

19-21 November 2014

Concept Note on Non-State-Actors participation in the ICN2



Background

The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), jointly organized by FAO and WHO, will be held at FAO headquarters, 19-21 November 2014. ICN2 will be a high-level conference which will propose a flexible policy framework to address major nutrition challenges and identify priorities for enhanced international cooperation on nutrition.

ICN2 will bring together senior national policymakers from agriculture, health and other relevant ministries and agencies, with leaders of United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental organizations as well as representatives of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, researchers, the private sector and consumers.

ICN2 will build upon ongoing global political processes and initiatives to contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda including identifying priority areas, nutrition sustainable development goals as well as the policies that are required to achieve, measure and account for them. The outcome of the ICN2 will contribute to the UN Secretary General's call for a high degree of policy coherence at global, regional, national and sub-national levels and a global partnership for development at all levels. The ICN2 will also amplify the Secretary General's call to leaders gathered at the Rio+20 Summit to take up the "Zero Hunger Challenge".

Stakeholders involvement

Evidence has shown that the creation of more inclusive fora have enabled greater participation, transparency, inclusion and plurality in policy discussions, thus leading to increased ownership of decisions made at global level. It is also necessary to mobilize the knowledge and capacities of all the different stakeholders to generate political consensus to promote nutrition as a priority in the global development agenda.

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In the light of the above, the Governing Bodies of FAO and WHO have requested both agencies to ensure consultations with all relevant stakeholders, including with other United Nations organizations working in the field of nutrition, nongovernmental organizations and the private sector.

The two Organizations have developed a road map for Non-State-Actors (NSAs) to contribute to the process leading to ICN2, as well as to the Conference itself, in keeping with the rules and practices concerning participation by, and engagement with, NSAs in the activities and meetings of the two agencies.



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Participation of NSAs in the preparatory processes leading to the Conference

Web consultations

NSAs were consulted, together with other stakeholders, on the ICN2 political outcome document through two web-based public consultations. The first, on the “zero draft” of the political outcome document, was conducted from 21 February to 21 March 2014, with over 100 submissions received. A second online consultation, on a revised version of the political outcome document – the draft Rome Declaration on Nutrition – totaling 69 contributions, was held from 14 to 28 May 2014. A third web-based consultation was conducted from 31 July to 17 August 2014 to seek comments on the draft Framework for Action with 82 comments received. All inputs made through the web-consultations are accessible online and fully available for public consultation.

Informal Meetings

Informal Meetings, involving NSAs, the ICN2 Joint Secretariat, and Permanent Representatives to FAO and WHO, took place on 22 May in Geneva (as a WHA side event convened by civil society), in Rome on 20 June 2014 and in Geneva on 11 July and 25 August 2014. Those events offered opportunities to exchange views on the ICN2 process and for NSAs to provide comment on the draft Political Declaration and Framework for Action.

Pre-Conference events

Pre-Conference events will be organized by stakeholders: one for civil society organizations; another for private sector representatives; and a third event for parliamentarians. These events will be held outside FAO premises and will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to coordinate their participation in ICN2, and to agree on a statement, from each pre-Conference event, to be delivered during the Conference.

Parliamentarians' Event (18 November 2014)

The importance of securing an effective contribution of Parliamentarians, who represent the legislative bodies of countries, in the global policy debate on nutrition as well as their active engagement in carrying out the ensuing commitments and account to their country's population, is seen as a key contribution to addressing nutrition in a holistic way as it remains an urgent challenge. This Event will be organized in cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and hosted in Rome, in the Sala Protomoteca of the Rome Municipality.

Invitations addressed to the Speakers of national parliaments will seek participation of parliamentarians from all countries in the event, who would also be encouraged to attend ICN2 as part of their official delegations.

Private Sector Event (18 November 2014)

This Event will give participants an opportunity to review progress made towards improving nutrition since ICN1 in 1992, reflect on nutrition problems that remain, as well as on the new challenges and opportunities for improving nutrition presented by changes in the global economy, in food systems and by advances in science and technology, in order to help implement global and regional nutrition policy processes for improving nutrition.

The outcomes and statement of the Private Sector Event are also envisaged to feed into the ongoing policy dialogues that will occur in 2015, including Davos, through the World Economic Forum;



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Expo Milan 2015; and the post-2015 development agenda, through the UN Global Compact.

The Event will provide space for the private sector to discuss and agree on a position to be delivered at the ICN2.

A coordinating group has been established involving the representatives of the private sector in the CFS, the SUN and the Livestock Sector.

Civil Society Event (17-18 November 2014)

This Event will give civil society organizations and grassroots social movements working on food and nutrition related issues the opportunity to: evaluate the ICN2 process and outcome documents (Political Declaration and Framework for Action); discuss and agree on a statement to be read in the Plenary of the Conference; select the Spokespersons to present the statement; and to discuss mechanisms to follow up on ICN2 decisions, contributing to its accountability.

About 100 CSOs working on nutrition, food security and health with FAO and WHO have organized themselves and are working together as one group to engage in the ICN2 preparation, Conference and follow-up process. The ICN2 CSO Liaison Group, composed by nine renowned CSOs who have shown leadership in the ICN2 preparatory process, have been contacted by FAO and WHO for their support in organizing the Event and identifying the CSOs interested in participating in the Pre-Conference Event and in the ICN2.

Stakeholders participation during the Conference

Plenary

NSAs will be invited to participate in ICN2 as observers. A full list of NSAs interested in participating in ICN2 has been compiled with the help of the NSA coordination mechanisms building on the lists of: stakeholders involved in the preparatory events for ICN2; stakeholders collaborating with FAO or WHO; partners and other representatives of the private sector and civil society, including cooperatives, producer organizations, researchers and academia.

Parliamentarians, representatives of Civil Society and representatives of the Private Sector will have three time slots (one each) to present the outcomes of the three pre-Conference events at a plenary meeting of the Conference. Furthermore, representatives of NSAs may designate among themselves a spokesperson to address the Conference during the General Debate, within the available speaking time (4 minutes).

Representatives of NSAs will be granted approximately 40 floating passes that allow to attend the General Debate (subject to space availability).

Roundtables

In addition to the General Debate, with statements by Heads of Delegations, the Conference will include three thematic Roundtables. The Chairs' summaries of the Roundtables will be presented in plenary on the last day of the Conference. Representatives of NSAs may be invited to intervene in the course of the Roundtables.

Side Events

Nine Side Events will be held during the Conference. Representatives of NSAs may likewise be invited to intervene during the Side Events.



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