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CONFERENCE

Thirty-ninth Session

Rome, 6-13 June 2015

**Joint FAO/WHO Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)
(19-21 November 2014)**

Executive Summary

- The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), co-hosted by FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO), was successfully held in Rome from 19 to 21 November 2014.
- Leading up to ICN2, seven regional and sub-regional preparatory meetings were held from May 2011 through March 2013, as well as a Preparatory Technical Meeting in Rome from 13 to 15 November 2013.
- To negotiate the ICN2 outcome documents, a Joint Working Group of representatives of FAO and WHO Members held monthly meetings from March to September 2014, in a cost-effective way, through video conferencing between Geneva and Rome.
- The two outcome documents, the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action, were finalized in September-October 2014 at a five-day, face-to-face meeting of an Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) of the entire membership of FAO and WHO.
- UN partners and other international organizations, together with civil society and private sector representatives, were consulted through web-based public consultations on the ICN2 outcome documents, and they also took part in the meeting of the OEWG.
- Besides eminent special guests, over 2200 persons participated in ICN2, representing 164 Members of FAO and WHO, 27 UN and other intergovernmental organizations, as well as 164 civil society and private sector organizations.
- ICN2 included five plenary sessions, three thematic roundtables and nine side events. It was preceded by three special events: a meeting of civil society organizations; a meeting of private sector representatives; and a meeting of parliamentarians. The outcomes of the roundtables and special events were reported to the ICN2 closing session.
- At the opening session, ICN2 adopted by acclamation the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and its companion Framework for Action.
- The Rome Declaration on Nutrition acknowledges the multiple challenges of malnutrition to inclusive and sustainable development and to health; sets out a common vision for global action to end all forms of malnutrition; and lays down 10 specific commitments to action for addressing malnutrition in the coming decades.

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- The Framework for Action provides a set of voluntary policy options and strategies, in the form of 60 recommended actions, to guide the implementation of the commitments enshrined in the Rome Declaration on Nutrition.
- Since ICN2, follow-up action by the Secretariat mainly included: (a) designation of nutrition as a cross-cutting theme under Objective 6 in FAO's reviewed Strategic Framework, with a dedicated outcome statement in the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-2017, to secure further mainstreaming of nutrition within the Strategic Framework with a view to improving support to member states; (b) establishment of an Action for Nutrition Trust Fund to support governments in transforming ICN2 commitments into concrete actions; (c) strengthening capacity in the Nutrition Division for dedicated support to resources mobilization and operationalization of the Action for Nutrition Trust Fund, besides helping to coordinate ICN2 follow-up activities; and (d) initiatives to ensure monitoring and reporting on ICN2 follow-up to the FAO Governing Bodies.
- Follow-up activities undertaken collaboratively with partners, in particular WHO, included: (a) steps taken to enable the UN General Assembly to endorse the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action, as well as to proclaim a Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025); (b) efforts to improve inter-agency coordination and collaboration on nutrition, including to set up monitoring and reporting mechanisms; and (c) ICN2-related inputs to Expo Milano 2015 to focus attention on food security and nutrition.

Suggested action by the Conference

The Conference is invited to:

- Endorse the ICN2 Rome Declaration on Nutrition and Framework for Action;
- Urge FAO Members to implement the ICN2 commitments and recommendations;
- Call on resources partners to make voluntary contributions to the Action for Nutrition Trust Fund;
- Provide guidance on further ICN2 follow-up actions going forward.

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I. BACKGROUND

1. The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), co-hosted by FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO), was successfully held from 19 to 21 November 2014 at the Headquarters of FAO in Rome. A high-level political event, ICN2 was the first global intergovernmental forum devoted to addressing the world's nutrition problems in the 21st century.
2. In June 2013, at its 38th session, the FAO Conference fully supported the joint FAO/WHO initiative to convene ICN2. It agreed to hold a Preparatory Technical Meeting with a view to identifying themes around which ICN2 would be organized, and encouraged all countries to ensure effective national level preparations.¹
3. Leading up to ICN2, a series of preparatory sessions were held to bring together experts and stakeholders in the fields of agriculture, nutrition and health. These included seven regional and sub-regional preparatory meetings from May 2011 through March 2013, as well as a Preparatory Technical Meeting at FAO headquarters from 13 to 15 November 2013, which provided an informed basis for reaching broad consensus on the policy actions required for ICN2.²
4. Thus ICN2 was convened to: (i) review progress made since the 1992 International Conference on Nutrition, respond to new challenges and opportunities, and identify policy options for improving nutrition; (ii) bring food, agriculture, health and other sectors together and align their sectoral policies to improve nutrition in a sustainable manner; (iii) propose adaptable policy options and institutional frameworks that can adequately address major nutrition challenges in the foreseeable future; (iv) encourage greater political and policy coherence, alignment, coordination and cooperation among food, agriculture, health and other sectors; (v) mobilize the political will and resources to improve nutrition; and (vi) identify priorities for international cooperation on nutrition in the near and medium terms.

II. PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE

5. Following the Preparatory Technical Meeting, the FAO Council, at its 148th session held in December 2013, requested the ICN2 Joint Secretariat to develop a roadmap for an intergovernmental process and for consultations with civil society and private sector organizations, and encouraged it to prepare a zero draft of the Conference outcome document. It also invited the Independent Chairperson of Council to facilitate the process.³
6. In January 2014, at its 134th session, the WHO Executive Board further requested the Directors-General of WHO and FAO: (i) to set up a Joint Working Group (JWG) to prepare the draft outcome documents; and (ii) to explore the possibility of convening a meeting of an Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) for the finalization of the outcome documents.⁴
7. The JWG, composed of up to two members representing each of the seven FAO Regional Groups and each of the six WHO Regions, was led by two Co-Chairs and two Co-Vice-Chairs. It was tasked to prepare, in cooperation with the Joint Secretariat, a draft political outcome document and a draft framework for action. From March to September 2014, monthly meetings of the JWG were held, in a cost-effective way, through video conferencing between Geneva and Rome.

¹ C 2013/REP, paragraphs 80-81.

² *Proceedings - Preparatory Technical Meeting for the Joint FAO/WHO Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)*, Rome, Italy, November 13-15, 2013.

³ CL 148/REP, paragraph 11.

⁴ Decision EB 134(2), EB 134/DIV./3.

8. Subsequently, a face-to-face meeting of the OEWG, providing speaking rights to all FAO and WHO Members, was held in two parts: in Geneva on 22-23 September 2014, then in Rome from 10 to 12 October 2014. During this 5-day long meeting, negotiation of the Conference outcome documents was completed, and consensus was reached on the entire text of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and of the Framework for Action.⁵

9. Policy direction for the preparatory process was provided by the ICN2 Steering Committee, which included representatives from FAO and WHO, as well as from the following partners: the UN Secretary-General's High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis; International Fund for Agricultural Development; International Food Policy Research Institute; United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization; United Nations Children's Fund; World Bank; World Food Programme; and World Trade Organization.

10. United Nations partners, other international organizations, civil society, research community, academia and private sector organizations were consulted on the ICN2 outcome documents through various web-based public consultations. They also took part in the above-mentioned meeting of the OEWG.

11. To encourage consideration of regional perspectives in the Conference outcome documents, an information note on ICN2 was presented to the five Regional Conferences of FAO which took place in 2014, namely: the 32nd Regional Conference for the Near East; the 32nd Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific; the 28th Regional Conference for Africa; the 29th Regional Conference for Europe; and the 33rd Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean.⁶

III. PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE

12. A total of 164 Members of FAO and WHO, including 162 Member States, one Associate Member and the European Union, as well as three observers, were in attendance at ICN2. Besides eminent special guests, over 2200 persons participated in the Conference, including 85 Ministers, 23 Vice-Ministers, 82 Ambassadors and 114 other high-level government officials. Accredited observers included 27 United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations, as well as 164 civil society and private sector organizations. Participating countries and organizations are listed in the Report of the Conference.⁷

13. After the inaugural ceremony, the Conference included five plenary sessions, three thematic roundtables and nine side events.⁸ At the opening session, the Conference adopted by acclamation the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and its companion Framework for Action, as contained in Appendices I and II, respectively. Statements of position were made by Algeria, Canada and the United States of America.⁹

14. The ensuing General Debate involved 19 statements by special guests and other eminent personalities; 134 statements by heads of country delegations; and 21 statements from observer organizations. All the statements have been posted on the ICN2 website.¹⁰ Special guests included His

⁵ *Co-Chairs' Cover Note of the Conference Outcome Documents*, ICN2 2014/INF/5 Coord.1.

⁶ *Joint FAO/WHO Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)*, FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, Thirty-third Session, Santiago, Chile, 6-9 May 2014, LARC/14/INF/9. The same document was submitted to the other FAO Regional Conferences.

⁷ *Report of the Joint FAO/WHO Secretariat on the Conference*, December 2014, Annex IV. A web-link to the full list of participants is provided in paragraph 3 of the Report.

⁸ As per the approved timetable in document ICN2 2014/INF/1 Rev.1.

⁹ These statements are attached to the *Report of the Joint FAO/WHO Secretariat on the Conference* as Annex I.

¹⁰ The relevant web-links are provided in paragraphs 8 and 16 of the *Report of the Joint FAO/WHO Secretariat on the Conference*.

Holiness Pope Francis, who stated that the hungry need dignity and not charity; His Majesty King Letsie III of Lesotho, who highlighted the cost of hunger in Africa; Her Majesty Queen Letizia of Spain, who underscored that hunger was the main cause of disease in the world; and Her Royal Highness Princess Haya bint Al Hussein, who warned that inaction transforms us into instrument of hunger.

15. The roundtables covered the following themes: (i) Nutrition in the Post-2015 Development Agenda; (ii) Improving Policy Coherence for Nutrition, with three panel discussions addressing: coherence between economic policies and healthy changes in diets; policy coherence for nutrition-sensitive agriculture; and nutrition in all sectors; and (iii) Governance and Accountability for Nutrition, with two panel discussions addressing: nutrition governance; and nutrition accountability.¹¹ Chairs' summaries of the roundtable deliberations were presented at the closing session of the Conference.¹²

16. The topics of the nine side events were as follows: (i) targets and accountability for nutrition and the Post-2015 Development Agenda; (ii) Global Nutrition Report and Global Hunger Index; (iii) Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement and accountability for nutrition; (iv) agricultural policies and food systems for improved nutrition; (v) healthy children, growing societies: the UN nutrition networks' support to countries' stunting reduction efforts; (vi) addressing overweight and obesity; (vii) transition from safety net programs to comprehensive social protection systems: food security and nutrition perspective; (viii) promoting and achieving the Zero Hunger Challenge: UN at Expo Milano 2015 and South-South cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean; and (ix) food safety: a right or a privilege? Why food safety is an essential element of food and nutrition security.¹³

17. In addition to the main events, the Conference was preceded by three special events which took place in Rome, outside FAO premises, namely: (i) a meeting of civil society organizations on 17-18 November 2014; (ii) a meeting of private sector representatives on 18 November 2014; and (iii) a meeting of parliamentarians on 18 November 2014. The outcomes of these three special events were reported to the Conference at the closing session.¹⁴ Also prior to ICN2, the SUN Movement held its annual Global Gathering at the World Food Programme on 16-18 November 2014, and reported its outcome at a side event during the Conference.

18. The final report of ICN2 was compiled by the Joint FAO/WHO Secretariat in December 2014, subsequently translated in all UN languages, and then posted on the ICN2 website in January 2015.¹⁵

IV. OUTCOMES OF THE CONFERENCE

19. By adopting the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action, world leaders renewed their commitment to establish and implement policies aimed at eradicating malnutrition and transforming food systems to make nutritious diets available to all.

¹¹ The web-link to the detailed programmes of the roundtables is provided in paragraph 21 of the *Report of the Joint FAO/WHO Secretariat on the Conference*.

¹² The Chairs' summaries of the roundtables are contained in Annex III of the *Report of the Joint FAO/WHO Secretariat on the Conference*.

¹³ The web-link to the detailed programmes of the side events is provided in paragraph 25 of the *Report of the Joint FAO/WHO Secretariat on the Conference*.

¹⁴ The statements made by the representatives of the three pre-Conference events are contained in Annex II of the *Report of the Joint FAO/WHO Secretariat on the Conference*.

¹⁵ The *Report of the Joint FAO/WHO Secretariat on the Conference* is available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mm531e.pdf>.

Rome Declaration on Nutrition

20. Primarily designed as a political statement, the Rome Declaration on Nutrition first acknowledges the multiple challenges of malnutrition to inclusive and sustainable development and to health; it then sets out a common vision for global action to end all forms of malnutrition; and it finally lays down 10 specific commitments to action for addressing malnutrition in the coming decades, as outlined below:

- a) Eradicate hunger and prevent all forms of malnutrition worldwide;
- b) Increase investments for effective interventions and actions to improve people's diets and nutrition;
- c) Enhance sustainable food systems by developing coherent public policies from production to consumption and across relevant sectors;
- d) Raise the profile of nutrition within relevant national strategies, policies, action plans and programmes, and align national resources accordingly;
- e) Improve nutrition by strengthening human and institutional capacities through relevant research and development, innovation and appropriate technology transfer;
- f) Strengthen and facilitate contributions and action by all stakeholders, and promote collaboration within and across countries;
- g) Develop policies, programmes and initiatives for ensuring healthy diets throughout the life course;
- h) Empower people and create an enabling environment for making informed choices about food products for healthy dietary practices and appropriate infant and young child feeding practices through improved health and nutrition information and education;
- i) Implement the commitments of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition through the Framework for Action;
- j) Give due consideration to integrating the vision and commitments of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition into the post-2015 development agenda process, including through a possible related global goal.

Framework for Action

21. The Framework for Action provides a set of voluntary policy options and strategies, in the form of 60 recommended actions, to guide the implementation of the wide-ranging commitments enshrined in the Rome Declaration on Nutrition. Major messages that emerge from the Framework for Action are as follows:

- a) For effective implementation of policies to improve nutrition, an enabling policy environment is essential. This means explicit political commitment, greater investment, cross-government policies and plans, along with multi-stakeholder governance mechanisms;
- b) Sustainable food systems are key to promoting healthy diets, and innovative food system solutions are needed;
- c) While information and education concerning healthy dietary practices are vital, consumers must also be empowered through enabling food environments that provide safe, diverse and healthy diets;
- d) While a food systems approach is essential, coherent action is also needed in other sectors. These include international trade and investment, nutrition education and information, social protection, health system delivery of direct nutrition interventions, and other health services to promote nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, and food safety;

- e) The existing global targets for improving maternal, infant and young child nutrition and for noncommunicable disease risk factor reduction are appropriate for the purposes of accountability.

22. Governments have primary responsibility for taking action at country level, in dialogue with relevant stakeholders. Hence, the recommendations of the Framework for Action are principally addressed to governments which, according to their specific needs, conditions and priorities, will consider the appropriateness of incorporating the recommended policies and actions into their nutrition, health, agriculture, education, development and investment plans. In addition, the UN system, especially FAO and WHO, and other international and regional organizations, have an important role to play in supporting national and regional efforts in enhancing international cooperation and in monitoring follow-up to ICN2.

23. The 60 recommendations in the Framework for Action call for a variety of actions that may be broadly grouped in six clusters as follows:

- a) *Creating an enabling environment for effective action* (recommendations 1-7);
- b) *Increasing actions for sustainable food systems promoting healthy diets* (recommendations 8-16);
- c) *Achieving global food and nutrition targets through trade and investment policies* (recommendations 17-18);
- d) *Enhancing social protection, nutrition education and information to build capacities* (recommendations 19-24);
- e) *Creating strong and resilient health systems to address all forms of malnutrition* (recommendations 25-57);
- f) *Improving accountability mechanisms for nutrition* (recommendations 58-60).

V. FOLLOW-UP TO THE CONFERENCE

A. Action within FAO

Mainstreaming nutrition within the Strategic Framework

24. In direct follow-up to ICN2, nutrition has been included as a cross-cutting theme within the reviewed Medium Term Plan 2014-17, under Objective 6 on Technical Quality, Knowledge and Services¹⁶, which was appreciated by the Council at its 151st session in March 2015. The quality and coherence of FAO's work on nutrition will be ensured through a new Outcome (6.5), providing indicators and resources for overall technical leadership of FAO's work on nutrition to deliver technical support to member states, while promoting implementation of a set of minimum standards and a corporate approach for mainstreaming nutrition across the Strategic Objectives, guided by FAO's nutrition strategy and vision.¹⁷ Outcome 6.5 will also cover technical support to resource mobilization and nutrition communication, as well as policy and operational co-ordination in the UN system, including collaboration with UN agencies to compile reports on implementation of the commitments in the Rome Declaration on Nutrition.

25. A recent illustration of these efforts is the endorsement, by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture at its 5th session (19-23 January 2015), of *Guidelines for Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Policies, Programmes and National and Regional Plans of Action on*

¹⁶ C 2015/3.

¹⁷ PC 112/2.

*Nutrition.*¹⁸ The Guidelines support the development of nutrition-sensitive agriculture that considers the nutrient composition of biodiversity for food and agriculture to address malnutrition in all its forms.

26. The Nutrition Division coordinates and reports on FAO's work on nutrition through a team composed of representatives from offices and Strategic Objective Core Teams which deal with nutrition-related activities.

27. In 2015 and during the following biennium, FAO will implement activities in support of the ICN2 outcomes, in particular within the sections of the Framework for Action that directly relate to the Organization's mandate. Examples of activities being carried out and which will be intensified are highlighted below.

Enabling environment for effective action

28. To enhance and monitor the nutritional impact of food and agriculture policies and programmes, FAO will increase its technical assistance to countries and strengthen capacity development efforts on mainstreaming nutrition in sectoral policies and programmes that have an impact on food supply systems and on dietary assessment. To this end, it will disseminate key instruments, tools and guidelines to facilitate training and capacity development in food and diet related nutrition issues. FAO will also continue to work with partners, such as IFAD, the African Union and the World Bank, to mainstream nutrition in agricultural investment programmes.

29. In partnership with WHO, FAO will continue to provide scientific advice on nutrition to the Codex Alimentarius Commission, through the Codex Committee on Nutrition for Special Dietary Uses and the Codex Committee on Food Labelling. FAO will further strengthen its work in food and nutrition labelling and develop a handbook on nutrition labelling for building the capacity in countries to adopt and implement nutrition labelling policies and programmes ensuring that consumers have clear information about the nutritional quality of food.

Sustainable food systems promoting healthy diets

30. FAO will continue to support countries to review and update their food and agriculture policies, strategies, investment plans and programmes with the aim of better integrating nutrition objectives for nutrition-enhancing food systems through Strategic Objective 4.

31. Collaboration between FAO's Departments and Divisions will be reinforced with a view to improving nutritional outcomes through optimal value chains, especially involving smallholder and family farmers.

International trade and investment

32. FAO will continue to provide countries with information and analysis to guide the formulation and implementation of trade and investment policies and regulations supportive of improved food consumption patterns and nutritional status. This will include support in implementing the Principles for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems, which promote the nutritional value of food and agricultural products. In disseminating this knowledge, the 2015 edition of the State of Agricultural Commodity Markets will provide an improved understanding of the relationship between trade and nutritional outcomes.

33. With a view to enhancing countries' capacity to participate more effectively in multilateral and regional trade negotiations, FAO will develop countries' capacities to incorporate international

¹⁸ *Biodiversity and Nutrition*, CGRFA-15/15/6.

guidance on responsible investment for food and nutrition security in their agricultural policies, strategies and laws.

34. FAO will facilitate dialogue among public and private sector stakeholders on the development of rules-based systems of market and trade policy intervention to ensure better environments for investment in food system development conducive to improved nutritional security.

35. FAO will continue its ongoing technical and policy support to the New Partnership for Africa's Development, through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, for better nutrition-sensitive investment planning, while scaling up and adapting lessons learnt for other regions, e.g. Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Nutrition education and information

36. FAO will strengthen and expand its work in nutrition information and education by identifying and fostering appropriate policy options and developing a package of tools aimed at creating institutional capacities and skills to promote healthy and diversified diets. FAO will also provide direct support to countries in the development and implementation of dietary guidelines, in collaboration with partners, including WHO. In addition, FAO will review national and international dietary guidelines that address the concept of sustainable and healthy diets, with a view to revising international scientific guidance in this regard.

37. FAO will strengthen and expand its ongoing work to integrate nutrition education into school curricula to promote lifelong healthy eating habits. Work will be initiated to support countries in defining nutrition standards for sustainable school meal programmes linked with local agriculture. Linkages will be forged with farm-to-school programmes to ensure synergies and integration in order to achieve better child nutrition outcomes.

Social protection

38. FAO will support countries and partners to mainstream nutrition in social protection and resilience-building policies and programmes through Strategic Objectives 3 and 5, with a focus on capacity-development of partners for nutrition-sensitive planning, providing technical guidance for enhancing and monitoring the nutritional impact of social protection and resilience programmes.

39. FAO is working to strengthen school food and nutrition strategies and programmes in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean to improve child nutrition by integrating nutrition education into sustainable school meal programmes and linking to local agriculture. The joint WFP/FAO/Brazil "Purchase from Africans for Africa" initiative promotes food and nutrition security and supports family income-generation through home-grown food supply of school feeding programmes in five African countries, which contributes to the implementation of the "Renewed Partnership to End Hunger in Africa".

Setting up of the Action for Nutrition Trust Fund

40. Acting on recommendation 4 of the Framework for Action, which calls for increasing responsible and sustainable investment in nutrition, and for generating additional resources through innovative financing tools, FAO has established the Action for Nutrition Trust Fund to support governments in transforming the ICN2 commitments into concrete actions.

41. This multi-donor trust fund is meant to become the preferred conduit in the Organization for alignment of un-earmarked or lightly earmarked contributions for nutrition, mobilizing resources for country programmes and projects that: (i) foster enabling environments for nutrition; (ii) promote sustainable food systems for healthy diets; (iii) support nutrition-enhancing investment and trade; (iv) strengthen nutrition education and information; (v) improve food safety, water supply, sanitation

and hygiene; (vi) enhance social protection for improved nutrition; and (vii) ensure accountability for ICN2 follow-up through enhanced monitoring mechanisms.

42. A Steering Committee comprising representatives from major contributors, civil society and the private sector will provide strategic guidance and set priorities for activities financed by the Fund.

43. At its 151st session, the Council encouraged resource partners to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund. Thus, a call for voluntary contributions was made in early April 2015. Through a letter of the Director-General, resource partners have been invited to support FAO's work on enhancing nutrition through the Fund, especially to finance nutrition-related activities, programmes and projects stemming from the ICN2 commitments. FAO is also using every formal and informal opportunity to encourage resource partners to contribute to the Fund both through their regular funding cycles and through special measures.

44. Dedicated capacity has been strengthened in the Nutrition Division (ESN). Besides helping to coordinate ICN2 follow-up activities, this is aimed at supporting implementation of the resource mobilization, management and communication action plan of the Fund, ensuring adequate planning and operation of projects and programmes. In this context, under the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-2017, two new professional posts are to be established in ESN for priority work on nutrition.

45. In addition, to enhance the operational capacity of the Organization on delivery for better nutrition in the field, and in accordance with the decentralization and mobility policy, nutrition officers are being deployed in decentralized offices.

Reporting to FAO Governing Bodies on ICN2 follow-up

46. In line with the accountability recommendations of the Framework for Action, FAO Governing Bodies are requested to consider the inclusion of reports on the overall follow-up to ICN2 on the agendas of their regular meetings. Before the present Conference report, similar papers have been submitted to previous sessions of Council in December 2014 and March 2015.¹⁹ Future sessions of Council and Conference should, as appropriate, continue to have such reports on their agendas to ensure continuous oversight on the implementation of ICN2 commitments.

47. The Regional Conferences, which are explicitly mentioned in recommendation 60 of the Framework for Action, should also receive ICN2 follow-up reports, when they next meet over the course of 2016, and in the following biennia as appropriate.

48. Likewise, FAO's technical committees could discuss and advise on nutrition matters stemming from implementation of ICN2 recommendations from the perspective of their mandates.

B. Action beyond FAO

UN General Assembly backing of the ICN2 outcomes

49. The Rome Declaration on Nutrition called upon the UN General Assembly: to endorse the two outcome documents of ICN2; and to consider declaring a Decade of Action on Nutrition from 2016 to 2025 (para. 17). Thus, in late November 2014 the Directors-General of FAO and WHO wrote to the Secretary General of the United Nations requesting him to arrange for the General Assembly to act on this recommendation. This action was noted with appreciation by the Council at its 151st session.

50. The essential purpose of the Decade of Action on Nutrition is to translate the agreed commitments of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and its companion Framework for Action into sustained and coherent action by governments and the UN System, with overall international

¹⁹ *Joint FAO/WHO Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) (19-21 November 2014)*, CL 150/10 and CL 151/9.

coordination jointly provided by FAO and WHO. A Decade of Action on Nutrition would provide the opportunity for effective action within a period of ten years to support countries to make significant progress in addressing malnutrition, with clearly set goals and objectives to be achieved.

51. FAO and WHO have prepared and submitted a concept note to the relevant entity in New York in February 2015. The concept note outlined how the Decade of Action on Nutrition would ensure sustained and coherent actions by governments, the UN system and other stakeholders, and would unify various initiatives around nutrition.

52. Various steps have been taken, in collaboration with WHO and in liaison with the relevant UN system entities in New York, to facilitate the process through which the UN General Assembly would be in a position to: (i) endorse the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action; and (ii) declare a Decade of Action on Nutrition from 2016 to 2025. In this context, FAO and WHO are working, in consultation with other UN agencies and stakeholders, on the substantive contents of the proposed Decade of Action on Nutrition. UN guidelines for the proclamation of international decades call for a programme of action with clearly defined objectives and activities to be carried out at the international, regional and national levels.

Coordination and collaboration efforts on nutrition

53. At its 150th session, the Council indicated that efforts to improve UN system coordination on nutrition should be based on the strengthening of existing mechanisms. It welcomed further steps being considered to enable the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to serve as the appropriate intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder global forum on nutrition. At the CFS Joint Bureau and Advisory Group meetings on 2 February and 2 March 2015, a paper on CFS and its role in advancing nutrition was discussed. The meeting generally welcomed the need for CFS to have a more visible role in nutrition and the CFS Bureau agreed on several short term steps. In the medium to longer term, further options will be considered through the CFS Multiyear Programme of Work process.

54. At the same session, the Council also encouraged FAO to develop, in cooperation with other UN partners, a coherent mechanism for monitoring progress on the implementation of the ICN2 outcomes.²⁰ FAO will continue to collaborate with relevant UN bodies, international organizations and other partners for the preparation of the annual Global Nutrition Report.

55. Moreover, stressing that nutrition is a key element of sustainable development, the Council looked forward to the integration of the Framework for Action into the Post-2015 Development Agenda.²¹ In this connection, the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition has developed, with inputs from FAO, WHO and other UN agencies, a policy paper indicating the potential areas for the inclusion of nutrition in the 17 proposed Sustainable Development Goals, with relevant nutrition indicators²².

56. At its 151st session, the Council expressed satisfaction with the above follow-up actions taken by FAO in collaboration with partners.

Linking ICN2 follow-up to Expo Milan

57. In line with the Rome Declaration on Nutrition (paragraph 14-p), Expo Milano 2015, dedicated to “feeding the planet, energy for life”, will be used as a platform to extend and amplify the food security and nutrition messages of ICN2 and to promote its outcomes, thus reinforcing coherence, synergies and mutual alignment between the two events. In this respect, FAO will participate in the following events to be organized at Expo Milano: (i) “The Ideas of Expo 2015 - The Charter of Milan”; (ii) “Agrobiodiversity and improvement of human nutrition”; and (ii) “The Post 2015

²⁰ CL 150/REP, para. 43-d).

²¹ CL 150/REP, para. 45.

²² <http://unscn.org/en/publications/nutrition-and-post-2015-agenda>.

Development Agenda: sustainable agriculture and food and nutrition security”. All of these events will provide the opportunity to incorporate the messages from ICN2.

VI. SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

58. The Conference is invited to:
- a) Endorse the ICN2 Rome Declaration on Nutrition and Framework for Action;
 - b) Urge FAO Members to implement the ICN2 commitments and recommendations;
 - c) Call on resources partners to make voluntary contributions to the Action for Nutrition Trust Fund;
 - d) Provide guidance on further ICN2 follow-up actions going forward.

Appendix I**ROME DECLARATION ON NUTRITION**

Welcoming the participation of Heads of State and Government and other high-level guests,

1. We, Ministers and Representatives of the Members of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), assembled at the Second International Conference on Nutrition in Rome from 19 to 21 November 2014, jointly organized by FAO and WHO, to address the multiple challenges of malnutrition in all its forms and identify opportunities for tackling them in the next decades.

2. Reaffirming the commitments made at the first International Conference on Nutrition in 1992, and the World Food Summits in 1996 and 2002 and the World Summit on Food Security in 2009, as well as in relevant international targets and action plans, including the WHO 2025 Global Nutrition Targets and the WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases 2013-2020.

3. Reaffirming the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient, and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger consistent with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other relevant United Nations instruments.

Multiple challenges of malnutrition to inclusive and sustainable development and to health

4. Acknowledge that malnutrition, in all its forms, including undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity, not only affects people's health and wellbeing by impacting negatively on human physical and cognitive development, compromising the immune system, increasing susceptibility to communicable and noncommunicable diseases, restricting the attainment of human potential and reducing productivity, but also poses a high burden in the form of negative social and economic consequences to individuals, families, communities and States.

5. Recognize that the root causes of and factors leading to malnutrition are complex and multidimensional:

- a) poverty, underdevelopment and low socio-economic status are major contributors to malnutrition in both rural and urban areas;
- b) the lack of access at all times to sufficient food, which is adequate both in quantity and quality which conforms with the beliefs, culture, traditions, dietary habits and preferences of individuals in accordance with national and international laws and obligations;
- c) malnutrition is often aggravated by poor infant and young child feeding and care practices, poor sanitation and hygiene, lack of access to education, quality health systems and safe drinking water, foodborne infections and parasitic infestations, ingestion of harmful levels of contaminants due to unsafe food from production to consumption;
- d) epidemics, such as of the Ebola virus disease, pose tremendous challenges to food security and nutrition.

6. Acknowledge that different forms of malnutrition co-exist within most countries; while dietary risk affects all socio-economic groups, large inequalities exist in nutritional status, exposure to risk and adequacy of dietary energy and nutrient intake, between and within countries.

7. Recognize that some socioeconomic and environmental changes can have an impact on dietary and physical activity patterns, leading to higher susceptibility to obesity and noncommunicable diseases through increasing sedentary lifestyles and consumption of food that is high in fat, especially saturated and trans-fats, sugars, and salt/sodium.
8. Recognize the need to address the impacts of climate change and other environmental factors on food security and nutrition, in particular on the quantity, quality and diversity of food produced, taking appropriate action to tackle negative effects.
9. Recognize that conflict and post conflict situations, humanitarian emergencies and protracted crises, including, *inter alia*, droughts, floods and desertification as well as pandemics, hinder food security and nutrition.
10. Acknowledge that current food systems are being increasingly challenged to provide adequate, safe, diversified and nutrient rich food for all that contribute to healthy diets due to, *inter alia*, constraints posed by resource scarcity and environmental degradation, as well as by unsustainable production and consumption patterns, food losses and waste, and unbalanced distribution.
11. Acknowledge that trade is a key element in achieving food security and nutrition and that trade policies are to be conducive to fostering food security and nutrition for all, through a fair and market-oriented world trade system, and reaffirm the need to refrain from unilateral measures not in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, and which endanger food security and nutrition, as stated in the 1996 Rome Declaration.
12. Note with profound concern that, notwithstanding significant achievements in many countries, recent decades have seen modest and uneven progress in reducing malnutrition and estimated figures show that:
 - a) the prevalence of undernourishment has moderately declined, but absolute numbers remain unacceptably high with an estimated 805 million people suffering chronically from hunger in 2012-2014;
 - b) chronic malnutrition as measured by stunting has declined, but in 2013 still affected 161 million children under five years of age, while acute malnutrition (wasting) affected 51 million children under five years of age;
 - c) undernutrition was the main underlying cause of death in children under five, causing 45% of all child deaths in the world in 2013;
 - d) over two billion people suffer from micronutrient deficiencies, in particular vitamin A, iodine, iron and zinc, among others;
 - e) overweight and obesity among both children and adults have been increasing rapidly in all regions, with 42 million children under five years of age affected by overweight in 2013 and over 500 million adults affected by obesity in 2010;
 - f) dietary risk factors, together with inadequate physical activity, account for almost 10% of the global burden of disease and disability.

A common vision for global action to end all forms of malnutrition

13. We reaffirm that:
 - a) the elimination of malnutrition in all its forms is an imperative for health, ethical, political, social and economic reasons, paying particular attention to the special needs of children,

women, the elderly, persons with disabilities, other vulnerable groups as well as people in humanitarian emergencies;

- b) nutrition policies should promote a diversified, balanced and healthy diet at all stages of life. In particular, special attention should be given to the first 1,000 days, from the start of pregnancy to two years of age, pregnant and lactating women, women of reproductive age, and adolescent girls, by promoting and supporting adequate care and feeding practices, including exclusive breast feeding during the first six months, and continued breastfeeding until two years of age and beyond with appropriate complementary feeding. Healthy diets should be fostered in preschools, schools, public institutions, at the workplace and at home, as well as healthy eating by families;
- c) coordinated action among different actors, across all relevant sectors at international, regional, national and community levels, needs to be supported through cross-cutting and coherent policies, programmes and initiatives, including social protection, to address the multiple burdens of malnutrition and to promote sustainable food systems;
- d) food should not be used as an instrument for political or economic pressure;
- e) excessive volatility of prices of food and agricultural commodities can negatively impact food security and nutrition, and needs to be better monitored and addressed for the challenges it poses;
- f) improvements in diet and nutrition require relevant legislative frameworks for food safety and quality, including for the proper use of agrochemicals, by promoting participation in the activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission for the development of international standards for food safety and quality, as well as for improving information for consumers, while avoiding inappropriate marketing and publicity of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children, as recommended by resolution WHA63.14;
- g) nutrition data and indicators, as well as the capacity of, and support to all countries, especially developing countries, for data collection and analysis, need to be improved in order to contribute to more effective nutrition surveillance, policy making and accountability;
- h) empowerment of consumers is necessary through improved and evidence-based health and nutrition information and education to make informed choices regarding consumption of food products for healthy dietary practices;
- i) national health systems should integrate nutrition while providing access for all to integrated health services through a continuum of care approach, including health promotion and disease prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, and contribute to reducing inequalities through addressing specific nutrition-related needs and vulnerabilities of different population groups;
- j) nutrition and other related policies should pay special attention to women and empower women and girls, thereby contributing to women's full and equal access to social protection and resources, including, *inter alia*, income, land, water, finance, education, training, science and technology, and health services, thus promoting food security and health.

14. We recognize that:

- a) international cooperation and Official Development Assistance for nutrition should support and complement national nutrition strategies, policies and programmes, and surveillance initiatives, as appropriate;

- b) the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security is fostered through sustainable, equitable, accessible in all cases, and resilient and diverse food systems;
- c) collective action is instrumental to improve nutrition, requiring collaboration between governments, the private sector, civil society and communities;
- d) non-discriminatory and secure access and utilization of resources in accordance with international law are important for food security and nutrition;
- e) food and agriculture systems, including crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, need to be addressed comprehensively through coordinated public policies, taking into account the resources, investment, environment, people, institutions and processes with which food is produced, processed, stored, distributed, prepared and consumed;
- f) family farmers and small holders, notably women farmers, play an important role in reducing malnutrition and should be supported by integrated and multisectoral public policies, as appropriate, that raise their productive capacity and incomes and strengthen their resilience;
- g) wars, occupations, terrorism, civil disturbances and natural disasters, disease outbreaks and epidemics, as well as human rights violations and inappropriate socio-economic policies, have resulted in tens of millions of refugees, displaced persons, war affected non-combatant civilian populations and migrants, who are among the most nutritionally vulnerable groups. Resources for rehabilitating and caring for these groups are often extremely inadequate and nutritional deficiencies are common. All responsible parties should cooperate to ensure the safe and timely passage and distribution of food and medical supplies to those in need, which conforms with the beliefs, culture, traditions, dietary habits and preferences of individuals, in accordance with national legislation and international law and obligations and the Charter of the United Nations;
- h) responsible investment in agriculture¹, including small holders and family farming and in food systems, is essential for overcoming malnutrition;
- i) governments should protect consumers, especially children, from inappropriate marketing and publicity of food;
- j) nutrition improvement requires healthy, balanced, diversified diets, including traditional diets where appropriate, meeting nutrient requirements of all age groups, and all groups with special nutrition needs, while avoiding the excessive intake of saturated fat, sugars and salt/sodium, and virtually eliminating trans-fat, among others;
- k) food systems should provide year-round access to foods that cover people's nutrient needs and promote healthy dietary practices;
- l) food systems need to contribute to preventing and addressing infectious diseases, including zoonotic diseases, and tackling antimicrobial resistance;
- m) food systems, including all components of production, processing and distribution should be sustainable, resilient and efficient in providing more diverse foods in an equitable manner, with due attention to assessing environmental and health impacts;

¹ The term agriculture includes crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries.

- n) food losses and waste throughout the food chain should be reduced in order to contribute to food security, nutrition, and sustainable development;
- o) the United Nations system, including the Committee on World Food Security, and international and regional financial institutions should work more effectively together in order to support national and regional efforts, as appropriate, and enhance international cooperation and development assistance to accelerate progress in addressing malnutrition;
- p) EXPO MILANO 2015, dedicated to “feeding the planet, energy for life”, among other relevant events and fora, will provide an opportunity to stress the importance of food security and nutrition, raise public awareness, foster debate, and give visibility to the ICN2 outcomes.

Commitment to action

15. We commit to:

- a) eradicate hunger and prevent all forms of malnutrition worldwide, particularly undernourishment, stunting, wasting, underweight and overweight in children under five years of age; and anaemia in women and children among other micronutrient deficiencies; as well as reverse the rising trends in overweight and obesity and reduce the burden of diet-related noncommunicable diseases in all age groups;
- b) increase investments for effective interventions and actions to improve people’s diets and nutrition, including in emergency situations;
- c) enhance sustainable food systems by developing coherent public policies from production to consumption and across relevant sectors to provide year-round access to food that meets people’s nutrition needs and promote safe and diversified healthy diets;
- d) raise the profile of nutrition within relevant national strategies, policies, actions plans and programmes, and align national resources accordingly;
- e) improve nutrition by strengthening human and institutional capacities to address all forms of malnutrition through, *inter alia*, relevant scientific and socio-economic research and development, innovation and transfer of appropriate technologies on mutually agreed terms and conditions;
- f) strengthen and facilitate contributions and action by all stakeholders to improve nutrition and promote collaboration within and across countries, including North-South cooperation, as well as South-South and triangular cooperation;
- g) develop policies, programmes and initiatives for ensuring healthy diets throughout the life course, starting from the early stages of life to adulthood, including of people with special nutritional needs, before and during pregnancy, in particular during the first 1,000 days, promoting, protecting and supporting exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months and continued breastfeeding until two years of age and beyond with appropriate complementary feeding, healthy eating by families, and at school during childhood, as well as other specialized feeding;
- h) empower people and create an enabling environment for making informed choices about food products for healthy dietary practices and appropriate infant and young child feeding practices through improved health and nutrition information and education;
- i) implement the commitments of this Declaration through the Framework for Action which will also contribute to ensuring accountability and monitoring progress in global nutrition targets;

- j) give due consideration to integrating the vision and commitments of this Declaration into the post-2015 development agenda process including a possible related global goal.

16. We call on FAO and WHO, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as well as other international organizations, to support national governments, upon request, in developing, strengthening and implementing their policies, programmes and plans to address the multiple challenges of malnutrition.

17. We recommend to the United Nations General Assembly to endorse the Rome Declaration on Nutrition, as well as the Framework for Action which provides a set of voluntary policy options and strategies for use by governments, as appropriate, and to consider declaring a Decade of Action on Nutrition from 2016 to 2025 within existing structures and available resources.

Appendix II**FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION
FROM COMMITMENTS TO ACTION****Background**

1. There has been a significant improvement in reducing hunger and malnutrition of the world's population since the 1992 International Conference on Nutrition (ICN). Yet, progress in reducing hunger and undernutrition has been uneven and unacceptably slow. The fundamental challenge today is to sustainably improve nutrition through implementation of coherent policies and better coordinated actions across all relevant sectors.

Purpose and targets

2. The nature of this Framework for Action is voluntary. Its purpose is to guide the implementation of the commitments of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition adopted by the Second International Conference on Nutrition held in Rome, Italy, on 19-21 November 2014. Building on existing commitments, goals and targets, this Framework for Action provides a set of policy options and strategies which governments¹, acting in cooperation with other stakeholders, may incorporate, as appropriate, into their national nutrition, health, agriculture², development and investment plans, and consider in negotiating international agreements to achieve better nutrition for all.

3. As governments have primary responsibility for taking action at country level, in dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders, including affected communities, the recommendations are principally addressed to government leaders. They will consider the appropriateness of the recommended policies and actions in relation to national needs and conditions, as well as regional and national priorities, including in legal frameworks. For the purpose of accountability, this Framework for Action adopts existing global targets for improving maternal, infant and young child nutrition³ and for noncommunicable disease risk factor reduction⁴ to be achieved by 2025.

Recommended set of policy and programme options

4. The following set of policy and programme options are recommended to create an enabling environment and to improve nutrition in all sectors.

Recommended actions to create an enabling environment for effective action

- Recommendation 1: Enhance political commitment and social participation for improving nutrition at the country level through political dialogue and advocacy.

¹ The term 'governments' is understood to include the European Union and other regional organizations on matters of their competency.

² In this document, the term 'agriculture' comprises crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries.

³ Namely: (1) 40% reduction of the global number of children under five who are stunted; (2) 50% reduction of anaemia in women of reproductive age; (3) 30% reduction of low birth weight; (4) no increase in childhood overweight; (5) increase exclusive breastfeeding rates in the first six months up to at least 50%; and (6) reduce and maintain childhood wasting to less than 5%.

⁴ Namely: (1) to reduce salt intake by 30%; and (2) to halt the increase in obesity prevalence in adolescents and adults.

- Recommendation 2: Develop – or revise, as appropriate – and cost National Nutrition Plans, align policies that impact nutrition across different ministries and agencies, and strengthen legal frameworks and strategic capacities for nutrition.
- Recommendation 3: Strengthen and establish, as appropriate, national cross-government, inter-sector, multi-stakeholder mechanisms for food security and nutrition to oversee implementation of policies, strategies, programmes and other investments in nutrition. Such platforms may be needed at various levels, with robust safeguards against abuse and conflicts of interest.
- Recommendation 4: Increase responsible and sustainable investment in nutrition, especially at country level with domestic finance; generate additional resources through innovative financing tools; engage development partners to increase Official Development Assistance in nutrition and foster private investments as appropriate.
- Recommendation 5: Improve the availability, quality, quantity, coverage and management of multisectoral information systems related to food and nutrition for improved policy development and accountability.
- Recommendation 6: Promote inter-country collaboration, such as North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, and information exchange on nutrition, food, technology, research, policies and programmes.
- Recommendation 7: Strengthen nutrition governance and coordinate policies, strategies and programmes of United Nations system agencies, programmes and funds within their respective mandates.

Recommended actions for sustainable food systems promoting healthy diets

- Recommendation 8: Review national policies and investments and integrate nutrition objectives into food and agriculture policy, programme design and implementation, to enhance nutrition sensitive agriculture, ensure food security and enable healthy diets.
- Recommendation 9: Strengthen local food production and processing, especially by smallholder⁵ and family farmers, giving special attention to women's empowerment, while recognizing that efficient and effective trade is key to achieving nutrition objectives.
- Recommendation 10: Promote the diversification of crops including underutilized traditional crops, more production of fruits and vegetables, and appropriate production of animal-source products as needed, applying sustainable food production and natural resource management practices.
- Recommendation 11: Improve storage, preservation, transport and distribution technologies and infrastructure to reduce seasonal food insecurity, food and nutrient loss and waste.
- Recommendation 12: Establish and strengthen institutions, policies, programmes and services to enhance the resilience of the food supply in crisis-prone areas, including areas affected by climate change.

⁵ Smallholder farmers include agriculture and food workers, artisanal fisherfolk, pastoralists, indigenous peoples and the landless (Committee on World Food Security, Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition, 2013).

- Recommendation 13: Develop, adopt and adapt, where appropriate, international guidelines on healthy diets.
- Recommendation 14: Encourage gradual reduction of saturated fat, sugars and salt/sodium and trans-fat from foods and beverages to prevent excessive intake by consumers and improve nutrient content of foods, as needed.
- Recommendation 15: Explore regulatory and voluntary instruments – such as marketing, publicity and labelling policies, economic incentives or disincentives in accordance with Codex Alimentarius and World Trade Organization rules – to promote healthy diets.
- Recommendation 16: Establish food or nutrient-based standards to make healthy diets and safe drinking water accessible in public facilities such as hospitals, childcare facilities, workplaces, universities, schools, food and catering services, government offices and prisons, and encourage the establishment of facilities for breastfeeding.

Recommended actions in international trade and investment

- Recommendation 17: Encourage governments, United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, the World Trade Organization and other international organizations to identify opportunities to achieve global food and nutrition targets, through trade and investment policies.
- Recommendation 18: Improve the availability and access of the food supply through appropriate trade agreements and policies and endeavour to ensure that such agreements and policies do not have a negative impact on the right to adequate food in other countries⁶.

Recommended actions for nutrition education and information

- Recommendation 19: Implement nutrition education and information interventions based on national dietary guidelines and coherent policies related to food and diets, through improved school curricula, nutrition education in the health, agriculture and social protection services, community interventions and point-of-sale information, including labelling.
- Recommendation 20: Build nutrition skills and capacity to undertake nutrition education activities, particularly for front line workers, social workers, agricultural extension personnel, teachers and health professionals.
- Recommendation 21: Conduct appropriate social marketing campaigns and lifestyle change communication programmes to promote physical activity, dietary diversification, consumption of micronutrient-rich foods such as fruits and vegetables, including traditional local foods and taking into consideration cultural aspects, better child and maternal nutrition, appropriate care practices and adequate breastfeeding and complementary feeding, targeted and adapted for different audiences and stakeholders in the food system.

Recommended actions on social protection

- Recommendation 22: Incorporate nutrition objectives into social protection programmes and into humanitarian assistance safety net programmes.
- Recommendation 23: Use cash and food transfers, including school feeding programmes and other forms of social protection for vulnerable populations to improve diets through better access to

⁶ United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/68/177, paragraph 25.

food which conforms with the beliefs, culture, traditions, dietary habits and preferences of individuals in accordance with national and international laws and obligations, and which is nutritionally adequate for healthy diets.

- Recommendation 24: Increase income for the most vulnerable populations by creating decent jobs for all, including through the promotion of self-employment.

Recommended actions for strong and resilient health systems

- Recommendation 25: Strengthen health systems and promote universal health coverage⁷, particularly through primary health care, to enable national health systems to address malnutrition in all its forms.
- Recommendation 26: Improve the integration of nutrition actions into health systems through appropriate strategies for strengthening human resources, leadership and governance, health system financing and service delivery, as well as the provision of essential medicines, information and monitoring.
- Recommendation 27: Promote universal access to all direct nutrition actions and relevant health actions impacting nutrition through health programmes.
- Recommendation 28: Implement the WHO Global Strategy on Infant and Young Child Feeding, the WHO Comprehensive Implementation Plan on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition 2012-2025, and the WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases 2013-2020 through commensurate financing and adequate policies.

Recommended actions to promote, protect and support breastfeeding

- Recommendation 29: Adapt and implement the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and subsequent relevant World Health Assembly resolutions.
- Recommendation 30: Implement policies and practices, including labour reforms, as appropriate, to promote protection of working mothers⁸.
- Recommendation 31: Implement policies, programmes and actions to ensure that health services promote, protect and support breastfeeding, including the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative.
- Recommendation 32: Encourage and promote – through advocacy, education and capacity building – an enabling environment where men, particularly fathers, participate actively and share responsibilities with mothers in caring for their infants and young children, while empowering women and enhancing their health and nutritional status throughout the life course.
- Recommendation 33: Ensure that policies and practices in emergency situations and humanitarian crises promote, protect and support breastfeeding.

Recommended actions to address wasting

⁷ In accordance with preambular paragraph 9 of resolution WHA67.14, universal health coverage implies that all people have access without discrimination to nationally determined sets of the needed promotive, preventive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative essential health services and essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, while ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the users to financial hardship with a special emphasis on the poor, vulnerable and marginalized segments of the population.

⁸ As specified in the International Labour Organization's Maternity Protection Convention No. 183 and corresponding Recommendation 191.

- Recommendation 34: Adopt policies and actions, and mobilize funding, to improve coverage of treatment for wasting, using the community-based management of acute malnutrition approach and improve the integrated management of childhood illnesses.
- Recommendation 35: Integrate disaster and emergency preparedness into relevant policies and programmes.

Recommended actions to address stunting

- Recommendation 36: Establish policies and strengthen interventions to improve maternal nutrition and health, beginning with adolescent girls and continuing through pregnancy and lactation.
- Recommendation 37: Establish health policies, programmes and strategies to promote optimal infant and young child feeding, particularly exclusive breastfeeding up to six months, followed by adequate complementary feeding (from six to 24 months).

Recommended actions to address childhood overweight and obesity

- Recommendation 38: Provide dietary counselling to women during pregnancy for healthy weight gain and adequate nutrition.
- Recommendation 39: Improve child nutritional status and growth, particularly by addressing maternal exposure to the availability and marketing of complementary foods, and by improving supplementary feeding programmes for infants and young children.
- Recommendation 40: Regulate the marketing of food and non-alcoholic beverages to children in accordance with WHO recommendations.
- Recommendation 41: Create a conducive environment that promotes physical activity to address sedentary lifestyle from the early stages of life.

Recommended actions to address anaemia in women of reproductive age

- Recommendation 42: Improve intake of micronutrients through consumption of nutrient-dense foods, especially foods rich in iron, where necessary, through fortification and supplementation strategies, and promote healthy and diversified diets.
- Recommendation 43: Provide daily iron and folic acid and other micronutrient supplementation to pregnant women as part of antenatal care; and intermittent iron and folic acid supplementation to menstruating women where the prevalence of anaemia is 20% or higher, and deworming, where appropriate.

Recommended actions in the health services to improve nutrition

- Recommendation 44: Implement policies and programmes to ensure universal access to and use of insecticide-treated nets, and to provide preventive malaria treatment for pregnant women in areas with moderate to high malaria transmission.
- Recommendation 45: Provide periodic deworming for all school-age children in endemic areas.

- Recommendation 46: Implement policies and programmes to improve health service capacity to prevent and treat infectious diseases⁹.
- Recommendation 47: Provide zinc supplementation to reduce the duration and severity of diarrhoea, and to prevent subsequent episodes in children.
- Recommendation 48: Provide iron and, among others, vitamin A supplementation for pre-school children to reduce the risk of anaemia.
- Recommendation 49: Implement policies and strategies to ensure that women have comprehensive information and access to integral health care services that ensure adequate support for safe pregnancy and delivery.

Recommended actions on water, sanitation and hygiene

- Recommendation 50: Implement policies and programmes using participatory approaches to improve water management in agriculture and food production.¹⁰
- Recommendation 51: Invest in and commit to achieve universal access to safe drinking water, with the participation of civil society and the support of international partners, as appropriate.
- Recommendation 52: Implement policies and strategies using participatory approaches to ensure universal access to adequate sanitation¹¹ and to promote safe hygiene practices, including hand washing with soap.

Recommended actions on food safety and antimicrobial resistance

- Recommendation 53: Develop, establish, enforce and strengthen, as appropriate, food control systems, including reviewing and modernizing national food safety legislation and regulations to ensure that food producers and suppliers throughout the food chain operate responsibly.
- Recommendation 54: Actively take part in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission on nutrition and food safety, and implement, as appropriate, internationally adopted standards at the national level.
- Recommendation 55: Participate in and contribute to international networks to exchange food safety information, including for managing emergencies¹².
- Recommendation 56: Raise awareness among relevant stakeholders on the problems posed by antimicrobial resistance, and implement appropriate multisectoral measures to address antimicrobial resistance, including prudent use of antimicrobials in veterinary and human medicine.

⁹ Including prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, immunization against measles and antibiotic treatment for girls with urinary infections.

¹⁰ Including by reducing water wastage in irrigation, strategies for multiple use of water (including wastewater), and better use of appropriate technology.

¹¹ Including by implementing effective risk assessment and management practices on safe wastewater use and sanitation.

¹² FAO/WHO International Network of Food Safety Authorities (http://www.who.int/foodsafety/areas_work/infosan/en/).

- Recommendation 57: Develop and implement national guidelines on prudent use of antimicrobials in food-producing animals according to internationally recognized standards adopted by competent international organizations to reduce non-therapeutic use of antimicrobials and to phase out the use of antimicrobials as growth promoters in the absence of risk analysis as described in Codex Code of Practice CAC/RCP61-2005.

Recommendations for accountability

- Recommendation 58: National governments are encouraged to establish nutrition targets and intermediate milestones, consistent with the timeframe for implementation (2016-2025), as well as global nutrition and noncommunicable disease targets established by the World Health Assembly. They are invited to include – in their national monitoring frameworks – agreed international indicators for nutrition outcomes (to track progress in achieving national targets), nutrition programme implementation (including coverage of interventions) and the nutrition policy environment (including institutional arrangements, capacities and investments in nutrition)¹³. Monitoring should be conducted, to the fullest possible extent, through existing mechanisms.
- Recommendation 59: Reports on implementation of the commitments of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition will be compiled jointly by FAO and WHO, in close collaboration with other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and other relevant regional and international organizations, as appropriate, based on country self-assessments as well as information available through other monitoring and accountability mechanisms (e.g. Scaling Up Nutrition self-assessment reports, reports to the FAO Conference and the World Health Assembly, and the Global Nutrition Report).
- Recommendation 60: The governing bodies of FAO and WHO, and other relevant international organizations are requested to consider the inclusion of reports on the overall follow-up to ICN2 on the agendas of the regular FAO and WHO governing body meetings, including FAO regional conferences and WHO regional committee meetings, possibly on a biennial basis. The Directors-General of FAO and WHO are also requested to transmit such reports to the United Nations General Assembly as appropriate.

¹³ Monitoring frameworks may be developed based on the Global Monitoring Framework for Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition, the Monitoring Framework for the Global Action Plan on Noncommunicable Diseases, as well as indicators for monitoring food security (FAO prevalence of undernutrition, food insecurity experience scale, and other widely used indicators).