

SE02: Diving to the heart of nutrition: the case for integrated public policies

Organized by: The United Kingdom (Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office) – France (Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs)

Summary of the side event

Tackling malnutrition in its various forms requires interventions across different sectors and systems. Integrating a focus on nutrition outcomes into policy and programmes on other issues, such as health, gender, poverty reduction, agriculture or climate, allows countries to achieve multiple, often interdependent objectives and make the most of limited resources while strengthening synergies.

The objectives of this side-event were to mobilise and advocate key policies on nutrition integration ahead of the upcoming N4G in Paris; highlight and demonstrate success stories and insights on the public policies which work for nutrition and develop a shared narrative on how a coordinated approach to integrating nutrition can deliver greater benefits; and showcase approaches from diverse countries.

The side-event was opened by the panel chair and Head of Nutrition FCDO, Terri Sarch, who introduced French N4G Special Envoy, Brieuc Pont, to present the ongoing work to organise N4G. Remarks centred on raising our shared sights to encourage ambitious commitments for the coming years at N4G Paris that will support integration of nutrition across development sectors.

A pre-recorded message was delivered by FAO Chief Economist, Máximo Torero, setting out the work done by the FAO to drive improved nutrition integration across the Rome-Based Agencies and the importance of ensuring nutrition remains central to achieving SDG2 to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition.

Terri Sarch then introduced the panel for a further discussion which included:

- Kelly Alves, General Coordination of Food and Nutrition at Brazil's Ministry of Health
- Dr. Miguel J. Garcia Winder, Mexican Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Rome-based UN Agencies

- Katherine Pittore, Head of Policy ATNI
- Kaelab Baye, Professor of Human Nutrition, Centre for Food Science and Nutrition, Addis Ababa University Dr Joanne Raisin, Director, Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Secretariat

In her remarks Kelly Alves discussed how Brazil worked to ensure nutrition plays a central role in the G20 Initiative Global Alliance on Hunger & Poverty as well as the successes Brazil has had in fighting malnutrition domestically.

Dr Miguel J.Garcia Winder elaborated on Mexico's challenges of providing more nutritious food in Mexico, emphasising the importance of close collaboration with the private sector and evidence-based policymaking to affect changes at a local level. He also highlighted the impact of new lifestyles, behaviours and habits on nutrition.

Katherine Pittore continued the discussion setting out the forthcoming work by ATNI to rank the 30 largest food and beverage companies on their commitments to nutrition and the key finding that 34% of 60,000 assessed products meet healthy thresholds, noting an increase from 27% in 2021.

During his remarks Kaelab Baye noted the challenges of addressing malnutrition given its complex multisectoral causes stressing further that nutrition integration across sectors was crucial to address malnutrition. He also stressed that the way in which nutrition programmes were implemented was crucial

Dr Joanne Raisin highlighted positive examples of nutrition integration such as for example in Ecuador where nutrition now sits at the heart of the National Development Plan, ensuring closer integration to other development sectors. Further bundling of services by combining for example immunisation and nutrition interventions was also pointed out as a crucial tool which will be considered in the forthcoming SUN 4.0 Strategy in 2025.