investment (about \$10/child/year), and it pales in comparison to the nearly USD1.5 billion/day spent on agricultural subsidies or USD543 billion/year on fossil fuel subsidies globally. The speaker also alluded to the **growing problem of overweight and obesity leading to noncommunicable diseases later in life**. He furthermore called on governments to leverage more domestic finance for the nutrition agenda and announced that the World Bank’s President Jim Kim will host in October during its 2016 Annual Meetings a high-level Human Capital Summit on “Investing in the Early Years for Growth and Productivity” on 6<sup>th</sup> of October.



This flagship event will highlight investing in the early years as a key driver of economic growth and competitiveness, and leverage country leadership at the highest level to secure bold and actionable commitments. **The World Bank is ready to work with Italy in making nutrition a priority at the next G7** and closed by offering the World Bank's collaboration in making the **Decade of Action on Nutrition a "Decade of success"**.

9. In addition to the co-hosting member states, a number of additional member states made statements including Finland. **Finland has been promoting nutrition for decades** and reiterated that nutrition should not be seen as a cost but as an investment for a healthy life and a sustainable future. **The provision of healthy and free school meals** started more than 60 years ago, and has become part of the educational system together with cooking lessons. Finland is updating **guidelines for nutritional quality** criteria for school meal procurement and preparing new guidelines and tools for meals and early nutrition education in kindergartens to be ready in the end of 2017. Maternity and child health clinics provide support and guidance on nutrition for free and the government gives all newborn babies a **"baby box"**. Finland is committed to promoting population health whereby improving dietary habits is part of the government programme. The country has **launched a call for best practices on healthy diets within the social and healthcare system** to be implemented nationwide by 2019 in collaboration with NGOs and other stakeholders. Promoting nutrition is also linked to the new government's development policy. Given the success of health in all policies, the representative said that **"we should look at nutrition in a similar way"** whereby examples were given for the agriculture, sustainable use of natural resources, education, fiscal policies to support healthy dietary habits and economic sectors to develop healthy foods with **responsible marketing**. Finland aims to lower levels of sugars, salt and saturated fats through cooperation with the private sector. **Improving nutrition requires political will and long-term commitment**. Healthy food needs to be available for everyone in every place. Finland is looking forward to the **Decade of Action on Nutrition to improve nutrition at the national, regional and global levels**.
10. The Government of the United States of America representative stated that **"the US Government has been a strong supporter of the ICN2 and is pleased to take part in the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, which gives us an opportunity to reconvene the major ICN2 players and continue seeing the joint leadership of FAO and WHO."** The speaker observed that the global nutrition space is unique and unlike other sectors, **we know what we need to do, and we built a community that can get it done** (referring to the Lancet Series, 1,000Days Partnership, the SUN Movement, the Global Nutrition Report etc.). **What is needed now is action**. To show its long commitment, the Government of the United States of America disbursed in 2014 alone USD\$ 263 million for nutrition-specific interventions and USD\$ 2.6 billion for nutrition-sensitive interventions. The President of the United States of America has recently signed a **Global Food Security Act**, which will ensure that the important work of **"Feed the Future" (US Government's global hunger and food security initiative)** is continued and existing accountability mechanisms and a framework for robust oversight monitoring and evaluation of impact are established and strengthened. The US multi-sectoral nutrition strategy guides our work towards the World Health Assembly Nutrition targets by coordinating and leveraging activities across multiple sectors (health, agriculture, humanitarian aid and natural resources management). In June, the US has launched a Whole-of-Government Nutrition Coordination Plan which will help strengthen the impact of many US Agencies' **investments in nutrition**. The US will continue to support country-led nutrition programmes. The speaker closed her remarks by advocating for nutrition investments spent in catalytic ways and for working with the private sector to increase their engagement and to expand access to innovative financing mechanisms. **(this has been described in paper "[A Food Secure 2030: a global vision and call to action](#)")**.
11. The representative from the Brazilian Government mentioned that the Brazilian constitution established access to food as a social right and reiterated that **nutrition and health policies should be integrated into actions in education, sanitation, economy, among others**. Although, according to a report published by FAO in 2015, Brazil is no longer on the hunger map, to meet the challenge of obesity and all forms of malnutrition, Brazil will strengthen health policies and **cross-sectoral policies that address social determinants in health**.

The Nutrition Decade is an opportunity to extend Government's commitments towards the SDGs. In addition, Brazil has worked on the implementation of food-based dietary guidelines, promotion of breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding, promotion of healthy environments, reformulation of processed foods that are high in salt, fat and sugar and in the area of food regulation. The speaker closed by insisting that to address all burden of malnutrition and to ensure success of the Decade of Action on Nutrition, all countries must increase their policy commitments and work to establish specific, measurable and realistic targets. **The reduction of malnutrition in all its forms** is the moral duty of our generation. Brazil is working in different areas including breastfeeding and complementary feeding, publication of a food guide, healthy environment and food reformulation and regulation.

12. The UNICEF Deputy Executive Director a.i. stated that **the momentum for improving child malnutrition has never been better**. The UNICEF speaker welcomed the **UN Decade of Action on Nutrition as a platform to galvanize and track commitments** and remains committed to work with national governments and other partners to **scale up nutrition interventions with a focus on the most disadvantaged of children and communities**. The speaker furthermore stressed the need to focus **on investments on preventing child malnutrition during the critical first 1000 days window**, to make sufficient and sustained investments across sectors in order to **achieve sustainable nutrition outcomes and to improve coordination of interventions so that they reach the same child**. She also reiterated that investing in **nutrition is one of the best investments we can make to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty** but that gains in nutrition are sometimes reversed because of conflict and war.
13. The UNSCN Chair closed this first panel by providing a brief summary of the statements made, by **expressing support to joint UN Nutrition action** and by announcing that the **UNSCN is launching an online forum to help elaborate the Work Programme for the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition**. The Chair invited all to join the discussion and share the actions and actors that are needed to make **this Decade a success**.
14. In opening, Yvonne emphasized on the importance of leadership to the outcome of the Decade of Nutrition. **"Malnutrition is not a technical issue but a political problem, there is a solution to stop our children from dying and being wasted"** said Yvonne. The Princess of Africa called on the hosts of the event Ecuador, Japan, Italy, and the UK to do everything in their power to organise heads of State financial pledging moment soon. She further called on leaders to organize a high level pledging summit for countries to make financial commitment. **"As a musician I know the importance of working together. It is essential to make harmonious music, when there is discord the sound is terrible"** said Yvonne. She further called on WHO and FAO to work together in partnership and lead National Government, Civil Society and Private sector to working together in Harmony to achieve the goals of the Decade of Nutrition In closing, Yvonne addressed all the representatives of governments and urged them to **take action NOW**.
15. H.E. Mrs Aisha Muhammadu Buhari, First Lady of Nigeria was represented by Prof. Isaac Adewole, Federal Minister of Health of Nigeria, who read her message and recognized that **nutrition is a vital ingredient** for the development of the complete and total human being, and acknowledged it is central to physical and socio-economic development. Nutrition is a security issue and an investment in a sustainable future. **Nigeria participated in the ICN2 and remains committed** to its recommendations and implementation of the **Rome Declaration on Nutrition**. Through a multi-stakeholder approach, **Nigeria has developed a national food and nutrition policy**, which was declared and commissioned on 6 August 2016, and the Ministry of Health has prepared a costed plan for nutrition, which has been approved by the National Council of Health. Nigeria remains committed to eradicate hunger, **increase investment, and improve diets and nutrition, through a life course, enhance sustainable food systems, raise the profile of nutrition and improve nutritional capacities and promote collaboration, empower people and create an enabling environment for people to make informed choices**. Malnutrition has been recognized as a major problem in Nigeria (in particular in the north-eastern region where a public health emergency has been declared).

As immediate actions to overcome this public health emergency, the First Lady has initiated a private initiative (“**Get involved**”), and the provision of **access to food** both in quality and in quantity and the domestication of the production of ready-to-use therapeutic feeding has been initiated, partnerships with private sector to support the production, processing and preservation of food are built. Nigeria has identified priority areas include **maternal nutrition, infant and young child feeding**, treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM), control of micronutrient deficiencies, re-launch of the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, increase the maternity leave from 4 to 6 months, focus on diet-related noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and nutrition information systems. The country has enacted a national law on the marketing of breastmilk substitutes. **Nigeria is committed to facilitate the commitments of UN Decade of Action.**

16. The second panel was on Women leadership for nutrition: comments and commitments from different constituents (civil society, foundations, multi-stakeholder partnerships) and was moderated by Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General FAO. The moderator started by asking two questions to panel members: 1) **How can the Decade be used to fortify political momentum for nutrition action, especially at country level?** and 2) **How can we work better together to make this action happen and make the Decade a success?**
17. Lucy Sullivan, the Executive Director of 1,000 Days, said that the need for **good nutrition is universal** but access to it is not and while referring to the data she stressed that we are collectively failing the world’s children. The Decade of Action on Nutrition has come too late for the 156 million children that are stunted and the millions more that have died. **Malnutrition is an issue without borders** and the global food system is leading to a serious epidemic of obesity and diet-related NCDs. **The Decade is an opportunity to reverse course, to save lives and to build healthier futures**, but it must also be **a Decade for investment in nutrition**. As leading economists continue to show, **an investment in nutrition is an investment in global prosperity**. She called on Heads of State and Ministers of Finance worldwide to step up and to prioritize the nutritional health of women and children, called on Italy as the host of the next G7 to host the next **Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit** and asked leaders to come forward with new and meaningful financial pledges and policy commitments - especially those that support **women and can bring about healthier and fairer food systems**.
18. The representative of the EAT Foundation and JUCCE connected human health and planetary health and touched upon topics as current food systems being responsible for 30% of greenhouse gas emissions, the problem of **food waste** and the **nutrition transition** (including increased meat consumption) in China. She referred to a recent report from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine showing that it is easy for people to **reduce their personal emission by 20% just by changing the diet and by 40% by sticking to fresh plant-based foods**. She called on the Decade of Action on Nutrition to focus on children whose dietary habits have not yet been formed and that ***“the Decade must change dietary norms by capturing children’s attention with play so that they can see how eating a rainbow every day is both fun and healthy”***.
19. The representative from the Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) focused on SAM, which has received much less attention and funding in recent years. She said that ***“stopping children dying from SAM is completely possible. We know what to do, we know how to do it, but we are just not doing it. Children’s lives are literally being wasted”***. CIFF along with UNICEF, the government of the United Kingdom, the European Commission, and Action Against Hunger, have all committed to work together within this important agenda to see **No Wasted Lives** and aim to double by 2020 the number of children receiving treatment for SAM and to find out what works to prevent it. Within the Decade, CIFF wants to make SAM a political public health priority alongside **chronic malnutrition and child health**, improve how things are done including making treatment cheaper, make treatment more effective, test and build the evidence of preventing SAM and increase investment for these issues.

20. The Coordinator of the **Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement** answered the first question on How can the decade be used to fortify political momentum for nutrition action, by stating that the complex, overlapping and inter-related multiple burdens of malnutrition affect people living in every country in the world, across the socio-economic spectrum: **no nation, has no problem with malnutrition** - is not only a problem of the South but also of high-income countries. The answer to the second question, how can we work together in a better way to make this decade a success, comprised of the need to forge multi-stakeholder partnerships that are people-centred and results-oriented. The Coordinator referenced the need for **Governments to show leadership by bringing the different sectors together for improved nutrition outcomes** and by, investing in their peoples' right to good nutrition from their own budgets. Furthermore, whilst **efforts to scale up nutrition are nationally owned and country driven**, all stakeholders have a role in the, fight against malnutrition. For example **civil society can support advocacy efforts** and contribute to implementation; donors should align their investments with the national nutrition plan of the country; UN organizations can work to overcome and prevent silos in the ways of collaborating; and the private sector can orientate their business models not only for profit-maximization but to serving the work force and consumers, society and the planet. This collaboration can be built on 10 guiding principles of engagement that have been developed by stakeholders in the SUN Movement and adopted by other global partnerships (**1. Be country led; 2. Be rights based; 3. Be inclusive; 4. Be transparent about intentions and impact; 5. Be predictable and mutually accountable; 6. Be evidence – based; 7. Communicate conscientiously; 8. Act with integrity and in an ethical manner; 9. Be mutually respectful; and 10. Do no harm**). [Reference the [Partnerships Playbook](#)]
21. Ms Paula Johns, civil society representative and organic farmer from Brazil referred to the centrality of the human right to adequate and healthy food and the **importance of a food systems approach to food and nutrition security**. Brazil managed in few years to **reduce stunting from 55% to 6% across all regions**. The lessons learned from this are that it was not enough to **prevent hunger** as the now staggering occurrence of overweight, obesity and **nutrition-related NCDs** is prevalent and that a move away from **traditional food and meal-based diets** resulted in this epidemic of overweight and obesity. The speaker claimed that the **obesity epidemic** will not be prevented by a focus on reformulation, marketing self-regulation and non-health oriented fiscal policies or nutrition-based dietary guidelines. She said that the way to go are food-based dietary guidelines, schools feeding programmes and procurement from **local healthy food producers**, **restrictions on the marketing of unhealthy foods** and beverages, **clear and transparent front-of-pack labelling**, **taxation of ultra-processed products**, and a **revolution in agricultural subsidies**. In addition, governance (multi-sector approach), civil society participation and an accountability mechanism played a role in the Brazilian experience. She urged member states, the UN system and everyone to embrace an **integrated food systems and public policies approach that place people and planet at their centre**.
22. The moderator summarized the many very relevant contributions of the speakers which covered a wide variety of issues related to nutrition: **women are indeed agents of change**, the need to have an **integrated food system approach**, the need to start by **prevention and the importance of education**, the need to **consider holistically people and planet's health**, the need for **high-level and sustained political commitment**, the **importance of partnerships** for action, the need for appropriate (and domestic) investments, including from private sector and civil society, the **need for governments to lead**.
23. The WHO Assistant Director General Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health highlighted three elements for the Decade: 1) **the Decade must be a Decade of action**; 2) for some countries external investments is critical (e.g. Russian Federation, Japan, Italy and World Bank are financially supporting other countries); and 3) the SDGs are not in competition and no SDG is more important than the other.
24. The master of ceremony thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.



## SPEAKERS

**Dr. Nata Menabde**, Executive Director, WHO New York; **H.E. Ms. Esther Lungu**, First Lady of Zambia; **Dr. Margaret Chan**, Director-General WHO; **Mr. José Graziano da Silva**, Director-General FAO; **Mr. Michel Mordasini** UNSCN Chair; **Mr. Giuseppe Ruocco**, Director General for Nutrition, Food Hygiene and Safety, Ministry of Health, Italy; **Dr. Vyacheslav Smolenskiy**, Director Department of Science and International Cooperation, Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumers' Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing, Russian Federation; **Mr. Koichi Aiboshi**, Ambassador, Assistant Vice-Minister, Director-General for Global Issues, Japan; **Ms. Helena Yáñez Loza**, Minister, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Ecuador; **Mr. Keith Hansen** Vice President of the World Bank; **Ms. Pirkko Mattila**, Minister of Social Affairs and Health, Finland; **Ms. Beth Dunford**, Assistant Administrator, USAID and Deputy Coordinator for 'Feed the Future', USA; **Dr. Alexandre Fonseca Santos**, Deputy Secretary of Health Surveillance, Ministry of Health, Brazil; **Mrs. Maria Calivis**, Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF; **Ms. Yvonne Chaka Chaka** – Artist, Good Will Ambassador; **H.E. Prof. Isaac Folorunso Adewole**, **Federal Minister of Health** representing **Mrs. Aisha Muhammadu Buhari**, First Lady of Nigeria; **Ms. Lucy Sullivan**, Executive Director of 1,000Days; **Ms. Peggy Liu**, Advisory Board Member EAT Foundation and Chairperson of JUCCCE, 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; **Dr. Oleg Chestnov**, Assistant Director-General, Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health, WHO.

**Webcast: Watch the event online**

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AGENDA

The UN Decade of Action on Nutrition: Working together to implement the outcomes of the Second International Conference on Nutrition  
20 September 2016, UN HQ CR11, 11:00-13:00

<b>Time</b>	Master of ceremony : <b>Dr. Nata Menabde</b> , Executive Director, WHO New York
<b>11:02 11:07</b>	<b>Opening remarks</b> <b>H.E. Ms. Esther Lungu</b> , First Lady of Zambia
<b>11:08 11:23</b>	<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> <b>Dr. Margaret Chan</b> - Director-General WHO <b>Mr. José Graziano da Silva</b> - Director-General FAO
	<b>Panel 1 : Countries inform participants on current nutrition action and new commitments</b>  <i>Moderation: Mr. Michel Mordasini UNSCN Chair</i>
<b>11:24 11:40</b>	<b>Italy: Mr. Giuseppe Ruocco</b> , Director General for Nutrition, Food Hygiene and Safety, Ministry of Health.  <b>Russian Federation: Dr. Vyacheslav Smolenskiy</b> , Director Department of Science and International Cooperation, Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumers' Rights Protection and Human Well-Being  <b>Japan: Mr. Koichi Aiboshi</b> , Ambassador, Assistant Vice-Minister, Director-General for Global Issues  <b>Ecuador: Ms. Carola Íñiguez</b> , Under Secretary for International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<b>11:41 11:45</b>	<b>Remarks by Mr. Keith Hansen</b> Vice President of the World Bank
	<b>Panel 1 : Countries inform participants on current nutrition action and new commitments (continued)</b>
<b>11:46 11:56</b>	<b>Finland: Ms. Pirkko Mattila</b> , Minister of Social Affairs and Health  <b>United States: Ms. Beth Dunford</b> , Assistant Administrator, USAID and Deputy Coordinator for 'Feed the Future'  <b>Brazil: Dr. Alexandre Fonseca Santos</b> , Deputy Secretary of Health Surveillance, Ministry of Health
<b>11:57 12:01</b>	<b>Remarks by Mrs. Maria Calivis</b> , Deputy Executive Director a.i. UNICEF
<b>12:02 12:06</b>	<b>Entre'acte</b> - Yvonne Chaka Chaka
<b>12:07 12:12</b>	<b>H.E. Mrs. Aisha Muhammadu Buhari</b> , First Lady of Nigeria
<b>12:22 12:47</b>	<b>Panel 2 : Women leadership for nutrition: comments and commitments from different constituents (civil society, foundations, multistakeholder partnerships)</b> <i>Moderation: Ms. Helena Semedo (Deputy Director-General FAO)</i> <b>Ms. Lucy Sullivan</b> , Executive Director of 1,000Days <b>Ms. Peggy Liu</b> , Advisory Board Member EAT Foundation and Chairperson of JUCCE, China <b>Ms. Kate Hampton</b> , CEO Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) <b>Ms. Gerda Verburg</b> , Global Coordinator Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement <b>Ms. Paula Johns</b> , ACT+ Brazil, Organic farmer
<b>12:48 12:53</b>	<b>Dialogue with panel members and audience</b>
	<b>Closing remarks</b>
<b>12:54 12:59</b>	<b>Dr. Oleg Chestnov</b> - Assistant Director-General - Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health <b>Mrs. Helena Semedo</b> - Deputy Director-General FAO
<b>12:59 13:00</b>	Thank you message – <b>Dr. Nata Menabde</b> – 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.