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Thank you.

I want to recognize the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization for putting on this conference together, and co-owning this issue.

Finally, I'd like to thank my fellow panelists for making it clear how important good nutrition is to the future we all share.

There is not a single priority in health and development, in any part of the world, that isn't affected by nutrition. Malnutrition is an underlying cause of the disease and poverty we are trying to prevent—but until very recently it has been just that: underlying, very difficult to see clearly.

This leads me to the point I would like to make today. Through the tireless efforts of many of you in this room, we have created a golden opportunity for the world to start breaking through on nutrition. The task ahead of us now is to take full advantage of this opportunity.

Just five years ago, the nutrition community was not set up for success. A lot of dedicated people were doing high-quality work, but they were isolated from each other. Now, dozens of countries have developed national plans to improve nutrition. The Scaling Up Nutrition movement has provided the coordination we've been lacking as a community. And we have a strong set of six global nutrition targets agreed to at the World Health Assembly two years ago. These are the raw materials of a sustainable movement to drive improvements in nutrition around the world.

But raw materials must be fashioned into a finished product. To do that, we need to set two goals as a community.

First, we need more resources. Less than 1 percent of development assistance is directed toward nutrition. The figure for domestic resources is similarly paltry. There are good reasons for this. Nutrition has always fallen through the cracks between agriculture and health. And malnutrition can be invisible. Stunting is so pervasive in many countries that it is the norm. The impact of micronutrient deficiencies isn't seen for years.

But we know enough now about the impact of malnutrition to boost our investments. And we know enough about the pillars of good nutrition to make smart investments.

The second priority for our community is a stronger commitment to alignment from all the stakeholders. We need a coordinated vision from leaders in the agriculture, finance, and health ministries. We now have global nutrition targets. We have country plans designed to help us reach those targets. Donor countries, developing countries, multilateral organizations, foundations, and NGOs working across many sectors need to make sure that we're working together within the structures we've created to be as effective as possible.

The beauty of this moment is that we know more about what works than ever before. In addition, we have examples of countries, like Brazil, that have prioritized nutrition and seen amazing results for their citizens. So we have every reason to spend more and align that spending around the interventions we know are most effective.

For example, we know that supporting and educating women smallholder farmers pays a double dividend. If women are empowered to make decisions about what to grow and how to spend their families' income, the evidence says they'll make decisions to improve health and nutrition for themselves and their families. For every country in the world, it is vital that we build a food system that ensures year-round access to a safe, affordable, diverse diet for all—and women farmers are the key to realizing this goal.

To take another example, we also know that breast milk is the global gold standard for infant nutrition. It serves as the baby's first immunization by delivering antibodies from mother to child. This is true everywhere in the world. In poor countries, immediate and exclusive breastfeeding will save hundreds of thousands of infants every year. In the United States, we spend \$10 billion every year to treat babies with conditions associated with suboptimal breastfeeding.

And we know that it's possible to promote breastfeeding very quickly and on a large scale. In Viet Nam, exclusive breastfeeding rates tripled in less than four years in areas where families had access to media messages and high-quality counseling about infant and child nutrition.

As these examples demonstrate, nutrition crosses all sorts of boundaries—from high-income to middle-income to low-income, from maternal health to child health to agricultural development.

Fortunately, in this room, we have leaders from many countries and sectors. The fact that you are all here to raise the profile of what until just a few years ago had been an orphan issue is so encouraging. It gives me great hope that we will seize this opportunity we have made to build a better future for everyone.

Thank you