

Draft of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition

1. We, Ministers and Plenipotentiaries of the Members of the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, assembled at the Second International Conference on Nutrition in Rome on 19-21 November 2014, to address the multiple threats of malnutrition to sustainable development.
2. Reaffirming the commitments made at the first International Conference on Nutrition and the World Food Summits as well as in relevant international targets and action plans.¹
3. Reaffirming the right of everyone to have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger.


Multiple threats of malnutrition are a major challenge to sustainable development


4. Acknowledge that malnutrition, including undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity, as well as noncommunicable diseases caused by unbalanced diet, has high socioeconomic and other costs for individuals and families, communities and states; threatens their health and wellbeing by impacting negatively on human physical and cognitive development; compromises the immune system; increases susceptibility to communicable and noncommunicable diseases; and poses heavy burden on societies by restricting the attainment of human potential and reducing productivity.
5. Recognize that the root causes of malnutrition are complex and multidimensional:
 - Year-around access to sufficient food, adequate both in quantity and quality, affordable and culturally acceptable, is a key determinant; compounded and often aggravated, in a vicious cycle, by non-potable water, poor sanitation, food borne and parasitic infections, and ingestion of harmful levels of chemical contaminants due to unsafe food supplies;
 - Poverty is a major contributor to malnutrition in both rural and urban areas.
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 environmental and societal changes often have an impact on dietary and physical activity patterns, leading to higher susceptibility to obesity and noncommunicable diseases through increasingly sedentary lifestyles and greater consumption of processed food, that is high in fat, especially saturated and trans-fats, sugars, and salt/sodium.

¹ List all the existing commitments in green highlights and other paras including the footnote text provided by EURO.

8. Recognize that climate change is negatively impacting the quantity, quality and diversity of food grown and is therefore posing a major threat to food and nutrition security.
9. Acknowledge that current food systems are being increasingly challenged to provide safe and nutritious food for all to enable healthy diets, due *inter alia* to constraints posed by resource and ecological sustainability, large food losses and waste, unbalanced distribution and trade distorting economic measures, including unilateral coercive economic measures.
10. Note, with profound concern that, notwithstanding significant achievements in many countries, recent decades have seen modest and uneven progress in reducing malnutrition and that:
 - a) the prevalence of undernourishment has declined, but absolute numbers remain unacceptably high with at least 842 million in 2011-2013;
 - b) chronic malnutrition (stunting) has declined, but still affected 162 million children under 5 years in 2012, while acute malnutrition (wasting) affected 51 million children under 5 years in 2012;
 - c) over two billion people suffer from micronutrient deficiencies such as of vitamin A, iodine, iron and zinc;
 - d) overweight and obesity among both children and adults have been increasing rapidly in all regions, with 44 million children under 5 years of age affected by overweight in 2012 and 500 million adults affected by obesity;
 - e) while dietary risk factors, together with inadequate physical activity, account for almost 10% of the global burden of disease and disability and different forms of undernutrition are the biggest underlying cause of death in children under the age of five, causing 45% of all child deaths in the world today.


A vision for global action to end all forms of malnutrition

11. Reaffirm that:
 - a) the elimination of malnutrition in all its forms is an imperative for ethical, political, social and economic reasons, paying particular attention to the special needs of children, women, elderly and disabled people;
 - b) ordinated action of different actors, at international, regional, national and community levels should be supported, through cross-cutting policies, programmes and initiatives in the food system, as well as health, social protection, education, research, energy, trade, rural development, water, sanitation, hygiene, consumer protection, transport, urban planning, and the environment;

- c) global and national policy coherence is needed among relevant sectors, including in trade and investment agreements, in investments and incentives for agricultural production, food processing and distribution 
- d) the risks linked to higher and more volatile prices for agricultural commodities and their consequences for global food security and nutrition, need to be managed;
- e) improvements in diet and nutrition require strengthening the legislative and regulatory framework for food safety and quality control at national, regional and international levels, including enhanced engagement of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, increased participation of Member States and adherence to the Codex Standards and Guidelines.

12. Recognize that:

- a) international cooperation and official development assistance for nutrition should, as appropriate, support and complement national nutrition initiatives and measures;
- b) achieving the right to adequate food for all requires sustainable, equitable, accessible and resilient food systems;
- c) food and agriculture (including crops, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture) systems need to be addressed holistically by public policies, including the resources, investment, environment, people, institutions and processes with which food is produced, processed, stored, distributed, prepared and consumed;
- d) while private investments and markets will continue to drive both the supply of and access to nutritious food, responsible public investments and appropriate market regulations in food, agriculture and other sectors are crucial to overcoming malnutrition;
- e) nutrition improvement requires the provision of balanced and diversified diets, meeting nutrient requirements of all age groups and all groups with special needs, avoiding excessive intakes of saturated fat, sugars and salt/sodium, and removing trans-fat;
- f) food systems need to promote healthy dietary patterns by providing year-round access to safe and nutritious foods including fruits, and vegetables, pulses, wholegrains and animal source foods such as fish, while limiting the consumption of processed foods that negatively affect nutrition and health;
- g) food systems need to address and prevent infectious and zoonotic diseases and to tackle antimicrobial resistance;

- h) food systems should be sustainable, and all components for food production, processing and distribution (including land, soil, seeds, fertilizers, water, energy, harvesting, storage and transport) should be managed sustainably, with due attention to environmental impacts;
- i) efforts should be made to reduce post-harvest losses and food waste throughout the food chain including consumption, as these can significantly contribute to reducing sustainability and nutrition security;
- j) the United Nations system and the international financial institutions must work more effectively together in a coherent manner to enhance international cooperation to support national efforts to accelerate progress in addressing malnutrition. 

Commitment to action

13. We commit to:

- a) eradicate hunger and all forms of malnutrition, particularly to eliminate stunting, wasting and overweight in children under 5 and anemia in women; eliminating undernourishment and reversing rising trends in obesity;
- b) reshape food systems through coherent implementation of public policies and investment plans throughout food value chains to serve the health and nutrition needs of the growing world population by providing access to safe, nutritious and healthy foods in a sustainable and resilient way;
- c) take leadership to shape and manage food systems and improve nutrition by strengthening institutional capacity, ensuring adequate resourcing and coordinating effectively across sectors;
- d) encourage and facilitate contributions by all stakeholders in society and promote collaboration within and across countries, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;
- e) enhance people's nutrition, including people with special needs, through policies and initiatives for healthy diets throughout the life course, starting from the early stages of life, before and during pregnancy, promoting and supporting adequate breast feeding and appropriate complementary feeding, healthy eating by families, and at school during childhood;
- f) adopt and implement a Framework for Action that should be used to monitor  progress in achieving targets and fulfilling commitments;
- g) integrate the objectives of the Framework for Action into the post-2015 development agenda including a possible global goal on food security and nutrition.

14. We call on FAO and WHO to maintain the cooperation they offer to support governments as appropriate, in the development and implementation of their national programmes and plans for nutrition.
15. We recommend the United Nations General Assembly to endorse the ICN2 Declaration and to declare a Decade of Action on Nutrition.