

Invitation to an open discussion on the political outcome document of the ICN

Comment Form

Personal information

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1. Do you have any general comments on the draft political declaration and its vision (paragraphs 1-3 of the zero draft)?

My opinion is that the document should start with a clear definition of the concepts. The present statement of the malnutrition problem is only clear for those who are very involved in the nutrition field. Malnutrition, undernutrition, undernourishment, unbalanced diets.... These are all mentioned in the first paragraphs with some degree of confusion. On the one hand we have undernourishment, undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, usually referred to as 'malnutrition', which will be difficult to change. On the other hand, we have what is usually referred to as 'overnutrition': hardly seen as 'malnutrition'. Why not rather 'Dysnutrition', with malnutrition (all kinds of deficiencies) on one side, and unbalanced diets and overnutrition on the other side? This declaration would be the right place to introduce this dysnutrition concept, and to highlight the distinctions and connections between under- and over-nutrition. Why not mention the 'double burden of under- and over-nutrition (or of dysnutrition)' or as is usually stated, the 'double burden of malnutrition'?

- The contribution of malnutrition to lost lives or healthy years is not clearly stated

- Unhealthy diets AND LIFESTYLES are contributing to the increasing prevalence of obesity.

2. Do you have any comments on the background and analysis provided in the political declaration (paragraphs 4-20 of the zero draft)?

Again, the terms of 'malnutrition' and 'obesity' are opposed in paragraph 4, which supports my suggestion to clarify the concepts to begin with.

What really is included in paragraph 6? Zero Hunger Challenge is a vision, an ideal, but it is not an initiative and it is rather utopic.

It would be good to have different paragraphs addressing different challenges more clearly: paragraph 6 undernourishment; para 7, undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies; para 8, obesity and NCDs; para 9, the right to food and the compelling need to reduce inequities.

Why this focus on overweight under the age of 5 years (Para 7) ? It is more during school years that obesity is likely to track into adulthood.

The importance of access to healthcare and to environmental sanitation for adequate nutritional status is not mentioned. What about something on health systems, similar to food systems?

There is some imbalance here: the section on food systems is well detailed and inclusive, whereas the section on the vision (paragraphs 4 - 8) is sketchy.

In para 10, reduction of consumption of ultra-processed foods should be clearly mentioned, as these items contribute to high sugar, saturated fat, and salt intake.

Is it not possible to mention promising initiatives such as SUN and REACH (paragraphs 17-19) so that the statement becomes less theoretical?



3. Do you have any comments on the commitments proposed in the political declaration? In this connection, do you have any suggestions to contribute to a more technical elaboration to guide action and implementation on these commitments (paragraphs 21-23 of the zero draft)?

The commitments are highly theoretical and quite vague. Clearer directions would be helpful on HOW to implement the commitments. Why is the focus entirely on food systems? Health and environmental concerns should be more explicit.

Please provide your comments in the appropriate fields relating to these commitments:

Reshaping the global food system indeed, but also the health system and pursuing the efforts to eradicate poverty 21.

Commitment I: aligning our food systems (systems for food production, storage and distribution) to people's health needs;

People's healthy nutrition needs.

Here and for the other commitments: It might be useful to elaborate even so briefly on strategies to fulfil the commitment

Commitment II: making our food systems equitable, enabling all to access nutritious foods.

This could go with commitment IV.

Commitment III: making our food systems provide safe and nutritious food in a sustainable and resilient way;

Commitment IV: ensuring that nutritious food is accessible, affordable and acceptable through the coherent implementation of public policies throughout food value chains.

Commitment V: establishing governments' leadership for shaping food systems.



Commitment VI: encouraging contributions from all actors in society;

What kind of contributions and from which actors?

Commitment VII: implementing a framework through which our progress with achieving the targets and implementing these commitments can be monitored, and through which we will be held accountable.

Unless targets are provided, monitoring progress would seem difficult

22. Commit to launch a Decade of Action on Nutrition guided by a Framework for Action and to report biennially on its implementation to FAO, WHO and ECOSOC.

23. Commit to integrate the objectives and directions of the Ten Year Framework for Action into the post-2015 global development efforts.