

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
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Agenda Item 3

CX/FL 19/45/3  
May 2019

**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**  
**CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING**  
**Forty-fifth Session**  
**Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, 13 – 17 May 2019**  
**MATTERS OF INTEREST FROM FAO AND WHO**  
*(Prepared by FAO and WHO)*

## JOINT FAO/WHO ACTIVITIES

### ***Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Nutrition (JEMNU) for the establishment of nitrogen to protein conversion factors for soy-based and milk-based ingredients used in infant formula and follow-up formula***

At CCNFSDU39, the Committee requested the joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Nutrition (JEMNU) to provide scientific advice for the establishment of science-based nitrogen to protein conversion factor to use when determining the protein content of soy-based ingredients and milk-based ingredients used in infant formula and follow-up formula. According to the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedures of JEMNU, key PICO questions were identified to guide the systematic review. A systematic review was then commissioned to experts in the fields of protein quantification and analysis, and the review is expected to be completed by May 2019. Furthermore, to supplement the data obtained from a review of the scientific literature, a call for data was issued before the end of November 2018 to collect relevant, unpublished data which may be available. A meeting of JEMNU to review and assess the quality of the evidence generated by the systematic review is planned for July 2019. A report presenting the outcomes of the meeting is expected to be submitted in advance of CCNFSDU41.

### ***UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016 - 2025***

The first progress report on the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (Nutrition Decade), which was released in 2018 and was conveyed by the UN Secretary-General to the UN General Assembly during its Seventy-second session, provides an overview of the progress made in implementing the Nutrition Decade, reflecting key developments at international, regional and country levels. Following the release of the report, a UNGA resolution was adopted (A/RES/72/306) on the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition encouraging governments and other stakeholders to make ambitious commitments with a view to intensifying their efforts and scaling up their activities under the work programme of the Decade.

To guide countries to translate the policies and actions recommended in the voluntary ICN2 Framework for Action into more binding, concrete country-specific commitments for action, FAO and WHO jointly published "Strengthening nutrition action: a resource guide for countries based on the policy recommendations of the Second International Conference on Nutrition" (<http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/strengthening-nutrition-action/en/>). A joint FAO and WHO policy brief on "Driving commitment for nutrition within the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition" (<http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/decade-of-action-commitment-policybrief/en/>) sets out the drivers of commitment of people and organizations in support of actions for improved nutrition.

Increasingly, action networks, with global or regional scope, aimed at accelerating and aligning efforts around specific topics linked to an action area of the work programme of the Nutrition Decade are being established. Norway is leading a global action network on sustainable food from the oceans and inland waters for food security and nutrition (<https://nettsteder.regjeringen.no/foodfromtheocean/>). Australia and France are leading a global action network aimed at accelerating and aligning efforts around nutrition labelling. The Network is

established to exchange country experiences and good practices, share successes and challenges, and provide mutual support to accelerate implementation of effective nutrition labelling policies. The governments of France and Australia hosted the launching meeting in February 2019, that provided an opportunity for interested countries from different regions of the world to present their respective country situations and shared their experiences. Countries also discussed the operational aspects of the Network including a joint work plan and next steps.

FAO and WHO are preparing for convening a midterm review of the Nutrition Decade in 2020, with the aim of assessing the achievements in actions taken to implement ICN2 recommendations and the Work Programme of the Decade.

A dedicated website for the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition is now available in all six UN languages ([www.un.org/nutrition](http://www.un.org/nutrition)).

### ***Committee on World Food Security (CFS)***

At the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), nutrition featured prominently on the agenda. The Committee endorsed the Terms of Reference for the preparation of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, in support to the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and recognized the importance of an inclusive process leading to the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines, open to all interested stakeholders, which will be facilitated by the CFS Secretariat with the assistance of a Technical Task Team, under the guidance of the CFS Open-Ended Working Group on Nutrition. The Voluntary Guidelines are expected to provide guidance to help countries operationalizing the ICN2 Framework for Action recommendations under the umbrella of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. For more information, please refer to: <http://www.fao.org/cfs/home/plenary/cfs45/en/>

### ***FAO/WHO International Consultation on Sustainable Healthy Diets***

During a meeting held on 12 July 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland, the Directors-General of FAO and WHO agreed that the two agencies would work closer together in the area of Healthy Diets. A dialogue between WHO and FAO on what constitutes a healthy diet was proposed, which could contribute to the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition. As a follow up, one day meeting was held on 14 December 2017 in Geneva between the two technical departments of FAO and WHO, and it was agreed to jointly organize an International Consultation on Sustainable Healthy Diets in July 2019 at FAO Headquarters. It is planned that the consultation will provide guiding principles on healthy diets that countries and citizens can follow to achieve nutritional well-being while at the same time ensuring sustainability.

## **FAO ACTIVITIES**

### ***FAO activities on Food Labelling***

At the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), governments affirmed that the “empowerment of consumers is necessary through improved and evidence-based health and nutrition information and education to make informed choices regarding consumption of food products for healthy dietary practices” (FAO/WHO 2014). Food labelling was included among the recommendations in the ICN2 Framework for Action (FAO/WHO, 2014). To this end, FAO has developed the following tools on food labelling for developing the capacity in countries to implement food labelling policies and programmes.

The FAO website on Food Labelling (<http://www.fao.org/food-labelling/en/>) was launched in September 2018 and provides information on Food Labelling standards and guidelines and FAO activities on food labelling.

A handbook on food labelling that provides an introduction to labelling as part of an ongoing effort to assist regulators and others working in the area of food systems who are responsible for formulating and implementing food labelling policies. Specific types of labels are explained such as ingredient lists (including allergen and food additive information), date marking, nutrition labels (back of pack panels and front of pack systems) as well as nutrient and health claims. Relevant sections of the book follow the guidance given by the Codex Alimentarius Commission on food labelling in particular the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985). The handbook can be accessed at: <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/fc5f4bc2-650a-4704-9162-9eb9b3a1fdd0/>.

A policy guideline for recovery and redistribution (R&R) of safe and nutritious food for human consumption, targeting a multi-stakeholder audience, including governments, actors in the food supply chain - providing, receiving or redistributing - recovered food - and civil society in developing, transition and developed countries. The guideline provides an introduction to the global framework and recent regional developments on food waste prevention that have directly included, for the first time, R&R as one of the solutions that contribute to the prevention of safe and nutritious food from being discarded or wasted. Reference is made to globally accepted food safety guidelines as well as various best practices at national level on how to deal with liability and in particular regarding quality and safety related date marking on pre-packaged food to prevent food waste, without compromising consumers' health. The guidance is expected to be published at the end of 2019.

### ***FAO's Role on supporting countries in their development of labels contributing to sustainable food system***

FAO is implementing the Quality and Origin programme to support the development of quality linked to geographical origin products that will contribute to rural development. Geographical Indications (GIs) refer to products with specific characteristics, qualities or reputation resulting essentially from their geographical origin. GIs are legal tools for protection of intellectual property rights according to the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) of the World Trade Organization. GIs are also tools for sustainable food system development: these origin-based labels promote add value to traditional quality food products, for the benefit of producers, especially family farmers and smallholders, but also for consumers, promoting better access to nutritious local food.

FAO has provided support to the African Union in establishing a continental strategy for GIs as a tool for sustainable development and sustainable food systems. In 2018, FAO has supported work on GIs in some African countries through the training held in Niamey Niger and the identification of GI pilot products to be developed in a number of countries. As part of FAO's cooperation with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), technical assistance projects have additionally been implemented in countries including Georgia, Serbia, Croatia, Turkey and Montenegro, focusing on GIs as a driver for developing sustainable value chains. Finally, FAO and the Organization for an International Geographical Indications Network are working to develop a sustainability strategy for Geographical Indications to encourage GI associations around the world to promote sustainable practices.

### ***FAO/INFOODS Food Composition Databases***

FAO coordinates the International Network of Food Data Systems (INFOODS), a worldwide network of food composition experts aiming to improve the quality, availability, reliability and use of food composition data. These data are necessary, for example, for the assessment of diet quality, for the development and application of food based dietary guidelines and nutrition labelling or selected Codex standards. FAO/INFOODS have recently published three new food composition databases: FAO/INFOODS Global food composition database for fish and shellfish, for Pulses, and for Pulses on Dry Matter Basis. The FAO/INFOODS Food Composition database for Biodiversity and the Analytical Food Composition database have been updated as well. Moreover, FAO is coordinating the update of the West African and Kenyan Food Composition Tables, which will be published in 2018. Work is on-going on developing FAO/INFOODS Compilation guidelines and the FAO/INFOODS Evaluation Framework to Assess the Quality of Published Food Composition Tables and Databases (FCT/FCDBs) – (Evaluation Framework), both expected to be published by the end of 2019.

The databased can be downloaded at the FAO/INFOODS website: <http://www.fao.org/infoods/infoods/en/>

### ***FAO Expert Working Group on Protein Quality Assessment in Follow-up Formula for Young Children and Ready to Use Therapeutic Foods***

As follow-up to a request submitted by CCNFSDU 38, FAO organised an Expert Working Group to provide scientific advice on setting up guidelines for Codex members to determine protein quality using the Protein Digestibility–Corrected Amino Acid Score (PDCAAS) in Follow- up formula (FUF) for young children (12 – 36 months) and Ready to Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF). The working group session was held at the FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, in November 2017. A report presenting the outcomes of the meeting was published in November 2018, providing practical guidance on the measurement of protein quality in two distinct products used to feed children in different conditions RUTF and FUF for young children

### ***Minimum Dietary Diversity-Women (MDD-W) – A global standardized food-based indicator for monitoring dietary diversity and micronutrient adequacy of women’s diets***

Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women (MDD-W) is a dichotomous indicator of whether or not women at 15-49 years of age have consumed at least five out of ten defined food groups the previous day or night. The proportion of women at 15–49 years of age who reach this minimum in a population can be used as a proxy indicator for higher micronutrient adequacy, one important dimension of diet quality. With support from the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), FAO commenced a two-year research project in early 2018 to refine MDD-W data Collection Tool, with capacity development and data collection activities in three focus countries - Cambodia, Ethiopia and Zambia. The results of the study will be published as a supplement to the aforementioned user guide, providing new information on the optimal operationalization of MDD-W data collection, including recommendations with context-specific guidelines, useful in maximizing completeness and accuracy of reported diets of women worldwide.

### ***Global Food Consumption Databases***

Reliable information on food consumption collected at individual level is needed to estimate nutrient intake and to identify key sources of nutrients in the diet. To address the issue of insufficient access to such data, FAO and WHO have developed a tool called FAO/WHO GIFT (FAO/WHO Global Individual Food consumption data Tool). This comprehensive database is a multipurpose tool. FAO/WHO GIFT provides simple and accurate food-based indicators, derived from sex and age disaggregated data on individual food consumption that are needed in the fields of nutrition and food safety. The food classification and description system used is called FoodEx2. It has been developed by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and was enhanced for use at global level. The tool is freely accessible online through an interactive web platform: <http://www.fao.org/gift-individual-food-consumption/en/>. FAO/WHO GIFT is currently being populated with microdata from surveys that the end user can download as such. The platform already contains an inventory map with detailed information on 193 surveys (59 are national and 134 are sub-national), mainly from low and middle-income countries.

### ***FAO’s Role in supporting countries to develop and implement Food-Based Dietary Guidelines (FBDGs)***

1. The FAO website on Food-Based Dietary Guidelines (FBDGs) was launched in November 2014, and serves as a repository and platform for information exchange on dietary guidelines from across the world. The website currently features national food based dietary guidelines from 101 countries, and will be continuously updated as guidelines are created and revised.
  - To access the FAO website on FBDGs: <http://www.fao.org/nutrition/nutrition-education/food-dietary-guidelines/en/>.
2. Direct technical assistance has been provided to the Governments of Afghanistan and Sierra Leone to develop national FBDGs. Technical assistance for the revision of FBDGs was also provided to a number of countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.
3. Work is currently ongoing for the development of a set of resource documents to help countries implement FBDGs.
4. FAO in partnership with Wageningen University & Research, held an International Technical Workshop on “Innovations for the Development of Food-Based Dietary Guidelines: Integrating Sustainability into FBDGs”, from 23-25 October 2018, in the Netherlands. The overall goal of the international technical workshop is to guide the development of resources that will improve the methodology used by low-and middle-income countries (LMIC) to develop food-based dietary guidelines and suggest ways for incorporating sustainability into FBDGs.

### ***FAO’s role in school-based food and nutrition education (SFNE)***

FAO recognizes schoolchildren as a priority population for nutrition interventions and views the school as an ideal setting for developing skills and capacities in food, nutrition and health. In this regard, FAO promotes school-based food and nutrition education (SFNE) as a critical strategy to foster these capacities in children and the wider school community and to support the nutrition outcomes of other school interventions and programmes.

FAO, in collaboration with the United Arab Emirates University held an international expert consultation on SFNE in December 2017, which provided a renewed vision for SFNE respond directly responds to food security, nutrition and other sustainable development challenges. Following the consultation, FAO is developing global guidance material to support this new vision for SFNE, with a focus on low and middle-income countries. At the regional and country level, FAO has recently provided technical support, for the design of the Human Ecology/Nutrition Education subject area in the Malawi Teacher's Curriculum, for mainstreaming behavioral-based SFNE in the national curriculum review for Kenya, and during the Inception Workshop for the Assessment of Good Practices for Mainstreaming School Feeding and Nutrition Education in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. More information on FAO's role in schools is available at: <http://www.fao.org/school-food/en/>

## **WHO ACTIVITIES**

### ***Third High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (New York, September 2018)***

At this General Assembly meeting the Heads of State and Government committed to, inter alia: i) strengthen their commitment, as Heads of State and Government, to provide strategic leadership for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases; ii) promote and implement policy, legislative and regulatory measures, including fiscal measures as appropriate, aiming at minimizing the impact of the main risk factors for noncommunicable diseases, and promote healthy diets and lifestyles; iii) invite the private sector to further produce and promote food products consistent with a healthy diet, making further efforts to reformulate them in order to provide healthy and nutritious options, reducing the excessive use of salt, sugars and fats, in particular saturated fats and trans-fats; iv) invite the private sector to provide appropriate content information of those nutrients, bearing in mind international guidelines on nutrition labelling; v) invite the private sector to commit to further reduce the exposure of children to and impact on them of the marketing of foods and beverages high in fats, in particular saturated fats and trans-fats, sugars or salt, consistent with national legislation, where applicable.

### ***World Health Assembly resolution related to infant and young child feeding (2018)***

The 71<sup>st</sup> WHA held in May 2018 adopted one resolution related to infant and young child feeding ([http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/WHA71/A71\\_R9-en.pdf](http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA71/A71_R9-en.pdf)). The resolution urges Member States to take a number of actions to improve infant and young child feeding. It reiterates previous WHA resolutions calling for implementing and/or strengthening national mechanisms for effective implementation of measures aimed at giving effect to the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes, as well as other WHO evidence-based recommendations; implementing WHO recommendations to end inappropriate promotion of foods for infants and young children; and ensuring evidence-based and appropriate infant and young child feeding during emergencies. The resolution also calls for an increase in investment in breastfeeding policies and programmes.

### ***Marketing of breast-milk substitutes: national implementation of the international code: status report 2018***

This biennial update on the legal status of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes was published in May 2018 ([http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/infantfeeding/code\\_report2018/en/](http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/infantfeeding/code_report2018/en/)). The report documents that 136 out of 194 countries had some form of legal measure in place covering all, many or few provisions of the Code. Three countries enacted new Code-related legislation, three adopted additional legal measures to strengthen their legislative frameworks, and two took retrogressive steps by repealing laws or specific provisions of laws. The report also provides information on the provisions about marketing of complementary foods among the 59 countries that cover complementary foods as part of their Code law. Of those, 29 require messages and labels for complementary foods to include a statement on the importance of continued breastfeeding for up to 2 years or beyond, while 23 require mention of the importance of not introducing complementary feeding before 6 months of age. Thirty-seven of the countries prohibit manufacturers and distributors from sponsoring meetings of health professionals and scientific meetings, but in only 14 countries are manufacturers and distributors prohibited from using health facilities to host events, contests or campaigns.

### ***NetCode toolkit for ongoing monitoring and periodic assessment of the Code***

WHO leads the Network for Global Monitoring and Support for Implementation of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and Subsequent relevant World Health Assembly Resolutions (NetCode). The NetCode partner developed a toolkit to reinvigorate and reinforce ongoing monitoring and periodic assessment of the Code and national laws by providing protocols, guidance, and tools. The toolkit is comprised of two protocols, one for ongoing monitoring systems and one for periodic assessments. The ongoing monitoring system is designed to be run by the government and integrated into existing regulatory and enforcement systems, to continuously monitor adherence to the Code in a systematic and sustainable way so as to take immediate enforcement action. The periodic assessment protocol defines a standard research model to quantify the level of compliance with national laws and the Code (every 3 to 5 years), identifying gaps and issues that need to be addressed through policy and legislative measures, programming and investments.

### ***Updating of nutrient requirements for infants and young children under the age of 3 years***

WHO has initiated the process of preparing to update the nutrient requirements for infants and young children under the age of 3 years. The process includes identification of existing recommended nutrient requirements and physiological bases used in setting up those requirements in different countries through compiling an extensive list of national dietary guidelines from the countries in all regions. WHO has also reviewed the recent scientific literature on both macronutrients and micronutrients. Based on the results of the literature review and compilation of national dietary guidelines, nutrients have been prioritized for updating. Currently a scoping document is being prepared to guide the preparation of required systematic reviews to assess the existing evidence for updating these nutrient requirements. Discussions are underway between FAO and WHO to undertake this update jointly in 2019.

### ***WHO Nutrition Guidance Expert Advisory Group (NUGAG) Subgroup on Diet and Health***

#### **Carbohydrates, polyunsaturated fatty acids, and dietary patterns:**

The 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WHO Nutrition Guidance Expert Advisory Group (NUGAG) Subgroup on Diet and Health was held in Geneva, Switzerland on 3-6 December 2018. The NUGAG subgroup on Diet and Health finalized evidence-informed recommendations for **carbohydrates** (including dietary fibre) and **polyunsaturated fatty acids** (including EPA and DHA), taking into consideration not only the quality of evidence, but additional criteria including the balance of evidence on benefits and harms, values and preferences, resource implications, priority of the problems, equity and human rights, acceptability and feasibility. Several of the systematic reviews serving as the evidence base for formulation of recommendations have recently been published, including: three Cochrane reviews covering polyunsaturated fatty acids, and two covering carbohydrates, including a review published in *The Lancet*. Several additional reviews will be published in 2019. Regarding **dietary patterns**, the NUGAG Subgroup reviewed the results from the initial systematic review which is now currently being finalized, for review and discussion at the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the NUGAG Subgroup on Diet and Health to be held in Qingdao, China in early December 2019.

#### **Saturated fatty acids, *trans*-fatty acids and total fat:**

A public consultation on the draft WHO guidelines on saturated fatty acid intake and *trans*-fatty acid intake in adults and children was held in May 2018. Comments have been reviewed and the guidelines are now being finalized for release in 2019. Similarly, a public consultation and subsequent release of the WHO guideline on total fat intake in adults and children are planned for 2019.

#### **Non-sugar sweeteners:**

A public consultation and subsequent release of the WHO guideline on non-sugar sweetener use in adults and children are planned for 2019.

### ***WHO Nutrition Guidance Expert Advisory Group (NUGAG) Subgroup on Policy Actions***

To help implement the development of evidence-informed policy guidance and measures to support Member States in creating an enabling food environment to promote healthy diets and nutrition, WHO established *the WHO Nutrition Guidance Expert Advisory Group (NUGAG) Subgroup on Policy Actions*, which will work alongside the NUGAG Subgroup on Diet and Health. The NUGAG Subgroup on Policy Actions will initially focus on developing three guidelines on policy actions, namely nutrition labelling policies, policies to restrict food marketing to children and fiscal policies to promote healthy diets. Developing guidelines on policy actions

to promote healthy diets and nutrition will contribute greatly to the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025), which aims to increase action at the national, regional and global levels to achieve commitments of the outcome documents of the second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2). It will also contribute to achieving commitments of the Political Declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, and ultimately the health- and nutrition-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The first meeting of the NUGAG Subgroup on Policy Actions was held in Geneva, Switzerland on 11-14 December 2018. At this 1st meeting the NUGAG Subgroup discussed and finalized the scope and PICO questions to guide the undertaking of the systematic reviews and subsequently to formulate the recommendations for the policy guidelines. All systematic reviews are currently being conducted. Additional reviews are underway on the balance of evidence on benefits and harms, values and preferences, resource implications, equity and human rights, acceptability and feasibility of implementing the defined policies. The second meeting of the NUGAG Subgroup on Policy Actions is scheduled to be held in Qingdao, China in mid-December 2019, with the objective to review and discuss the results of the systematic reviews and formulate recommendations. It is also planned to discuss and finalize the scope and PICO questions for undertaking evidence review related to school food and nutrition policies.

### ***WHO Technical consultation – Nutrition-related products and the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines: practical considerations and feasibility***

As more nutrition-related products are being developed for use in public health and clinical interventions for the prevention and treatment of undernutrition, such as ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTFs), therapeutic-formula diets (F75 & F100), iron-containing multiple micronutrient powders, vitamin and mineral supplements, ensuring access to these products by those who need them the most is critical. Access to these nutrition-related products may be improved by including them in the WHO Model of Essential Medicines List (EML), a core element of universal health coverage. Alternatively, some of these products may be registered as food for special medical purposes. WHO convened this technical consultation on 20 - 21 September 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland, to identify the criteria that define a nutrition-related product to be considered as candidate for inclusion in the EML and to determine the advantages, disadvantages and trade-offs that would result from the inclusion of nutrition-related products in the EML.

### ***WHO e-Library of Evidence for Nutrition actions***

The WHO e-Library of Evidence for Nutrition Actions (eLENA) is an online library of evidence-informed guidelines for an expanding list of nutrition interventions. It is a single point of reference for the latest nutrition guidelines, recommendations and related information

The cost of implementation and scale-up is a critical consideration when prioritizing interventions to be included in nutrition policies. Cost-effectiveness analysis supports priority setting by defining areas of action where the greatest health and nutrition gains can be achieved with available resources. Therefore, to further support countries in the planning and development of evidence-informed nutrition policies, eLENA was updated in February 2019 with a new feature providing links to more than 100 peer-reviewed articles and reports assessing the cost-effectiveness of a wide range of nutrition interventions conducted in a variety of contexts and settings.

### ***Second Global Nutrition Policy Review (2016 – 2017)***

The report of the second Global Nutrition Policy Review based on information and data provided by 176 Member States (91%) and one area was published in November 2018 ([https://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/policies/global\\_nut\\_policyreview\\_2016-2017/en/](https://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/policies/global_nut_policyreview_2016-2017/en/)). Summary results were reported to the 70<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly (WHA) in May 2018 as requested by WHA resolution 68.19 and also WHA decision 68(14). Results were also used in the Secretary-General's report to the 72<sup>nd</sup> UNGA session on the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025). More than 5,000 individual country data compiled through the Review have been uploaded to the WHO Global database on the Implementation of Nutrition Action (GINA) to update respective country information.

### ***WHO Global database on the Implementation of Nutrition Action***

The WHO global database on the Implementation of Nutrition Action (GINA) currently contains the information on approximately 2,200 national policies and 6,600 programme actions being implemented in countries and 500 mechanisms for either coordination or monitoring. These data come from three sources, notably WHO's regular monitoring activities (e.g. surveys, reports from WHO Regional/Country Offices, desk reviews), information from partners (that maintain databases of nutrition related policies or that support the implementation of nutrition programmes and actions in countries), and information by registered users through a wiki-approach.

Furthermore, as part of monitoring country progress in eliminating industrially produced *trans*-fatty acids (iTFA) from the global food supply, WHO is developing a TFA Country Score Card in GINA. This score card dynamically draws data from GINA, and classifies countries based on whether they have adopted legislative measures that are in line with the recommended approach or that are less restrictive; if they have taken legislative or other measures to induce consumers to make healthier choices with regards to iTFA (e.g. mandatory or voluntary labelling, voluntary reformulation), or if their national policies, strategies or action plans express a commitment to reduce iTFA in the food supply.

### ***Elimination of industrially produced trans-fatty acids***

Elimination of industrially produced *trans*-fatty acids (iTFA) from the global food supply by 2023 is a priority target of the WHO's 13<sup>th</sup> General Programme of Work (GPW13) which guides the work of WHO during 2019 – 2023.

### ***REPLACE Action Package:***

In May 2018, WHO launched the REPLACE action package which provides a strategic approach to eliminating iTFA from national food supplies, with the goal of global elimination by 2023. The REPLACE action package comprises an overarching technical document that provides a rationale and framework for this integrated approach to iTFA elimination, along with six modules and additional web resources (which will be launched in May 2019), to facilitate implementation (<http://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/replace-transfat>).

The REPLACE modules provide technical background information and propose practical steps to support governments to achieve elimination of iTFA from their national food supply. To achieve successful elimination, governments should pass best practice legal measures (outlined in the L and E modules). The information and practical steps outlined in the other modules, can be used to support the process of iTFA elimination, as necessary.

### ***Expert Consultation on Trans-Fatty Acid Assessment:***

The Expert Consultation on *Trans*-Fatty Acid Assessment was held in Geneva, Switzerland on 11–12 October 2018. The Consultation reviewed laboratory protocols for measuring *trans*-fatty acids (TFA) exposure in humans and TFA content in food and surveillance tools for countries to use in monitoring TFA intake in the population and TFA content in food supply with a view to increasing comparability of TFA data to monitor the impact of public health interventions and to track changes over time. These protocols and surveillance tools will be made available as part of the REPLACE modules and web resources in May 2019.

### ***REPLACE Progress Report: Countdown to 2023:***

An annual progress report is being prepared to track country progress in taking actions to achieve the global target of eliminating iTFA by 2023. The report will describe the current global, regional and national situations and changes over the past year; track progress of key policy outcomes and milestones; discuss challenges and opportunities for future action; highlight enablers and challenges of country-level elimination; and recommend strategic priorities for the next 12 months to achieve the 2023 target. The report will also highlight a number of countries that had undertaken assessments to develop country roadmaps for the complete and sustained elimination of iTFA from their national food supplies, building on the REPLACE action package. The report is scheduled to be released at the time of the 72<sup>nd</sup> World Health Assembly which will take place on 20 – 28 May 2019.