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Продовольственная и
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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

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Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2): update on preparations

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I. BACKGROUND

1. The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), to be held in Rome from 19 to 21 November 2014, is being jointly organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), in collaboration with the UN Secretary-General's High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis (HLTF), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Bank, World Food Programme (WFP) and World Trade Organization (WTO). ICN2 will bring key international political figures, together with high level national policymakers from agriculture, health and other relevant ministries and agencies, with leaders of UN agencies and other intergovernmental organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, researchers, the private sector and consumer associations.

2. Since nutrition is an outcome of multiple factors, comprehensive solutions are needed as well as further political and policy coherence, alignment, coordination and cooperation among food, agriculture, health and other sectors if global nutrition is to be improved. There is also increased demand from countries for practical tools, guidelines, and sharing of experiences as well as lessons learned on how to align sectoral policies to improve nutritional outcomes.

3. ICN2 will address issues related to all forms of malnutrition (undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and diet-related non-communicable diseases often associated with obesity), and explore how governments and others can better work together to address the multiple burdens of malnutrition. The Conference will help identify policy priorities and reforms throughout all sectors that can improve

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nutritional outcomes. It will also help mainstream nutrition by ensuring nutrition objectives, concerns and considerations are incorporated into national, regional and international policies and programmes.

II. UPDATE ON ICN2 PREPARATION

Informal meetings and consultations

4. FAO: informal meetings among Members were held on 16 January, 17 February, 19 March, 24 March, 10 April and 20 May 2014 to discuss preparations for ICN2, including arrangements for the Conference, the draft indicative roadmap, tentative programme of ICN2, mandate and arrangements of the ICN2 Joint Working Group (JWG), and draft political outcome document.
5. WHO: a briefing of Member States was held on 18 February. Informal meetings were held on 18 March and 27 March to discuss the arrangements for ICN2.
6. Videoconferences between FAO and WHO:
 - i) *Ad hoc* inter-sessional consultations were held under the leadership of the Co-Chairs of the JWG to discuss the mandate and arrangements of the JWG, the draft political outcome document and other issues raised by Members.
 - ii) There has been regular coordination among the ICN2 Joint Secretariat, with frequent video conferences, conference calls and communication by e-mail and *ad hoc* face-to-face meetings.

Joint Working Group activities

7. The ICN2 Joint Working Group (JWG), composed of up to two members representing each of the seven FAO Regional Groups and each of the six WHO Regions, has two Co-Chairs and two Co-Vice-Chairs. It is tasked to prepare, in cooperation with the ICN2 Joint Secretariat, the political outcome document and framework for action.
8. JWG meetings are held in a cost-effective way by video conference. For the development of the draft political outcome document, formal meetings of the JWG were held on 4 March, 14 April, 30 April, 12 May, 13 June, 27 June, 7 July, 9 July and 27 August 2014. Further meetings may be planned if necessary to complete its preparation. The JWG is to also meet in September to review the draft framework for action and in addition an open-ended working group meeting providing speaking rights to the entire membership of both Organizations, will be held for the completion of the Conference outcome documents.

Conference Outcome Documents

9. A political outcome document and a framework for action which will be a technical guide for the implementation of the political outcome document are expected to be the outcome of the Conference. The political outcome document is being developed through a JWG of FAO and WHO Members. A draft of the framework for action was shared with Members in July for their review and subsequent consideration by the JWG.

Arrangements for the Conference

10. The Conference is scheduled to start with an Inaugural Ceremony followed by the Opening of the Conference. After the adoption of the Conference Outcome Documents there will be a General Debate with Statements from Heads of Delegations during the first two days of the Conference. On the third day there will be the presentation of the outcomes of the Pre-Conference Events, Chairs' Summaries of the Roundtables and then closure. It is envisaged that three Roundtables and nine side events will be held during the Conference.
11. Pre-ICN2 events for Parliamentarians, CSOs/NGOs, and the private sector are being arranged in connection with the main Conference. Such events are self-funded. SUN¹ also plans to hold its annual meeting from 16 to 18 November 2014, immediately before the ICN2.

¹ Scaling up Nutrition Initiative

Web-based public consultations

12. UN partners, other international organizations, civil society, research community, academia and private sector organizations have been consulted on the draft political outcome document through two web-based consultations: from 21 February to 21 March and from 14 to 28 May. A web-based consultation on the draft framework for action is planned over August.

Communication strategy

13. A communication strategy and plan, including a revamped website (www.fao.org/ICN2) and a set of media-related activities to publicize ICN2 among a wide audience, has been developed in collaboration with WHO.