



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

Comment Form

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Welthungerhilfe welcomes the opportunity to comment on The Rome Accord ICN2 zero draft political outcome document and would like to provide the following input.

However we think that the participation of civil society should go further than participating in the e-discussion of the political outcome document. We deem it of vital importance that the civil society constituencies, the people who are directly affected by global nutrition policies, are given the opportunity of meaningful participation in the preparation of the ICN2 conference, the conference itself and the follow-up process.

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

The document should be clearly based on a human rights framework. Human rights need to be better integrated across the different sections of the document. This includes references to existing binding frameworks and pre-existing human rights obligations of States.

While Food Systems are essential for nutrition, the document should make stronger reference to other crucial determinants for nutrition such as health systems, water, sanitation and hygiene, social protection, education, and the status of women.

The document lacks a deeper analysis of the causes of malnutrition, particularly its root causes relating to social and economic inequality and the responsibility of governments and the private sector for driving people into food and nutrition insecurity by land and natural resources grab, making unsustainable use of natural resources, and using or permitting strategies for the promotion of unhealthy food.



From a human rights perspective, strategies to end malnutrition would have to address all underlying causes of malnutrition and should not only focus on women and children between conception and the age of two but to any human being deprived of the Right to Food.

The document should make reference to the aspect of sustainability in ensuring adequate nutrition for all. While specific measures tackling the immediate causes of malnutrition may be necessary throughout the lifecycle or due to food crisis, to ensure sustainable nutrition security, diversified farming systems, and particularly small-scale farmers, have to be strengthened, making them more resilient to food crises. Any approach should meet the criteria of contributing to adequate diets, social equity and environmental sustainability.

Para 1:

Instead of using the term “unbalanced diets” as a form of malnutrition, clear reference should be made to overnutrition/ obesity.

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

Stronger reference should be made to gender-based discrimination as a key factor for malnutrition and to the improvement of women’s status and role, their access to education as well as their access to and control over resources as essential sustainable nutrition security.

Para 4:

Reference should be made to the right to adequate and nutritious food as a human right and to malnutrition as result of the failure to realize this basic human right. Within the framework of international agreements, governments have the obligation to implement the right to food. It is part of binding international law and set down in Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (social pact) of 1966. States have the obligation to respect, protect and guarantee the human right to food.

Para 6/7/ 12:

The cited commitments should not only be renewed but more ambitious targets should be defined and the necessary policies, programs, institutions, and resources should be provided for. Transparent and accessible accountability mechanisms with strong participation of the groups most affected by malnutrition have to be established.

Efforts to increase breastfeeding should not be reduced to the first six months, but include continued breastfeeding, combined with safe and adequate complementary feeding, up to two years old and beyond.



Para 20:

Greater emphasis should be paid to the need for strong accountability mechanisms allowing for meaningful participation of civil society, particularly, of the segments of the population most affected by malnutrition.

Clear targets have to be defined at global and at national level considering the strong inequality in nutrition security at subnational level.

- 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)?**

It will be of vital importance that the follow up process of the ICN2 allows for meaningful participation of the people which are most nutrition insecure. The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) – extended to include at least the health sector being crucial for nutrition policies - would be an adequate mechanism for defining policies and monitoring their implementation.