



Invitation to an open discussion on the political outcome document of the ICN2

Comment Form

Personal information

Name: *Sight and Life*

Organization: *Sight and Life*

Location: Kaiseraugst, Switzerland

Email: eva.monterrosa@sightandlife.org

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

The document represents an important paradigm shift, one that recognizes the multidisciplinary and complex links between food and nutrition, through prioritizing the food system. Furthermore, this prioritization will allow countries to characterize the appropriate policy prescriptions for a sustainable and equitable food system. We therefore urge the drafting team to also give due consideration to:

Specific comments relating to these commitments (paragraph 13):

*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; **AND***

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;



- I. **Demand for nutritious** products results from the consumers choice to purchase and consume foods. Policy formulations are needed to improve how food choices are woven into everyday eating decisions and behaviors. Policy instruments that give careful consideration to nutrition education, social marketing campaigns, and girls schooling/ women's education should be prioritized.
 - a. **Informed decision-making** commonly happens at the point of purchase . Restrictive labeling and packaging requirements will have unintended consequences, as consumers will not be able to distinguish healthy from unhealthy foods. It is important to strengthen policy and regulatory frameworks that protects the consumers right to know what is in the package and the impact it can have on their health and nutritional well-being. Member states must engage with CODEX guidelines and normative advice should be aligned.
- II. **The food system is socially constructed** from policy decisions and through applications of policy instruments.
 - a. Participation in the food system is not equitable. **Policy instruments** that analyze gender, socioeconomic and health disparities should be prioritized **to eliminate equity gaps**.
 - b. Global and national policy must consider how subsidies for staple foods (corn, wheat, and soy) facilitate cheap inputs for processed foods, which may deliver little nutrition.
 - c. **Policies that increase the nutrient density** of the food supply should be encouraged (e.g., food fortification). Dietary diversity strategies, while necessary for public health, will not be sufficient to meet the nutrient requirements for some sectors of the population (i.e., pregnant women and young children). Targeted fortification and supplementation, should be pursued in conjunction with improving dietary diversity.



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;

The UN system has been extremely successful at strategic guidance on policy frameworks and instruments. However, to achieve the WHA 2025 targets, further resources are needed to **operationalize policies. Implementation science is uniquely suited for this task** and we encourage further collaboration among UN agencies, politicians, academics and scientific societies to improve implementation of programs. Monitoring systems that assess the health impact of policy decisions should be prioritized.

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

Food systems and climate change. Food systems contribute to and accelerate environmental degradation through their carbon footprint. In addition to addressing food loss and food waste, policy instruments should also target water usage, non-degradable garbage, and carbon emissions.

- a. There is also a need to develop indicators that integrate nutrient density, safety, and affordability in relation to the environmental impact. It is possible that the diet with the least environmental impact may not be the most nutritious.
- b. Achieving desired dietary diversity, that includes nutrient dense animal source foods, will contribute to higher greenhouse gas emissions. Policies should be targeted to women and young children, whose growth and physiological status necessitate the consumption of animal source foods. Other strategies, such as fortification, to close nutrient gaps should be considered as appropriate.