**Invitation to an open discussion**

**on the political outcome document of the ICN**

**Comment Form**

|  |
| --- |
| **Personal information** Name: Aksel Naerstad, Organization: More and Better Network ([www.moreandbetter.org](http://www.moreandbetter.org)),And also: The Development Fund ([www.utviklingsfondet.no/en](http://www.utviklingsfondet.no/en)). Location: NorwayEmail: aksel@utviklingsfondet.no Aksel NaerstadSenior policy adviser, The Development Fund, Norway ([www.utviklingsfondet.no](http://www.utviklingsfondet.no/)) International coordinator of the More and Better Network ([www.moreandbetter.org](http://www.moreandbetter.org/))E-mail: aksel@utviklingsfondet.noMobile phone: +47 48 25 82 85Phone office: +47 23 10 96 00 / 23 10 95 91,Fax: +47 23 10 96 01 Skype: akselnaerstadPostal address: Mariboes gate 8,N- 0183 Oslo, Norway,  |

**The numbers of the paragraphs stated in the questionnaire do not correspond to the paragraphs in the text of the document. I therefore comment on the paragraphs in the document.**

**General comments:**

The draft is a good starting point. It’s positive and important that the draft underlines that:

* the elimination of malnutrition in all its forms is an imperative for ethical, political and economic reasons,
* malnutrition is one of the greatest threat to people’s health and well-being
* all food systems should be sustainable managed,
* good nutrition requires more sustainable, equitable and resilient food systems,
* food systems should produce more nutritious food
* rules and regulations are required to ensure food safety and healthy nutrition,

The main weaknesses of the draft are in my opinion that:

* the human right to adequate food is not stated,
* the goals are not ambitious enough! The goals must me more ambitious and concrete when it comes to reducing stunting, anaemia and low birth weight ; and the goals should not only be to halt the increase in the prevalence of overweight of children under 5 etc.
* the huge negative consequences on human health and the environment of industrial food production based on high level of chemical inputs, monoculture and overuse of water are not underlined ,
* the link between the reduction of nutritious content in food over the last decades and the model of farming is missing,
* the link is missing in the document between economic interests of large scale companies and the production of unhealthy food, sinking level of nutrition in food and unsustainable production,
* the term “Climate Smart Agriculture” should not be used because the term is now misused to promote use of chemical fertilizer in “smarter” ways etc. The term should be replaced by “Climate friendly agriculture” or similar terms.
* the overall political concept of food sovereignty should be spelled out and promoted.

**Multiple threats of malnutrition are major challenges to global development**

***Paragraph 2:*** Proposals for new bullet points:

* the nutritious content of fruit, vegetables, rice, grain and farmed fish has been drastically reduced the last decades;
* there has been a dramatic increase in food related diseases, mainly cause by the industrial food systems;
* the economic interests and power of the multinational companies in food and agriculture has increased;
* production of cheap, low quality and unhealthy food is closely linked to the economic interests of the multinational companies in food and agriculturte,
* agroecological, organic and other forms of sustainable agriculture based on local resources have over the last decades shown to be highly productive and to produce much more healthy and nutritious food than the high input industrial agriculture,
* organizations for small scale food producers and for consumers have grown much stronger over the last decades, and focus more on sustainable production and consumption than before .

***Paragraph 3:***

This paragraph should be rewritten.

* The economic interests behind the production and selling of unhealthy food should be spelt out.
* The statement that “The food system is still unable to provide safe and nutritious food for all …” must be changed.  ***Proposal for new formulation:***  *The industrial food production based on high level of chemical inputs and monocultures is unable to provide safe and nutritious food for all. However, there are many examples that agroecological and other forms of sustainable food production, in general by small scale food producers, can produce enough, healthy and nutritious food to nourish the growing population.*

**A Vision for global action to end all forms of malnutrition**

**Paragraph 4:**

The following should be added in the start of the paragraph:

*The human right to adequate food must be respected and implemented by all governments. We, the governments, commit to end hunger and malnutrition not later than 2025.*

**Paragraph 7:**

The goals should be reformulated to ***end*** stunting, anaemia and low birth weight, and to ***end*** the prevalence of overweight and wasting of children under 5

**New paragraph after paragraph 8:**

*Implementation of food sovereignty, respecting the rights of peasants and supporting and promoting agroecological and other sustainable forms of agriculture are crucial for the ability to produce enough, nutritious and healthy food and to end hunger and malnutrition.*

**Paragraph 11**

The phrase “The Climate Smart Agriculture” should be replaced by *“Climate friendly agricultural”*

**Committing to action**

**New paragraphs**

*Commit to promote and implement food sovereignty.*

*Commit to support small scale food producers and to support and promote agroecology and other forms of sustainable food production.*

*Commit to end trade rules which hinder local communities and countries to decide their own food and agricultural policies for sustainable food production for the local and domestic population, and to end all direct and indirect subsidies on export of agricultural produce.*