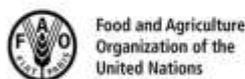


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## SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUTRITION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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| <b>Second International Conference on Nutrition</b>              |
| <b>Rome, 19-21 November 2014</b>                                 |
| <b>Roundtable 3: Governance and Accountability for Nutrition</b> |

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### I. Introduction

1. Adequate nutrition is a human right and delivers an excellent return on investment as one of the most cost-effective areas of intervention for catalysing development, promoting global health and reducing poverty. Despite significant progress in recent years, every day 805 million people are chronically undernourished and 162 million children under the age of five are stunted, falling short of reaching their full growth potential, 51 million children are wasted, and over two billion people suffer from one or more micronutrient deficiencies. At the same time obesity and diet-related noncommunicable diseases have increased globally, with 500 million people obese in 2008, and the number of overweight or obese children (aged 0 to 5 years) increased from 31 million globally in 1990 to 44 million in 2012.

2. Institutional arrangements need to be strengthened at international and national levels to improve nutrition, through stimulating commitments, encouraging greater coherence of policy and action, promoting good governance at all levels as well as for accountability.

3. At the national level, sectoral policy and action coordination is needed to improve nutrition, but this remains a challenge to achieve. Interesting experiences are becoming available, especially in ensuring that agriculture and social protection sectors are becoming more nutrition sensitive. Multistakeholder platforms are being established in countries, often at the highest political level to provide the political space for these interactions and to promote alignment of various national policies which affect nutrition as well as to coordinate action for their implementation. Involvement of different actors in society is needed, but rules of engagement, roles and responsibilities need to be clearly defined, to ensure protection of public interests.

4. At the international level, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) provides an inclusive and international platform for all stakeholders to work together in a coordinated way to ensure food security and nutrition for all. CFS's major role is coherence and coordination of policies and actions in food security and nutrition, support and advice to countries and regions, monitoring and accountability.

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5. The World Health Assembly (WHA) and the FAO Conference provide fora for government discussion over health and agriculture, and have regularly tackled nutrition issues. The UN General Assembly has also issued resolutions on food security and nutrition. Finally, several intergovernmental organizations discuss nutrition policies and strategies.

6. It is clear that success in fighting malnutrition in all its forms requires strong political commitment and leadership to prioritize nutrition-enhancing policies and approaches that address both the structural determinants as well as the immediate causes of malnutrition. Strengthened human institutional capacities for designing and implementing such actions, including policy and programme design, management, monitoring and evaluation are needed as well as increased and better aligned public and private investments to achieve the commitments made. For all the above, good governance is needed to coordinate interventions, adequately invest in nutrition and set up accountability mechanisms to monitor impact.

7. Measures to achieve better nutrition through good governance and accountability for food, health and nutrition include: i) coherent national policies with explicit nutrition targets; ii) improved institutional arrangements for effective multisectoral cooperation to address the determinants of malnutrition; iii) engagement with partners to create and sustain an inclusive enabling environment for improved nutrition; iv) facilitation of effective implementation at all levels; v) concerted efforts to encourage effective design, implementation and monitoring of actions and stakeholders at various levels; vi) regular and systematic public assessment of progress to enhance accountability and effectiveness and to improve resource use; and vii) aligned international support for national governance to enable national authorities to establish and implement their own national policies and strategies.

8. What mechanisms exist or can be put in place to ensure that governments, donors, private sector and civil society hold themselves accountable for the quality and effectiveness of any nutrition policy, action and investment, including the measurement of their impact? The political economy and governance of food systems needs to be discussed and addressed.

## II. Objectives of the Roundtable

9. The Roundtable theme on governance and accountability for nutrition will be discussed in two panels that will address the following questions:

### Panel 1: **Nutrition Governance:**

- i) What are the elements for effective nutrition governance at national and international levels?
- ii) At the international level, how do we build on and make the most of the existing governance mechanisms such as the CFS?
- iii) What are the national experiences with nutrition governance? How does the existence of good governance or the absence thereof impact nutrition outcomes?
- iv) How do we strengthen national and international governance for nutrition?

### Panel 2: **Nutrition Accountability:**

- i) Do the current nutrition accountability mechanisms work? What accountability mechanisms should be in place?
- ii) How do we hold governments accountable for the nutrition security of their citizens?
- iii) How do we monitor the implementation of the commitments of the ICN2 Rome Declaration on Nutrition and of the actions recommended in the Framework for Action?

### **III. Format of the Roundtable**

10. The Roundtable will have the following format:
- Co-Chairs: Welcome remarks
  - Moderator: Introductory remarks (5 minutes)
  - Main speaker to introduce the theme (15 minutes)
  - Panelists (7 minutes each)
  - Open discussion from the floor (25 minutes)
  - Closing remarks (5 minutes).