

United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025)

The Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the reports on maternal, infant and young child nutrition;¹

Recalling resolution WHA68.19 (2015) on the outcome of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (Rome, 19–21 November 2014), endorsing the Rome Declaration on Nutrition as well as the Framework for Action;

Reaffirming the commitments to implement relevant international targets and action plans, including WHO's global nutrition targets for 2025 and the WHO's global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2020;

Recalling resolution WHA65.6 (2012) in which the Member States endorsed the comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition and requested the Director-General to assess progress towards reaching the goals;

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015), entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, acknowledging the integrated dimension of the goals and recognizing that to end all forms of malnutrition and address nutritional needs throughout the life course, it is necessary to give universal access to safe and nutritious food that is sustainably produced, and to ensure universal coverage of essential nutrition actions;

Recalling that the Sustainable Development Goals and targets are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development, and acknowledging the importance of reaching Sustainable Development Goal 2, which aims to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, as well as the interlinked targets of other Goals;

Welcoming United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/259 (2016), entitled “United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025)”; which calls upon FAO and WHO to lead the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025), in collaboration with the WFP, IFAD and UNICEF, and to identify and develop a work programme based on the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and its Framework for Action, along with its means of implementation for 2016–2025, using coordination mechanisms such as the Standing Committee on Nutrition and multistakeholder platforms such as the Committee on World Food Security, in line with its mandate,

¹ Documents A69/7, A69/7 Add.1 and A69/7 Add.2.

and in consultation with other international and regional organizations, platforms and movements such as the Scaling up Nutrition;

Reaffirming the commitment to eradicate hunger and prevent all forms of malnutrition worldwide, particularly undernourishment, stunting, wasting, underweight and overweight in children under 5 years of age and anaemia in women and children, among other micronutrient deficiencies; as well as to halt the rising trends in overweight and obesity and reduce the burden of diet-related noncommunicable diseases in all age groups;

Expressing concern that nearly two in every three infants under 6 months are not exclusively breastfed; that fewer than one in five infants are breastfed for 12 months in high-income countries; and that only two in every three children between 6 months and 2 years of age receive any breast-milk in low- and middle-income countries;

Expressing concern that only 49% of countries have adequate nutrition data to assess progress towards the global nutrition targets,

1. CALLS UPON all relevant United Nations funds, programmes, specialized agencies, civil society and other stakeholders:

(1) to work collectively across sectors and constituencies to guide, support, and implement nutrition policies, programmes, and plans under the umbrella of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025);

(2) to support mechanisms for monitoring and reporting of the commitments;

2. URGES Member States:

(1) to develop and/or implement strategies on maternal, infant and young child nutrition that comprehensively respond to nutrition challenges, span different sectors and include robust and disaggregated monitoring and evaluation;

(2) to consider developing, when appropriate, policies and financial commitments that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound (SMART) in respect of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the voluntary options contained in the Framework for Action of the Second International Conference on Nutrition as well as the Comprehensive Implementation Plan on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition;

(3) to consider the definition of national targets based on global targets adapted to national priorities and specific parameters;

(4) to consider allocating adequate funding taking into account the local context;

(5) to provide information on a voluntary basis on their efforts to implement the commitments of the Rome Declaration on nutrition through a set of voluntary policy options within the Framework for Action including their policy and investments for effective interventions to improve people's diets and nutrition, including in emergency situations;

3. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to work with the Director-General of FAO:

(a) to support Member States, upon request, in developing, strengthening and implementing their policies, programmes and plans to address the multiple challenges of malnutrition, and convene periodic meetings of inclusive nature to share best practices, including consideration of commitments that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound (SMART) within the framework of the Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025);

(b) to maintain an open access database of commitments for public accountability and include an analysis of the commitments made in the biennial reports on implementation of the outcome document of the Second International Conference on Nutrition and the Framework for Action;

(2) to continue to provide technical support to Member States for the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025) and of the Comprehensive Implementation Plan on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition;

(3) to continue supporting the Breastfeeding Advocacy Initiative to increase political commitment to and investment in breastfeeding as the cornerstone of child nutrition, health and development;

(4) to support Member States in strengthening the nutrition component of national information systems, including data collection and analysis for evidence-informed policy decision-making.

Eighth plenary meeting, 28 May 2016
A69/VR/8

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