**Invitation to an open discussion**

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

**Comment Form**

|  |
| --- |
| **Personal information**  Name: Tim LANG  Organization: Centre for Food Policy, City University London, UK  Location: City University London, Northampton Square, London EC1V 0HB, UK  Email: t.lang@city.ac.uk |

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

The Declaration should make strong reference to food and nutrition’s role in environmental degradation and protection. Food has a major impact on the environment. WHO and FAO ought to include that dimension in the Rome Declaration. It should and could reaffirm past UN commitments that health and environment are intimately connected through food and diet. There is a strong tradition in the UN of cross-referencing to wider UN commitments. Rio+20 for example acknowledged the environment.

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

Include in paragraph 5 specific reference to how poverty undermines the environment on which food systems for the poor depend.

Include in paragraph 6 specific reference to the co-incidence of over-, mal- and under-nutrition within low income communities and countries. The 21st century nutrition world is more complex than mal-nutrition, desperate and important though that is.

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

Include under paragraph 12 a new sub-section h) about the need to help consumers worldwide by the provision of guidance at population level which promotes diets which are sustainable in that they meet health, environmental and cultural goals.

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

I suggest the inclusion of the following specific commitment either as a new commitment 4 h) or within one of the other sub-sections:

[We commit to:] support steps to produce dietary guidelines which meet both nutrition and environmental/sustainability criteria.

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;

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.

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

Given that food is one of the most significant drivers of NCDs, and that food is one of the most significant drivers of threats to environmental sustainability (through climate change, water use, biodiversity loss and land use squeeze), the Rome Declaration should make strong connections between food security, health, environment, and livelihoods. The 1992 ICN made encouraged member states to set up systems of governance to support this progressive role in the form of food policy councils / nutrition councils (there are many names for this institutional form). The 21st Century challenge is about how humanity does or does not manage those connections. ICN2 must encourage programmes by all Member States which link the actions of state bodies, companies and civil society to live, grow and eat within environmental limits in manners which promote ecological public health. We need in particular research programmes which explore what land use needs to be to meet sustainable diets and which ask: what sort of agriculture and horticulture are needed to provide sustainable diets.