



COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

Forty-sixth Session
"Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition"

Rome, Italy, 14-18 October 2019

**PROGRESS REPORT ON FOLLOW-UP TO THE SECOND
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUTRITION (ICN2),
INCLUDING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
DECADE OF ACTION ON NUTRITION**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. As recommended in 2014 by the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), the UN General Assembly proclaimed in 2016 the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025, which provides a time-bound cohesive framework to implement the ICN2 commitments. FAO and WHO were mandated to co-lead the implementation of the Decade through a dedicated Work Programme. This was drawn up collaboratively in 2017, and comprises six cross-cutting and connected action areas that are based on the recommendations of the ICN2 Framework for Action.

2. This second biennial progress report, prepared by FAO and WHO, provides an update on progress made in implementing the Decade and in ICN2 follow-up work since October 2017, covering key developments in the reporting period. These include advances in nutrition-related activities at global, regional and national levels according to the action areas of the Decade's Work Programme as well as further engagement of stakeholders induced by the Decade. Finally, the report addresses the way forward, including the mid-term review of the Decade.

I. BACKGROUND

*This document can be accessed using the Quick Response Code on this page;
an FAO initiative to minimize its environmental impact and promote greener communications.
Other documents can be consulted at www.fao.org*



na753

3. On 1 April 2016, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted resolution 70/259¹ through which it proclaimed 2016-2025 the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (“Decade”). The proclamation of the Decade was recommended at the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), which was co-hosted in November 2014 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) and which adopted the Rome Declaration on Nutrition² and its companion Framework for Action³. The Rome Declaration on Nutrition sets out a common vision for global action to eradicate hunger and end all forms of malnutrition, including undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity, and puts forward ten broad policy commitments. The Framework for Action sets forth 60 recommendations to guide the effective implementation of the commitments enshrined in the Rome Declaration on Nutrition.
4. The Decade provides all stakeholders with a unique time-bound opportunity to strengthen joint efforts to implement the ICN2 commitments and recommendations, alongside the nutrition-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including in particular SDG2 to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture, and SDG3 to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
5. The aim of the Decade is to accelerate implementation of the ICN2 commitments, achieve the global nutrition and diet-related non-communicable disease (NCD) targets by 2025, and contribute to the realisation of the SDGs by 2030.
6. In resolution 70/259, the UN General Assembly mandated FAO and WHO to: (i) co-lead the implementation of the Decade, in collaboration with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP); (ii) cooperatively develop a work programme for the Decade, using coordination mechanisms such as the UN System Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN) and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), in consultation with other international and regional organizations and platforms; and (iii) produce biennial reports about the Decade’s implementation.
7. The Decade’s Work Programme was designed in 2017 through an open, inclusive and collaborative process, to which CFS stakeholders actively contributed. It embraces six cross-cutting and connected action areas, based on the 60 recommendations of the ICN2 Framework for Action.⁴
8. A dedicated website on the Decade was made available in 2018 in all six UN languages.⁵
9. This second biennial report offers insights on the progress made in the implementation of the Decade and follow-up to ICN2 commitments since CFS 44, covering key developments at international, regional and country levels in the action areas applying the means of implementation outlined in the Decade’s Work Programme. It also outlines the way forward, including the preparatory process towards the mid-term review of the Decade in 2020.

II. ADVANCEMENT IN ACTION AREAS OF THE DECADE'S WORK PROGRAMME

1 <https://undocs.org/A/RES/70/259>.

2 www.fao.org/3/a-ml542e.pdf.

3 www.fao.org/3/a-mm215e.pdf.

4 www.un.org/nutrition/sites/www.un.org.nutrition/files/general/pdf/work_programme_nutrition_decade.pdf.

5 www.un.org/nutrition.

10. International, regional and country developments in the last two years according to the six action areas of the Decade and related to the ICN2 follow-up with relevance to the work of CFS and its stakeholders include the following:

Action Area 1: Sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets

- a) The Decade's Work Programme urges countries to undertake coherent and innovative actions covering the entire food system – from inputs and production, through processing, storage, transport and retailing to consumption –to ensure access to sustainable, healthy diets for all and reduce food and nutrient losses and waste;⁶
- b) At five Regional Symposia on Sustainable Food Systems for Healthy Diets and Improved Nutrition convened under the umbrella of the Decade,⁷ countries and their partners took stock of the regional dimensions and challenges of sustainable food systems for healthy diets and improved nutrition; shared key features of food systems in the respective regions, and how these influence dietary patterns; identified regional policy processes and experiences for tackling nutrition through a food systems approach; and triggered the development of policy actions in line with the ICN2 Framework for Action and the Decade's Work Programme:
 - The regional symposium held for Africa brought together over 200 technical experts from 47 countries in Africa and came up with key action points for various stakeholders with special focus on how food systems could be re-designed to contribute to improving nutrition outcomes in Africa;
 - The regional symposium held for Latin America and the Caribbean was preceded by national consultations on sustainable food systems in 12 countries to review positive experiences. The symposium processed a set of conclusions aimed at moving toward more sustainable, inclusive, efficient and nutrition-sensitive systems. Among these, participants agreed on the importance of implementing fiscal measures that regulate the food system and laws and regulation to regulate the advertising, targeting particularly children and adolescents, of foods with a high content of fat, sugar and/or salt;
 - The regional symposium held for Europe welcomed countries' initiative to jointly create a functional Nutrition Capacity Development Network and Partnership Platform for Central Asia and Caucasus, with lead support from UNICEF, aiming to address the current capacity gaps in the area of food and nutrition in sub-regions in close collaboration with other experienced capacity development networks in nutrition in the region;
- c) The Declaration⁸ of the G20 Meeting of Agriculture Ministers (Argentina, July 2018) emphasized the need for concerted efforts and collaboration among governments, community and the various stakeholders in the food supply chain, among others, for a sustainable, integrated and inclusive future for food systems;
- d) The 2018 Report of the Secretary-General on agriculture development, food security and nutrition highlights interlinkages across the SDGs as a means to address key challenges and accelerate progress and outlines key means of implementation to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture (August 2018);⁹

⁶ www.fao.org/3/a-i7846e.pdf.

⁷ For Latin America and the Caribbean (San Salvador, 5–7 September 2017), for Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok 10–11 November 2017), for Africa (Abidjan, 16–17 November 2017), for Europe and Central Asia (Budapest, 4–5 December 2017) and for the Near East and North Africa (Muscat, 11–12 December 2017).

⁸ www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-07-28-g20_agriculture_declaration_final.pdf.

⁹ <https://undocs.org/A/73/293>.

- e) CFS 44 in October 2017 reaffirmed its decision to expand its nutrition work, providing a platform for global coordination and policy coherence and convergence on nutrition, in accordance with the Decade's Work Programme, and mandated its Open-ended Working Group on Nutrition to develop voluntary guidelines for food systems and nutrition,¹⁰ based on the 2017 report on Nutrition and Food Systems, produced by the CFS High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE);¹¹
- f) CFS 45 in October 2018 endorsed the Terms of Reference for the preparation of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, in support of the Decade.¹² The Terms of Reference suggest following a comprehensive and systematic approach to food systems aimed at addressing the existing policy fragmentation between food, agriculture and health sectors with the objective to provide guidance on appropriate policies, investments and institutional arrangements, that contribute to improving food systems and make them more sustainable and support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food;
- g) The 1st High-Level Expert Seminar on Indigenous Food Systems (Rome, November 2018), organized under the umbrella of the Decade, presented fieldwork and research of indigenous peoples' food systems from different parts of the world, looking at informing the global debate on sustainability and climate resilience in the context of the 2030 Agenda and the Decade;¹³
- h) The Decade's Work Programme further urges that food safety needs to be integrated into food systems to make sufficient progress in improving nutrition. The First International Conference on Food Safety (Addis Ababa, February 2019), which brought together Ministers of Health, Ministers of Agriculture, leading scientific experts, partner agencies as well as representatives of consumers, food producers and the private sector, raised awareness of the importance of food safety and furthered the commitments made at ICN2;¹⁴
- i) The concept of sustainable, healthy diets has evolved and the need to shift to more sustainable diets and food systems is increasingly evident.¹⁵ At an international consultation on sustainable, healthy diets, convened by FAO and WHO in July 2019, a group of experts reviewed the concept of diets that support reaching goals of health and well-being while also considering the evidence about economic, social, and environmental sustainability. The consultation developed guiding principles for sustainable, healthy diets that will be guiding action in the Decade and for achieving the SDGs;
- j) The United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028, proclaimed through resolution 72/239¹⁶ in January 2018, according to its Global Action Plan,¹⁷ envisages, among others, to promote sustainability of family farming for climate-resilient food systems and create synergies with the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition to optimize efforts and promote mutual benefits;

Action Area 2: Aligned health systems providing universal coverage of essential nutrition actions

¹⁰ www.fao.org/3/a-mv030e.pdf.

¹¹ www.fao.org/3/a-17846e.pdf.

¹² www.fao.org/3/mx516en/mx516en.pdf.

¹³ www.fao.org/indigenous-peoples/ifs-seminar/en.

¹⁴ www.who.int/food-safety/international-food-safety-conference.

¹⁵ [www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(18\)31788-4/fulltext?utm_campaign=tleat19&utm_source=hub_page](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(18)31788-4/fulltext?utm_campaign=tleat19&utm_source=hub_page).

¹⁶ <https://undocs.org/A/RES/72/239>.

¹⁷ www.fao.org/3/ca4672en/ca4672en.pdf.

- k) The health sector represents an important platform through which to address malnutrition, including in emergency and humanitarian settings. As outlined in the Decade's Work Programme, strong health systems are needed to prevent and treat malnutrition in all its forms through the delivery of evidence-informed nutrition interventions and services for all ages, as well as to prevent and treat diseases that can aggravate undernutrition. Health systems also must deal with the long-term health consequences associated with overweight and obesity and the prevention and control of diet-related NCDs;
- l) Mainstreaming a package of nutrition interventions in the healthy system is essential to achieve the objectives of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). In its resolution 73/132,¹⁸ the UN General Assembly affirmed that countries must determine their own roadmaps to UHC and conduct their own prioritization exercises. To support this, WHO recently published an updated set of Essential Nutrition Actions;¹⁹
- m) The Mar Del Plata Health Declaration,²⁰ adopted by the G20 Ministers of Health (Argentina, October 2018), focused on antimicrobial resistance, childhood overweight and obesity, the strengthening of health systems and the responsiveness of health systems to disasters, catastrophes and pandemics, which are all areas included in the ICN2 Framework for Action;
- n) At the end of 2018, there were over 70 million people forcibly displaced worldwide.²¹ It is imperative that populations in humanitarian settings are not left behind, that breastfeeding is protected, quality health care (including mental health) is available and that access to healthy diets is not compromised. The Principals of six UN Agencies, Programmes and Funds have committed to accelerate action to end the scourge of malnutrition in children and will launch a UN Global Plan of Action on Wasting by the end of 2019;²²

Action Area 3: Social protection and nutrition education

- o) Social protection and school health and nutrition programmes have the potential to deliver double-duty actions to effectively address both undernutrition and overweight and obesity.²³ Therefore, a nutrition-sensitive approach needs to be employed in their design and implementation;²⁴
- p) Nutrition education helps empower and equip people with the information and skills necessary to adopt healthy eating habits. Yet, schools are often still underused as a platform to promote healthy diets and good nutrition. While 89% of 160 countries reported having some form of school health and nutrition programme, reports suggest school health and nutrition programs have deteriorated in recent years.²⁵ In particular, with an observed increase of childhood overweight and obesity in every region worldwide,²⁶ there is urgent need to renew commitment to improving school health and nutrition programmes;

¹⁸ www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/73/132.

¹⁹ <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/326261/9789241515856-eng.pdf>.

²⁰ www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-10-04-health.pdf.

²¹ <https://www.unhcr.org/5d08d7ee7.pdf>.

²² <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Joint%20statement%20-%20UN%20principals%20on%20malnutrition%2014July19%20Final.pdf>.

²³ <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/255414/WHO-NMH-NHD-17.2-eng.pdf>.

²⁴ www.fao.org/3/a-i5021e.pdf.

²⁵ <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/275990/9789241514873-eng.pdf>.

²⁶ www.fao.org/3/ca5162en/ca5162en.pdf.

- q) More than 40 countries in the WHO European region support the WHO European Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI), which measures overweight and obesity in children using standardized height and weight measurements of over 300,000 children every three years.²⁷ COSI can be used as a model on which countries and regions may structure their own school -based initiatives to address malnutrition in all its forms;

Action Area 4: Trade and investment for improved nutrition

- r) Trade and investments play critical roles in shaping the availability and affordability of diverse, safe and nutritious foods. The Decade's Work Programme stresses that trade policies and agreements should support implementation of nutrition policies and programmes and should not negatively impact the right to adequate food in other countries;
- s) This action area focuses on achieving global food security and nutrition targets through opportunities identified in trade and investment policies, implementing the Principles for Responsible Investments in Agriculture and Food Systems,²⁸ implementing the standards and guidelines of the Codex Alimentarius, and improving access to a safe and nutritious food supply through appropriate trade agreements and policies;
- t) In its resolution 73/132, adopted in December 2018, the UN General Assembly “Encourages international cooperation to facilitate trade in agricultural products to improve food security and to address problems of both food-importing and food-exporting countries.”;
- u) The International Forum on Food Safety and Trade (Geneva, April 2019)²⁹ explored the opportunities and challenges in strengthening food safety systems, particularly through trade. Consumers have access to a great quantity and diversity of food with the substantial expansion of global trade. The Heads of FAO, WHO and the World Trade Organization (WTO), in their joint statement, emphasised that “consumers have the right to expect that both locally produced and imported food are safe”.³⁰ Thus, better alignment and coordination of efforts to strengthen food safety systems across sectors and borders is of great importance;
- v) At the Global Nutrition Summit, held on the margins of the G7 Health Ministers’ Summit (Milan, November 2017), USD 3.6 billion was pledged to tackle the global malnutrition crisis, including USD 640 million in new funding. The G7 Health Ministers’ communiqué recognized the new policy and financial commitments made by the Global Nutrition Summit and advocated for food systems to support healthy and sustainable diets in the context of the Decade;

Action Area 5: Safe and supportive environments for nutrition at all ages

- w) As indicated in the Decade's Work Programme, this action area stresses the importance of environmental determinants in nutrition outcomes, including the school, home, hospital and work environments, food production and urban environments. This also includes a focus on promotion, protection and support of breastfeeding in environments (e.g. in hospitals and workplaces) and the use of regulatory and fiscal tools needed to achieve a healthy food environment;

²⁷ http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/372426/WH14_COSI_factsheets_v2.pdf.

²⁸ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-ml620e.pdf>.

²⁹ www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/faowhoapril19_e.htm.

³⁰ www.who.int/docs/default-source/resources/joint-statement.pdf?sfvrsn=61b890e4_16.

- x) The Regional Committee for the Western Pacific, in October 2017, agreed to develop a regional action plan, in consultation with Member States, on protecting children from the harmful impact of food marketing;³¹
- y) At the third High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (New York, September 2018), Heads of State and Government committed to, inter alia:³²
- promote and implement policy, legislative and regulatory measures, including fiscal measures as appropriate, aiming at minimizing the impact of the main risk factors for NCDs, and promote healthy diets and lifestyles;
 - invite the private sector to further produce and promote food products consistent with a healthy diet, making further efforts to reformulate them in order to provide healthier and nutritious options, reducing the excessive use of salt, sugars and fats, in particular saturated fats and trans-fats;
 - invite the private sector to provide appropriate content information of those nutrients, bearing in mind international guidelines on nutrition labelling;
 - invite the private sector to commit to further reduce the exposure of children to and impact on them of the marketing of foods and beverages high in fats, in particular saturated fats and trans-fats, sugars or salt, consistent with national legislation, where applicable;
- z) Participants from 91 countries and 21 organizations came together at the ‘International Symposium on Understanding the Double Burden of Malnutrition (DBM) for Effective Interventions’ in December 2018, jointly organized by IAEA, WHO and UNICEF under the umbrella of the Decade, to review policies and programme interventions for addressing the DBM, while ensuring an enabled environment for good nutrition at each life stage;³³

Action Area 6: Strengthened governance and accountability for nutrition

- aa) Nutrition demands a whole of society approach, requiring contributions from and coordination among all stakeholders and sectors. The Decade's Work Programme outlines the responsibility of Governments in fostering political dialogue and commitment, providing information as a public good and as a means of fostering learning and accountability, and promoting intercountry collaboration;
- bb) The UN General Assembly, having discussed the first progress report³⁴ of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Decade, adopted resolution 72/306³⁵ in July 2018, recognizing the progress made in advancing the Decade's implementation, while also expressing concern that the world was off track to achieve the global nutrition targets, and called upon governments and their partners to intensify their efforts and scale up commitments and investments for nutrition under the Decade's Work Programme;
- cc) In resolution 73/132 the UN General Assembly calls upon Member States to address hunger and malnutrition in all its forms as an issue that affects all nations and reiterates its call for the scaling

³¹

http://www.wpro.who.int/about/regional_committee/68/resolutions/wpr_rc68_r3_protecting_children_from_the_harmful_impact_of_food_marketing.pdf.

³² <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/73/2>.

³³ www.who.int/nutrition/events/2018-iaea-symposium-doubleburdenmalnutrition-10to13dec/en/.

³⁴ <https://undocs.org/A/72/829>.

³⁵ www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/72/306.

- up of national commitments and increasing investments for nutrition under the Decade's Work Programme;
- dd) The Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition (Madrid, October 2018) committed to build a network of parliamentary alliances that contribute to the achievement of SDG2 as well as progress towards implementing the ICN2 commitments and the Decade, paying particular attention to the most vulnerable people and territories;³⁶
- ee) At its November 2018 session, the Council of the European Union (EU) recognized the importance of the Decade not only for the achievement of SDG2, but also for the realization of the 2030 Agenda in its entirety. In light of persistent and emerging global challenges, the Council also invited the Commission to propose a revision of the 2010 policy framework on food security and the 2013 policy framework on nutrition, honouring its nutrition commitments and implementing a holistic EU approach;³⁷
- ff) As a contribution to the Decade, decision-makers, practitioners and other stakeholders gathered at a global conference (Bangkok, November 2018), organized by the International Food Policy Research Institute and FAO, to discuss how to speed up integrated action for progress toward achieving a world free of hunger and malnutrition;³⁸
- gg) Strengthened monitoring mechanisms are needed to track progress in achieving national targets. Nutrition data and information systems serve as a foundation to strong nutrition action. At the global level, the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI)³⁹ report and the Global Nutrition Report (GNR)⁴⁰ use, analyze and discuss regularly global data on hunger and malnutrition in all its forms informing the monitoring of the nutrition-related targets of the SDGs.

III. FURTHER ENGAGEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS INDUCED BY THE DECADE

Commitments by governments

11. Country commitments for action are key to the Decade's support in leveraging government policy development, investments and actions on the ground. Countries are therefore encouraged to set specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound (SMART) commitments, which help all stakeholders understand what action is intended and to improve tracking.
12. In 2017, Brazil, Ecuador and Italy officially submitted their SMART commitments to the Nutrition Decade Secretariat.
13. An open access database to formally register countries' SMART commitments was developed in 2017 and is co-facilitated by the joint FAO/WHO Secretariat of the Decade.⁴¹
14. In order to support the implementation of the Decade, FAO and WHO jointly developed in 2016-2018 a guide⁴² for countries to translate the policies and actions recommended in the ICN2 Framework for Action into country-specific commitments and a policy brief⁴³ on driving commitment

³⁶ www.fao.org/about/meetings/global-parliamentary-summit/en.

³⁷ <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-14554-2018-INIT/en/pdf>.

³⁸ www.ifpri-faobangkokconference.org.

³⁹ <http://www.fao.org/publications/sofi/en/>.

⁴⁰ <https://globalnutritionreport.org/>.

⁴¹ www.un.org/nutrition/commitments.

⁴² <http://www.fao.org/3/ca1505en/CA1505EN.pdf>.

⁴³ <http://www.fao.org/3/ca1340en/CA1340EN.pdf>.

for nutrition within the Decade.

Country-led Action Networks

15. The Decade encourages and supports countries to strengthen collaboration on nutrition action by establishing Action Networks, which are informal coalitions of countries, with global or regional scope, aimed at accelerating and aligning efforts around specific topics linked to an action area of the Decade's Work Programme. Led and coordinated by one or several countries, the Action Networks allow countries to exchange knowledge and good practices, illustrate successes and challenges, and provide mutual support to accelerate progress in specific areas, with the final objective of improving food systems, diets and nutrition for all through the establishment of policies and legislation.⁴⁴

16. The following global action networks have already been convened by Member States under the Decade:

- a) Global Action Network on Sustainable Food from the Oceans and Inland Waters for Food Security and Nutrition – lead country: Norway;
- b) Global Action Network on Nutrition Labelling – lead countries: France, Australia and Chile;
- c) Global Action Network on Traditional, Healthy and Sustainable Diets – lead country: Italy

17. Additionally, Member States have convened several regional networks for the Americas and the Pacific, namely:

- a) Regional Action Network on Strategies for Reducing Salt Consumption for the Prevention and Control of Cardiovascular Disease in the Americas – lead countries: Brazil, Costa Rica and Colombia;
- b) Regional Action Network to Promote Food Guidelines in the Americas – lead countries: Brazil and Uruguay;
- c) Regional Action Network for the Americas on Food and Nutrition Security Governance – lead country: Brazil;
- d) Regional Action Network for the Americas on Public Purchasing of Family-produced Food - lead country: Brazil;
- e) Regional Action Network for the Americas on Sustainable School Feeding – lead country: Brazil;
- f) Regional Action Network for the Americas on Healthy Food Environments – lead country: Chile;
- g) Regional Action Network for Ending Childhood Obesity in the Pacific – lead country: Fiji.

Contributions by non-state actors

18. The joint FAO/WHO Secretariat of the Decade has convened quarterly teleconferences with the CFS Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) and the ICN2 Civil Society Organizations Liaison Group since December 2018 to share information on the Decade and discuss CSM contributions to the implementation of the Decade.

19. The Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition pledged its support to the Decade (February 2019), through continuing to bring together policymakers from different sectors in the food system to engage them in the challenge of tackling malnutrition in all its forms. The Global Panel pledged to deliver tools to encourage and support governments in low- and middle-income

⁴⁴ www.un.org/nutrition/action-networks.

countries as they design and implement food and nutrition policies, and to foster changes in food systems that will shift dietary trends in the direction of better nutrition and improved health.⁴⁵

20. In June 2018, WHO and Chatham House convened in London a dialogue with representatives of the food and non-alcoholic beverage industries. WHO described a set of expectations on the reduction of salt, free sugars and unsaturated fats in food and beverages and the elimination of industrial trans-fats from foods, which has led to new public commitments on the part of the food and beverage industries.

21. In May 2019, the International Food and Beverage Alliance (IFBA) committed to align with the WHO target to eliminate industrially produced trans-fat from the global food supply by 2023.⁴⁶

22. In August 2019, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued its special report on Climate Change and Land,⁴⁷ in which it found that the stability of food supply is projected to decrease as the magnitude and frequency of extreme weather events that disrupt food chains increases, with greater atmospheric CO₂ levels lowering the nutritional quality of crops, thus resulting in higher food prices and increased risk of food insecurity and hunger, all of which calls for enhanced action and commitments under the Decade.

IV. WAY FORWARD

Scaling up SMART commitments

23. While international advances indicate that ICN2 has led to a broad international debate on the multiple burden of malnutrition and the role of food systems in healthy and sustainable diets, national progress has been uneven. Action networks are expected to be a driver for scaling up commitments and achieving concrete results. The following areas will require intensified action:

- a) *Intersectoral policy.* Countries should update intersectoral policy documents to include all global nutrition targets and translate them into costed operational plans. The accountability of all stakeholders needs to be improved and the commitments made by decision-makers should be followed up;
- b) *Food systems.* The food and agriculture, trade and industry sectors should include nutrition objectives and the promotion of healthy diets. Greater focus is needed on actions to promote the diversification of crops, increase the production of fruits and vegetables, increase the production of oils that contribute to healthy diets, create healthy food environments, including restricting the marketing of foods and beverages to children, promoting nutrition labelling, and ensuring food procurement in public institutions and food price policies to support healthy diets;
- c) *Health.* Actions taken to promote healthy diets should reach all stages of the life cycle, especially for women before and during pregnancy and adolescent girls. Services to manage acute malnutrition should be streamlined in universal health coverage strategies and health services to increase coverage beyond the current 20%. The promotion, protection and support of breastfeeding will also require legislative action on the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and subsequent resolutions;

⁴⁵ www.unscn.org/uploads/web/news/Global-Panel-Commitment-to-Decade-of-Action.pdf.

⁴⁶ <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/07-05-2019-who-welcomes-industry-action-to-align-with-global-trans-fat-elimination-targets>.

⁴⁷ www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2019/08/4.-SPM_Approved_Microsite_FINAL.pdf.

- d) *Education*. Schools are excellent environments in which to address the double burden of malnutrition and install good dietary habits, and to reach the growing market of young people with increasing economic power and influence them to avoid the consumption of foods and beverages high in fat, sugar and/or salt. Countries should increase investment in school health and nutrition programmes;
- e) *Social protection*. Increased poverty and inequalities need to be tackled by adequate social protection programmes that include support for healthy diets. Food voucher schemes and food banks are options to be considered.

Mid-term review

24. ECOSOC resolution 1989/84⁴⁸ on international decades provides that the implementation of a decade's programme of work should be appraised at the mid-point and at the end of the decade.

25. In keeping with resolution 1989/84, the status of implementation of commitments of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition should be reviewed at the mid-term and at the end of the Decade, in an open and participatory process.

26. In this regard, the Decade's Work Programme foresees the convening of dialogues among stakeholders to evaluate further progress in implementing the Decade at mid-term and at the end of the Decade.

27. The objectives of the Mid-term Review (MTR) of the Decade⁴⁹ will be to assess and evaluate the achievements in individual policy areas of the ICN2 Framework for Action, as reflected in the actions areas of the Decade's Work Programme, over the period from 2016 to 2020, with a view to: (i) highlighting specific advances, initiatives and partnerships in nutrition during the first half of the Decade; (ii) identifying the constraints encountered and the actions needed to overcome them during the second half of the Decade. Furthermore, the review will also identify focus areas for priority action for the second half of the Decade, and plan for the end-term review of the Decade and outline tentatively its possible format and modalities.

28. In terms of content, the MTR of the Decade will cover: (i) progress in specific action areas under the Decade, considering the broader developments regarding nutrition globally over the period from 2016 to 2020, with specific reference to the focus areas of the ICN2 Framework for Action; (ii) collaborations established and engagement of actors in implementing the first half of the Decade (2016-2020); (iii) progress in implementation modalities outlined in the Work Programme of the Decade during the review period: commitments for action, action networks, forums and conferences, and evidence-informed advocacy and communication; (iv) a synthetic forward-looking storyline based on the review of these different elements.

29. During the preparatory process toward the MTR of the Decade, a series of consultations and dialogues with various stakeholders at different levels will be convened, including as feasible:

- a) An informal global consultation with Member States, following the model of the ICN2 Open-ended Working Group meetings. Delegates from Representations in Rome and Permanent Missions in Geneva, as well as non-State actors, could be brought together through video conferencing facility to reflect on the progress achieved in implementing the Decade and on the way forward;

⁴⁸ https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/75597/files/E_RES_1989_84-EN.pdf.

⁴⁹ https://www.un.org/nutrition/sites/www.un.org.nutrition/files/general/pdf/conceptnote_mtr_nutrition_decade.pdf.

-
- b) Civil Society engagement in the MTR process through, inter alia, the quarterly dialogue with the Civil Society Mechanism and the Civil Society ICN2 Nutrition Group;
 - c) Structured engagement of the Private Sector in the MTR process through ways to be identified by the joint FAO/WHO Secretariat of the Decade;
 - d) Dialogue with UN partner agencies, facilitated by the UNSCN, to seek their inputs to the MTR process;
 - e) Online consultations to give all stakeholders at global, regional and country levels the possibility to contribute inputs to the MTR process, based on a set of guiding questions.
30. In conjunction with the MTR, a global conference/event will be organized to underscore the achievements of the first half of the Decade (2016-2020) and set the stage for the priorities during its second half. Such conference/event could be convened at the High-Level Political Forum in New York in July 2020.