**Invitation to an open discussion**

**on the political outcome document of the ICN2**

**Comment Form**

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1. **General comments on the Draft of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition.**

1. **Specific comments on the paragraphs related to the multiple threats that malnutrition poses to sustainable development (paragraphs 4-10).**

Paragraph 10 should also note with profound concern the substantial quantity of food that is lost and wasted globally - some 45% of fruits and vegetables, 20 of meat, 35% of fish and 15% of dairy products. Embedded in these losses and waste are not only calories but, crucially, also proteins and micronutrients which are essential to avoid malnutrition.

1. **Specific comments on the vision for global action to end all forms of malnutrition (paragraphs 11-12).**

We concur very strongly with the recognition in Paragraph 12(i) of the need to make efforts to reduce post-harvest losses and food waste as these can contribute significantly to address malnutrition. We are currently undertaking work on the essential nutrients such as vitamins and minerals which are embedded in losses and waste, looking at the different steps of the chain from production to consumption for a range of commodities (cereals and pulses, roots and tubers, fruits and vegetables, milk, meat and fish) and regions of the world.

1. **Specific comments in the appropriate fields relating to these commitments (paragraph 13):**

Commitment 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;

Commitment 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;

Food loss and waste is acknowledged as one of the challenges that reduce the ability of food systems to provide safe and nutritious food, while post-harvest loss and waste is one of the intervention areas identified under the vision for global action. Commitment (b) should explicitly mention reduction of food losses and waste as one of the reasons why food systems need to be reshaped. This would allow a logical progression from the threats and the vision. It would also attract more attention to the contribution of food loss and waste to malnutrition, and catalyse more actions to address the problem, especially in the developing countries.

Commitment c): take leadership to shape and manage food systems and improve nutrition by strengthening institutional capacity, ensuring adequate resourcing and coordinating effectively across sectors;

Commitment 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;

Commitment 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;

Commitment f): adopt and implement a Framework for Action that should be used to monitor progress in achieving targets and fulfilling commitments;

Commitment 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.

It may be relevant to consider that post-harvest losses feature in the post-2015 development agenda discussions, as an indicator for the Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition focus area.

1. **We would also appreciate your vision on policies, programmes and investment that might help translate such commitments into action.**

Overall, agro-food system frameworks would need to integrate elements of food loss and waste reduction as an issue needing particular attention in efforts to address food and nutrition security. These frameworks should have provisions and the flexibility to holistically address the entire continuum from production to consumption, and should take into consideration the differential roles and needs of governments, the private sector and civil society. It should be ensured that policies, programmes and investment interventions address all four dimensions of food security. Commitments to action are needed that are precise, clear and practical for the target sectors, physical space (rural, peri-urban and urban) and stakeholders (e.g. from small producers, processors and traders in developing countries to processors, retailers and households in emerging and industrialized countries). Building in M&E mechanisms would foster ownership and transparency.