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منظمة  
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## COUNCIL

### Hundred and Fifty-first Session

Rome, 23-27 March 2015

### Follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (Rome, 19-21 November 2014)

#### Executive Summary

Following the conclusion of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), jointly convened by FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO) in November 2014, a report on the ICN2 outcomes was submitted to the 150<sup>th</sup> session of the Council (1-5 December 2014). The present document covers the steps made in following up on ICN2 during the period following the last session of Council.

The actions contained in the ICN2 Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action are addressed to governments, International Organisations including FAO and WHO, civil society and the private sector. In response to the ICN2 outcome documents and in accordance with the report of the 150<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council, action taken in FAO included: (i) the designation of Nutrition as a cross-cutting theme under Objective 6 in FAO's reviewed Strategic Framework, with a dedicated outcome statement in the Director General's proposals for the 2016-2017 Programme of Work and Budget, further mainstreaming of nutrition within the Strategic Framework with a view to improving support to member countries; and (ii) establishing, operating and supporting fundraising for the Action for Nutrition Trust Fund.

Follow-up activities undertaken collaboratively with partners, in particular WHO, include: (i) compilation, translation and publication of the final report of the Conference; (ii) steps taken for endorsement of the ICN2 outcome documents and for the declaration of a Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) by the UN General Assembly and to enhance the presence of nutrition in the Post-2015 Development Agenda; (iii) efforts to improve inter-agency coordination and collaboration on nutrition, including setting up monitoring and reporting mechanisms; and (iv) ICN2-related inputs to Expo Milano 2015 to focus attention on food security and nutrition.

#### Suggested action by the Council

The Council is invited to consider the ICN2 follow-up actions, and provide any comments and guidance as deemed appropriate.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. Shortly after the conclusion of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), jointly convened by FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO) from 19 to 21 November 2014 in Rome, a report on the ICN2 outcomes was submitted to the 150<sup>th</sup> session of Council (1-5 December 2014), which covered the ICN2 preparatory process, the conduct of the Conference itself, and the immediate lines of follow-up action by the Secretariat.<sup>1</sup>

2. In reviewing that report, the Council expressed satisfaction at the successful outcome of ICN2, welcoming adoption of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action. It also appreciated the initial follow-up action by the Secretariat, namely: the creation of an Action for Nutrition Trust Fund; and a request to the UN Secretary General to invite the UN General Assembly to endorse the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action, and to consider declaring a Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025). Furthermore, the Council welcomed the consideration of further steps to enable the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to serve as the appropriate intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder global forum on nutrition. It also encouraged: further mainstreaming of nutrition as a cross-cutting theme within FAO's reviewed Strategic Framework; and the development of a coherent mechanism for monitoring progress on the implementation of the ICN2 outcomes.<sup>2</sup>

3. This paper outlines further steps made in following up on ICN2 matters over the course of the short period following the last session of the Council held in December 2014, covering action taken both within and beyond FAO<sup>3</sup>.

## II. ACTION WITHIN FAO

### Mainstreaming nutrition within the Strategic Framework

4. At its 150<sup>th</sup> session, the Council encouraged further mainstreaming of nutrition into FAO's reviewed Strategic Framework.<sup>4</sup> In response to this recommendation, nutrition has been included as a cross-cutting theme within the reviewed Medium Term Plan 2014-17.<sup>5</sup> The quality and coherence of FAO's work on nutrition will be ensured through a new Outcome, under Objective 6 on Technical Quality, Knowledge and Services. This Outcome provides indicators and resources for overall technical leadership of FAO's work on nutrition to provide technical support to member countries; promoting implementation of a set of minimum standards and a corporate approach for mainstreaming nutrition across the Strategic Objectives, guided by FAO's nutrition strategy and vision;<sup>6</sup> technical support to resource mobilization and nutrition communication; and policy and operational co-ordination in the UN system, including collaboration with UN agencies to compile reports on implementation of the commitments in the Rome Declaration on Nutrition.

5. The Nutrition Division coordinates and reports on FAO's work on nutrition through a team composed of representatives from offices and Strategic Objective Core Teams which are implementing nutrition-related activities.

6. A recent illustration of these efforts is the endorsement, by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture at its 15<sup>th</sup> session (19-23 January 2015), of *Guidelines for*

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<sup>1</sup> *Outcome of the Joint FAO/WHO Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)*, CL 150/10.

<sup>2</sup> *Report of the Council of FAO, Hundred and Fiftieth Session, Rome, 1-5 December 2014*, CL 150/REP, paras. 42-45.

<sup>3</sup> The ICN2 website is available at: [www.fao.org/ICN2](http://www.fao.org/ICN2); the Nutrition Division website is available at: [www.fao.org/nutrition/](http://www.fao.org/nutrition/)

<sup>4</sup> CL 150/REP, para. 43-c).

<sup>5</sup> C 2015/3

<sup>6</sup> PC 112/2

*Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Policies, Programmes and National and Regional Plans of Action on Nutrition.*<sup>7</sup> The Guidelines support the development of nutrition-sensitive agriculture that considers the nutrient composition of biodiversity for food and agriculture to address malnutrition in all its forms.

7. In 2015 and 2016-2017, FAO will implement activities in support of the ICN2 outcomes, in particular, within the five sections of the Framework for Action that directly relate to the Organization's mandate. Some examples of the work being done and that FAO will further strengthen are highlighted below.

### ***1) Create an enabling environment for effective action***

8. To enhance and monitor the nutritional impact of food and agriculture policies and programmes, FAO will increase its technical assistance to countries and strengthen capacity development efforts on mainstreaming nutrition in sectoral policies and programmes related to food systems. At the global level, FAO will disseminate key instruments, tools and guidelines to facilitate training and capacity development. FAO will also continue to work with partners, such as IFAD and the World Bank, to mainstream nutrition in agricultural investment programmes.

9. In addition, FAO is working with some identified regional champions around nutrition to enhance sustained momentum for implementation of the ICN2 outcomes (e.g. advocacy efforts by the African Union champion for nutrition, King Letsie of Lesotho and the related Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme - CAADP - actions for nutrition). This is in line with the approach in Strategic Objective 1 through enhanced political commitment to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

10. FAO, in partnership with WHO, will continue to provide scientific advice on nutrition to the Codex Alimentarius Commission, through the Codex Committee on Nutrition for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) and the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL). FAO will develop a handbook on nutrition labelling for building the capacity in countries to implement nutrition labelling policies and programmes;

### ***2) Sustainable food systems promoting healthy diets***

11. FAO will continue to support countries to review and update their food and agriculture policies, strategies, investment plans and programmes with the aim of better integrating nutrition objectives for nutrition-enhancing food systems through Strategic Objective 4.

12. Collaboration between FAO's Departments and Divisions will be strengthened with a view to improving nutritional outcomes through optimal value chains, especially involving smallholder and family farmers and promoting consumption of fresh, healthy local products.

### ***3) International trade and investment***

13. FAO will continue to provide member countries with information and analysis to guide the formulation and implementation of trade and investment policies and regulations supportive of improved food consumption patterns and nutritional status. This will include, for example, supporting Members and other stakeholders in the implementation of the Principles for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems (RAI), which, among other recommendations, promote the nutritional value of food and agricultural products. In disseminating this knowledge, the 2015 edition of the State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO) will provide an improved understanding of the relationship between trade and nutritional status.

14. With a view to enhancing countries' capacity to participate more effectively in multilateral and regional trade negotiations FAO will develop Member Countries' capacities to incorporate international

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<sup>7</sup> *Biodiversity and Nutrition*, CGRFA-15/15/6.

guidance on responsible investment for food and nutrition security in their agricultural policies, strategies and laws.

15. FAO will facilitate dialogue among public and private sector stakeholders on the development of rules-based systems of market and trade policy intervention to ensure better environments for investment in food system development conducive to improved nutritional security.

16. Since 2011 FAO has supported the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) through Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme to mainstream nutrition into the National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs). Fifty countries benefited and continue to benefit from this capacity building process and through technical follow-up to strengthen their investment planning and improve their project formulation for better nutrition policy and programmatic options. As a result of this work, a number of countries in Africa now have nutrition adequately included in their NAIPs and have budget lines for nutrition activities. FAO is continuing this technical and policy support for better nutrition sensitive investment planning for CAADP, while scaling up and adapting the lessons for other regions e.g. Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean.

#### **4) *Nutrition education and information***

17. FAO will strengthen and expand its work in nutrition information and education by identifying and promoting appropriate policy options and developing a package of tools aimed at promoting healthy diets. FAO will also build capacity and provide direct support to countries in the development and implementation of dietary guidelines, in collaboration with WHO. In addition, FAO will carry out a review of national and international dietary guidelines that address the concept of sustainable and healthy diets, with a view to revising international dietary guidelines.

18. FAO will strengthen and expand its on-going work to improve the nutrition and dietary practices at school. The school nutrition work of FAO places emphasis on promoting a comprehensive approach to school-based nutrition activities, which include nutrition education, health education and promotion, school gardens and nutrition-friendly school environment. Work will be initiated to support countries in defining nutrition standards for sustainable school meal programmes linked with local agriculture.

#### **5) *Social protection***

19. FAO will also work to support countries and partners to mainstream nutrition in social protection and resilience-building policies and programmes through Strategic Objectives 3 and 5, with a focus on capacity-development of partners for nutrition-sensitive planning, and provide technical guidance for enhancing and monitoring the nutritional impact of social protection and resilience programmes.

20. FAO is working to strengthen school food and nutrition strategies and programmes in countries in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. The initiative aims to strengthen school activities to improve child nutrition by integrating nutrition education into sustainable school meal programmes and linking to local agriculture.

21. The joint WFP/FAO/Brazil "Purchase from Africans for Africa" initiative in five African countries promotes food and nutrition security and supports family income-generation through home-grown food supply of school feeding programmes. This work also contributes to the implementation of the regional initiative on "Renewed Partnership to End Hunger in Africa".

### **Operationalizing the Action for Nutrition Trust Fund**

22. Recommendation 4 of the Framework for Action calls for increasing responsible and sustainable investment in nutrition, and for generating additional resources through innovative financing tools, FAO has established the Action for Nutrition Trust Fund to support governments in transforming the ICN2 commitments into concrete actions, which the Council welcomed at its 150<sup>th</sup> session.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> CL 150/REP, para. 43-b).

23. This multi-donor trust fund is meant to become the preferred conduit in the Organization for nutrition alignment of un-earmarked or lightly earmarked contributions, mobilizing resources for country programmes and projects that: (i) foster enabling environments for nutrition; (ii) promote sustainable food systems for healthy diets; (iii) support nutrition-enhancing investment and trade; (iv) strengthen nutrition education and information; (v) improve food safety, water supply, sanitation and hygiene; (vi) enhance social protection for improved nutrition; and (vii) ensure accountability for ICN2 follow-up through enhanced monitoring mechanisms.

24. A Steering Committee comprising representatives from major contributors, civil society and the private sector will provide strategic guidance and set priorities for activities financed by the Fund.

25. A *Programme Coordination Unit* (PCU) has been established in the Nutrition Division of FAO. Besides helping to coordinate the ICN2 follow-up activities, the PCU will support, in close collaboration with the Steering Committee, implementation of the resource mobilization, management and communication action plan of the Fund, ensuring adequate planning and operation of projects and programmes.

26. In addition, to enhance the operational capacity of the Organization on delivery for better nutrition in the field, and in accordance with the decentralization and mobility policy, nutrition officers will be deployed in decentralized offices.

### **Reports on ICN2 follow-up to FAO Governing Bodies**

27. In line with the Accountability recommendations of the Framework for Action, FAO Governing Bodies are requested to consider the inclusion of reports on the overall follow-up to ICN2 on the agendas of their regular meetings. Besides the reports submitted to the previous and present sessions of the Council, a similar report is tabled on the agenda of the forthcoming session of the Conference in June 2015.<sup>9</sup> Future sessions of the Council and Conference should continue to have such reports on their agendas, as appropriate, to ensure continuous oversight on the implementation of ICN2 commitments.

28. The Regional Conferences, which are explicitly mentioned in recommendation 60 of the Framework for Action, should also receive ICN2 follow-up reports, when they next meet over the course of 2016 and in the following biennia as appropriate. Likewise, FAO's technical committees could discuss and advise on nutrition matters stemming from implementation of ICN2 recommendations from the perspective of their mandates.

## **III. ACTION BEYOND FAO**

### **ICN2 final report**

29. The final report of the Conference was compiled by the Joint FAO/WHO Secretariat in December 2014, subsequently translated in all UN languages, and then posted on the ICN2 website in January 2015.<sup>10</sup>

### **UN General Assembly backing of the ICN2 outcomes**

30. The Rome Declaration on Nutrition called upon the UN General Assembly: to endorse the two outcome documents of ICN2; and to consider declaring a Decade of Action on Nutrition from 2016 to 2025 (para. 17). Thus, in late November 2014 the Directors-General of FAO and WHO wrote to the Secretary General of the United Nations requesting him to arrange for the General Assembly to act on this recommendation, which the Council appreciated at its 150<sup>th</sup> session.<sup>11</sup>

31. The essential purpose of the Decade of Action on Nutrition is to translate the intergovernmentally agreed commitments of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and its companion

<sup>9</sup> *Joint FAO/WHO Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) (19-21 November 2014)*, C 2015/30.

<sup>10</sup> The ICN2 report is available at: [www.fao.org/3/a-at764e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-at764e.pdf).

<sup>11</sup> CL 150/REP, para. 43-a).

Framework for Action into sustained and coherent action by governments and the UN System, with overall international coordination jointly provided by FAO and WHO. A Decade of Action on Nutrition would provide the opportunity for effective action within a period of ten years to support countries to make significant progress in addressing malnutrition, with clearly set goals and objectives to be achieved.

32. FAO and WHO have prepared and submitted a concept note to New York on 10 February, 2015. The concept note outlined how the Decade of Action on Nutrition will ensure sustained and coherent actions by governments, the UN system and other stakeholders and would unify various initiatives around nutrition.

33. Various steps have been taken, in collaboration with WHO and in liaison with the relevant UN system entities in New York, to facilitate the process through which the UN General Assembly would be in a position to: (i) endorse the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action; and (ii) declare a Decade of Action on Nutrition from 2016 to 2025. In this context, FAO and WHO are working on the substantive contents of the proposed Decade of Action on Nutrition which, pursuant to UN guidelines for the proclamation of international decades, should include a draft programme of action with clearly defined objectives and activities to be carried out at the international, regional and national levels.

### **Inter-agency coordination and collaboration on nutrition**

34. At its 150<sup>th</sup> session, the Council indicated that efforts to improve UN system coordination on nutrition should be based on the strengthening of existing mechanisms. It welcomed further steps being considered to enable the CFS to serve as the appropriate intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder global forum on nutrition.<sup>12</sup> At the CFS Joint Bureau and Advisory Group meeting on 3 February 2015, a paper on CFS and its role in advancing nutrition<sup>13</sup> was discussed. The meeting generally welcomed the need for CFS to have a more visible role in nutrition. The CFS Bureau will continue discussion of this matter to come up with feasible options for consideration.

35. At the same session, the Council also encouraged FAO to develop, in cooperation with other UN partners, a coherent mechanism for monitoring progress on the implementation of the ICN2 outcomes.<sup>14</sup> FAO will continue to collaborate with relevant UN bodies, international organizations and other partners for preparation of the annual Global Nutrition Report.

36. Moreover, stressing that nutrition is a key element of sustainable development; the Council looked forward to the integration of the Framework for Action into the Post-2015 Development Agenda.<sup>15</sup> In this connection, the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition, with inputs from FAO, WHO and other UN agencies, has developed a policy paper indicating the potential areas for the inclusion of nutrition in the 17 proposed Sustainable Development Goals, with relevant nutrition indicators<sup>16</sup>.

### **Linking ICN2 follow-up to Expo Milan**

37. Expo Milano 2015, dedicated to “feeding the planet, energy for life”, will be used as a platform to amplify the food security and nutrition messages of ICN2 and to promote its outcomes, thus reinforcing coherence, synergies and mutual alignment between the two events. This is in line with paragraph 14-p of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition.

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<sup>12</sup> CL 150/REP, para. 44.

<sup>13</sup> BurAG2015/02/02/00.

<sup>14</sup> CL 150/REP, para. 43-d).

<sup>15</sup> CL 150/REP, para. 45.

<sup>16</sup> <http://unscn.org/en/publications/nutrition-and-post-2015-agenda/>

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#### **IV. GUIDANCE SOUGHT**

38. The Council is invited to review the ICN2 follow-up actions, and provide any comments and guidance as deemed appropriate.