

Civil Society STATEMENT TO THE ICN2 PLENARY
20th November 2015 delivered by SAMUEL HAUENSTEIN SWAN (ACF)

As of yesterday, it is the member states of WHO and FAO's joint duty to translate the Rome Declaration and the FFA RECOMMENDATIONS into ACTION. We welcome Francesco Branca's announcement earlier today, to take the ICN2 outcome documents to the UNGA in order to see through the first promise made at the ICN2: to establish a DECADE OF ACTION on NUTRITION.

Every effort should now be made to achieve by 2025 the six existing World Health Assembly (WHA) targets - the only comprehensive set of global nutrition targets that currently exists. We also believe that the outcome documents of this conference must be used to underpin the proposed Post-2015 SDG to end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition by 2030.

The goal now must focus on the subject - - the malnourished in this world - today only 10% of undernourished children have access to treatment - and join the dots. Leave behind the divisions, but work for a truly multisector approach serving peasants, fishing communities, pastoralists, urban poor, consumers, women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and agricultural and food workers that go to bed hungry or ill feed and their children fallen ill with malnutrition.

We acknowledge the great efforts of individuals and member states to the FAO and WHO, which have enabled the two UN agencies here to come together under one goal: "better Nutrition for all". We call on your expertise and leadership to go the next urgent next step and unite us towards ambitious goals and targets which can be tracked and enable accountability. We would like to see this happen under one UN APPROACH FOR NUTRITION involving ALL RELEVANT AGENCIES. Only then will the global level be able to support the member states to translate actions and set targets where they matter most – at the local level.

The national process must follow the FIRST recommendation of the FFA which calls for social participation.

Civil society participation and ownership have made a significant contribution the ICN2 thus far and we commit here to support the development of viable and sustainable policies over the next decade. Not surprisingly, community-level participation in the policy-making and decision-making process improves the acceptance and impact of policies. To maximize support, involvement and, indeed, ownership of policies, from their inception to implementation, is key.

We further expect this process to be firmly anchored on the principals of a vibrant and flourishing equitable local food systems, environmentally sound and culturally and socially appropriate. A health system which is accessible to the population at all levels in line with WHO's strategy on Universal Health Coverage, Social protection that enables foremost women to care for their seven and children in their care. Agriculture that promotes adequate diets and protects small holders and ensure diversified diets and adequate nutrition.

We therefore trust that the framing of any global and national policy, programme and action on nutrition must start with an unambiguous understanding of the rights to adequate food and nutrition, health and safe water, are fundamental human rights, which identify people as rights-holders and states as duty-bearers with an obligation to respect, protect and fulfil these and other related rights.

We call on all stakeholders to the ICN2 to move from the "recommendation" to action now.