

**Livestock sector statement of support to ICN2**  
*Items in italic are for reference and will not be spoken*

Thank you mister/madam Chair. Dear Ministers, Excellencies, Dr Graziano da Silva, Dr Chestnov, ladies and gentlemen,

My name is Nico van Belzen. I'm the Director General of the International Dairy Federation. I am making this statement on behalf of the livestock sector, which is part of the Private Sector Steering Committee. We comprise five global organizations: International **Dairy** Federation, International **Meat** Secretariat, International **Poultry** Council, International **Egg** Commission, and the International **Feed** Industry Federation.

I wish to thank FAO for hosting the Conference here in Rome. And let me take this opportunity to thank the Director-General, Dr José Graziano da Silva for his leadership and for reinforcing the involvement of the private sector, including a dedicated seat for the livestock sector in ICN2. Dr Graziano, we look forward to continuing working with you to eliminate hunger and malnutrition. We believe this is best done by multi-stakeholder platforms including civil society and also the private sector – it is us, after all, who produce the food.

I would also like to thank the member state representatives who support the involvement of the private sector and livestock.

Food and nutrition security are essential for society, including business, to function effectively. Therefore we are committed to support efforts to eradicate hunger and prevent all forms of malnutrition.

Livestock products are important for food and nutrition security, because livestock can convert materials that are inedible to humans, such as grass and leaves as well as residues of food and biomaterials, into high-quality, nutrient-rich foods.

We would like to propose five opportunities for public-private partnerships.

The first opportunity is in **enabling environments**.

The private sector can contribute to improving information systems (*p3 point 5*) by providing information on for instance nutrient composition, food production and consumption.

The second opportunity is in **sustainable food systems**.

We recognize the need to improve sustainability of food production, as demonstrated by our involvement in the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock. We welcome the recommendation of the Framework for Action to improve food production and processing, as well as its acknowledgement of the need for trade (*p.3, points 2, 4*).

Investments in research, development and innovation should bring benefits to all stakeholders, including smallholders and family farmers.

The third opportunity is **addressing wasting and stunting, as well as anaemia in women of reproductive age**.

There is good evidence that dietary diversification strategies using animal source foods are effective for combating micronutrient deficiencies and improving growth, cognition and behaviour, particularly in the first 1000 days (*Thompson et al 2011, Newmann et al 2007; Grillenberger et al. 2003, Du Plessis et al. 2013*).

The fourth opportunity is **improving access to healthy, diversified diets**.

Low intakes of animal source foods are associated with iron, zinc, calcium, riboflavin, vitamin A and B12 deficiencies and their related illnesses, particularly in infants, children, pregnant and lactating women (*Hambidge KM et al. 2011, Krebs NF et al. 2011*). Some of these nutrients are only found in animal source foods and their bioavailability is higher than from other sources (*FAO 2013*).

The private sector can help address barriers to consumption such as food preparation skills. We also recognise our responsibility to help consumers choose a healthy, diversified diet. Many companies are involved in reformulating their products to reduce excessive amounts of fat, especially industrial trans fats, sugars and sodium.

The fifth opportunity is **nutrition education**.

The private sector supports nutrition education through point-of-sale information, marketing campaigns, school feeding programs, work place promotions and responsible marketing to children. Aligning resources and funding through public-private partnerships will improve the impact and consistency of nutrition messages.

**In conclusion,**

Nutrient-rich livestock products are important for preventing all forms of malnutrition. The livestock sector is committed to constructively contribute to the Framework for Action through public-private partnerships.

**References:**

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*Hambidge KM et al.(2011) Evaluation of meat as a first complementary food for breastfed infants: impact on iron intake. Nutrition Reviews 69(Suppl.1):557-563*

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