

Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)
Rome, 19-21 November 2014

CHAIRS' SUMMARY OF ROUNDTABLE 1

Roundtable 1: Nutrition in the Post-2015 Development Agenda
19 November, 2014

ROUNDTABLE 1
14.30 - 16.00

Co-Chairs:

His Excellency, **Charles N. McClain**, Deputy-Minister of
Agriculture, **Liberia**

Ms **Anne Peniston**, Chief, Nutrition Division, Bureau of
Global Health, United States Agency for International
Development, **USA**

Moderator:

Irene Khan, Director-General, International Development
Law Organization

Main Speaker:

Jeffrey Sachs, Director, Earth Institute, Columbia
University, **USA** – *What are the current opportunities and
challenges for nutrition to become central in the Post-2015
Development Agenda?*

Panellists:

Sok Silo, Deputy Secretary-General, Council for
Agricultural and Rural Development Office of the Council of
Ministers, **Cambodia** – *What does the Post-2015
Development Agenda offer with respect to addressing the
global food security and nutrition situation?*

Eduardo Jaramillo Navarrete, Director-General
of Health Promotion within the Undersecretariat of
Prevention and Health Promotion of the Secretariat of
Health, **Mexico** – *What does the Post-2015 Development
Agenda offer with respect to addressing the double burden of
malnutrition in all its forms in your country?*

Éva Martos, Director-General, National Institute for
Food and Nutrition Science, National Public Health and
Medical Officer Service, **Hungary** – *What can the Post-
2015 Development Agenda offer with respect to addressing
the double burden of malnutrition in your country?*

Mr **Jean-Pierre Halkin**, Head of Rural Development,
Food Security and Nutrition in DG DEVCO of the
European Commission – *How can the ICN2 Rome
Declaration commitments be linked to the Post-2015 process
and other important global processes in very concrete
terms?*

Sania Nishtar, Director of Heartfile and Co-chair of the
Commission on Ending Obesity, Former Minister of Health,
Pakistan – *How can the Post-2015 Development
Agenda ensure addressing non-communicable diseases?*

CHAIRS' SUMMARY OF THE ROUNDTABLE #1

Roundtable 1: Nutrition in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

The Roundtable “Nutrition in the Post-2015 Development Agenda” underlined the importance of nutrition in the sustainable development goals and discussed practical ways of ensuring that nutrition is adequately reflected across the development agenda. Speakers noted the importance of a comprehensive approach to address malnutrition in all its forms: under-nutrition, over-nutrition and micronutrient deficiencies; and to understand its root causes, immediate and long-term consequences. Non-communicable diseases, including those related to nutrition, result in USD 7 trillion losses annually. The cost of prevention is much lower than the cost to treat malnutrition and its consequences, and investments in nutrition yield high economic returns for countries, and benefit individuals across generations.

The session informed participants of current proposals for anchoring nutrition in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. It is currently included in Goal 2, by the Open Working Group, called: “End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture”. The panellists described improving nutrition as “unfinished business” that needs to be at the core of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The Roundtable put into sharp focus the linkages between nutrition, food and agriculture systems and climate change, and between nutrition and non-communicable diseases. It highlighted, in particular, the contributions of good nutrition to longer-term economic development. To promote real integration across these sectors we need clearer definitions and measureable indicators. The discussion cautioned, however, not to isolate nutrition to its technical components, as sound strategies need to be linked to basic human rights and considered within the political dimensions of malnutrition.

The Roundtable called upon the UN agencies and others to revisit proposed sustainable development goals and indicators, consider more ambitious targets than previously, and develop more robust systems to measure progress toward achieving nutrition goals at local, national and global levels. Data should include surveillance for micro-nutrient deficiencies,



and geographic mapping of malnutrition in order to better target nutrition investments. We should focus on what is achievable, and we should develop strict criteria for prioritizing actions.

Weak systems – health, agriculture, or markets – betray the ability of individuals to obtain the health care and nutritious food they need to grow and flourish. In such systems, political or health emergencies, such as Ebola, are devastating; and where the systems are weak they must be strengthened.

The Roundtable concluded with five key messages:

1. The nutrition community needs to clearly define what is meant by “adequate nutrition” across societies, age groups, genders and health conditions so that nutrient needs and forecasting for food security can be appropriately determined.
2. We must continue focusing on the “1,000 days”, promote breastfeeding, and also include adolescent girls. We must promote good nutrition and physical activity, with immediate-term good health, and long-term protection against obesity and non-communicable diseases.
3. There is need for consensus to prioritize key indicators for measuring progress in nutrition, with clear definitions and robust monitoring systems that effectively inform policies and programs.
4. ICN-2 gives all of us an opportunity to contribute substantially to the Post-2015 Development Agenda for nutrition, and to ensure that malnutrition in all its forms is comprehensively addressed in all the sustainable development goals.
5. This is a unique time for nutrition with unprecedented global attention, and landmark levels of commitment with new data showing what works and what doesn't. Setting nutrition firmly within the Post-2015 Development Agenda is our opportunity to turn what was once considered an intractable problem into a global success story.