



# ***SUB-COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION***

## ***Report of the Sub-Committee on Nutrition at its Twenty-Fifth Session***

*Oslo, Norway*

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INTRODUCTION .....	2
I. MATTERS FOR THE ATTENTION OF CCPOQ AND ACC.....	2
A. Financial Matters .....	2
B. Name of the Sub-Committee on Nutrition .....	3
C. Potential Conflict of Interest Policy .....	4
D. Contract of the Technical Secretary .....	4
E. Date and Place of the Next Meeting.....	4
F. Other Matters .....	4
F.1 Asian Development Bank.....	4
F.2 Increased Collaboration .....	5
II. WORK IN PROGRESS: SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS.....	5
A. Advisory Group on Nutrition (AGN) Report .....	5
B. Report on the World Nutrition Situation.....	6
B.1 Third Report on the World Nutrition Situation .....	6
B.2 Draft Outline of the Fourth Report on the World Nutrition Situation.....	7
C. Reports of Decisions taken in Working Groups: .....	8
C.1 Nutrition, Ethics and Human Rights .....	8
C.2 Iodine Deficiency Disorders .....	8
C.3 Household Food Security .....	9
C.4 Breastfeeding and Complementary Feeding.....	9
C.5 Nutrition of School Age Children .....	10
C.6 Nutrition of Refugees and Displaced People.....	10
C.7 Iron Deficiency Control.....	11
C.8 Vitamin A Deficiency .....	11
D. Commission on Nutrition Challenges of the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century and Follow-up to the Commission=s First Report .....	12
E. A New International Growth Reference for Infants and Young Children .....	13
F. 20/20 Guidelines for Basic Services .....	14
G. Follow-up to the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) and World Food Summit (WFS) .....	15
H. UN Agency Reports.....	16
I. Procedural Issues.....	17
I.1 General Procedures for SCN Working Groups.....	17
I.2 Advisory Group on Nutrition (AGN) Membership .....	18
I.3 Information on developments in the SCN Secretariat.....	18
J. Bilaterals' Statement .....	19
Annex I List of Participants .....	21
Annex I List of Documents.....	27
Annex III Provisional Agenda for SCN 26 <sup>th</sup> Session, 1999 .....	28
Annex IV Potential Conflict of Interest Policy .....	29

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. The SCN Chairman, Dr Richard Jolly, welcomed participants to the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the SCN, in particular the Special Guests (listed in Annex I). He also welcomed participating UN organizations, the Advisory Group on Nutrition, representatives of bilateral agencies, Symposium presenters, NGOs, host Government representatives, and other participants. He then gave the floor to Dr H. F. Johnson, the Norwegian Minister of International Development and Human Rights, who welcomed participants to Oslo. In her opening statement Dr Johnson stressed the daunting challenge posed by the need to eliminate hunger and malnutrition in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and the key role the SCN participants would play in it. While there are no simple solutions, coordinated work between governments, both in the developed and developing world, together with civil society, were essential. Also a number of practical steps were possible on an international basis, such as (a) an improved world trading system through the World Trade Organization (WTO), (b) a significant measure of relief from the crushing debt burden of developing countries, and (c) macroeconomic reform in a number of areas in the developing world. The 20/20 initiative could also play an important role.

2. Women play a key role in the improvement of health and nutrition and it is appropriate that the SCN Symposium this year should focus on this aspect. "Investment" in women's education, their health and food security helps to reduce hunger and malnutrition and benefits future generations. Furthermore, in situations where the right to food is not satisfied, most other human rights tend to lose their importance. In conclusion, Dr Johnson expressed firm support in the fight against hunger and malnutrition, and on behalf of the Government of Norway welcomed SCN participants to Norway and wished them success in their tasks.

3. The SCN Chairman thanked Dr Johnson for her stimulating address. The SCN held its first meeting in September 1977 and accordingly having "come of age" it seemed appropriate to recall some of the nutrition accomplishments in which a key role was played by the SCN such as (1) the reduction in iodine deficiency (2) raising awareness of refugee nutrition issues, (3) the recurrent symposia, one of which resulted in nutrition being introduced into the IMF's development policy, (4) the publication of Reports on the World Nutrition Situation, and (5) Nutrition Policy Papers containing important lessons on nutrition policies. In opening the 25<sup>th</sup> Session, the Chairman stated that the SCN has made an important difference and can go on to do much more.

### **I. MATTERS FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CCPOQ AND ACC**

#### **A. Financial Matters**

4. At its 24<sup>th</sup> Session, concern had been expressed about the uncertain financial situation regarding the period 1996-1997 and also for the budget 1998-1999. These uncertainties were caused by the decision of some UN agencies to sharply reduce or eliminate their contributions to the core budget. Uncertainties also existed with respect to funding the SCN's programme activities. In response to these concerns the SCN reviewed the financial situation on the basis of a document submitted by the Technical Secretary. With respect to the core budget for 1996-1997, the anticipated reductions in contributions had led to the establishment of a revised budget of \$820,000. Owing to a combination of factors, including a number of drastic economy measures (e.g. vacancy of the post of Technical Secretary for about seven months, favourable developments in the Swiss Franc/US dollar exchange rate and reduced costs of the AGN), it had been possible to keep core expenditure within the reduced budget of \$820,000, as well as to accommodate some unforeseen expenses.

5. With respect to the programme activities during 1996-1997, funds and in-kind contributions were obtained from bilateral, UN and NGO donors to issue the *Third Report on the World Nutrition Situation* (as well as the *Update 1996*). Several agencies collaborated in data analysis for the *Third Report*, thus considerably reducing costs to the SCN budget.

Furthermore the Refugee Nutrition Information System reports were issued throughout the biennium, as well as two Nutrition Policy Papers, and one issue of the SCN News (July 1997). Regarding 1998-1999 programme activities, the need to adequately fund the work of the Commission on the Nutrition Challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century was stressed. The Chair observed that the amount originally budgeted would be needed to meet the requirements of the Commission, and would cover the cost of 1.5 full time research staff for a period of about nine months<sup>1</sup>. Approval had been given at the SCN's 24<sup>th</sup> Session to continue these programme activities, subject to funds being made available.

6. The transparency of the financial data presented was appreciated. With very limited resources available the Technical Secretary had been able to carry out a full programme of work, culminating in the publication of the *Third Report on the World Nutrition Situation*. While the financial situation for the biennium 1998-1999 had improved over that of the previous biennium, there remained cause for concern, notably with respect to the contributions by WHO and FAO. The FAO representative confirmed that his organization would not make any contribution to the SCN core budget for 1998. The Chairman noted that an FAO contribution in 1999 would still be in time to support the SCN's 1998-99 biannual budget and asked that the FAO representative explore positively this possibility. As regards WHO, for which a core contribution of \$42,000 had been proposed, the WHO representative indicated he was pleased to be able to increase WHO's contribution from \$10,000 to \$25,000, as well as continuing to provide accommodation and administrative/financial services for the SCN Secretariat. He agreed to seek a further increase once the new Director-General is appointed.

7. The IAEA had for the first time contributed \$12,500, and it was noted with appreciation that this agency would make efforts to contribute \$25,000 for 1998-1999. On behalf of the SCN, the Chair wished to record his appreciation to all contributors, both bilateral and UN agencies, for their continued financial support, often made by them under difficult financial constraints. Several organizations and individuals had made in-kind contributions and it was decided to reflect these contributions appropriately in future budget and financial reports. Bilateral donors saw their contributions as a reflection of their partnership in nutrition with the UN agencies.

#### **B. Name of the Sub-Committee on Nutrition**

8. The question of the name of the SCN was raised in the context of the need for greater recognition being given to nutrition as a fundamental factor in human development. The SCN, a Sub-Committee of the ACC, reporting through CCPOQ, is the most senior UN body dealing with nutrition. Yet, in the perception of individuals and institutions, in particular those outside the UN system, its name tends to reflect a subordinate status for nutrition, being dealt with by a small *sub-committee*.

9. The functions of the SCN and its place in the UN/ACC system are well established and no change in these aspects were considered either desirable or necessary. However, greater understanding and recognition of nutrition in the UN system is needed. For these reasons the Chairman suggested, with the broad support of the SCN, that the name "United Nations Nutrition Council" be used with the subheading "ACC/Sub-Committee on Nutrition". Continued use of the subheading would build upon the tradition of the SCN, and ensure that its position as a UN body was identified. The Chairman, with the support of the SCN, undertook to discuss this proposal in UN/New York, where it could form part of the reform process.

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<sup>1</sup> The SCN Chair confirmed that based on initial discussions with the Commission Chair, the original funding provision would likely meet needs of the anticipated work plan. The Technical Secretary was asked to consult with the Commission Chair and prepare a budget for this work. This budget should be used in seeking funds from supporting donors. In addition, an initial estimate of \$20,000 was identified as a specific budget allocation for the strategic plan.

### **C. Potential Conflict of Interest Policy**

10. A potential conflict of interest policy statement (Annex IV) had been developed by the AGN, together with a disclosure statement to be filled out by participants at SCN meetings. AGN members had decided over one year ago to begin filling out the disclosure statement. Further use of these statements by all participants in all SCN meetings, including working groups and symposia, was agreed. Inasmuch as staff members of UN organizations, as well as civil servants representing bilateral organizations, were already bound by declarations of loyalty, the policy would not apply to these categories of participants.

### **D. Contract of the Technical Secretary**

11. The Technical Secretary, Dr S. Rabeneck, had been given a two-year appointment by WHO, effective 10 February 1997; thus her current contract expires on 10 February 1999, before the next Session of the SCN.

12. The SCN expressed its appreciation for Dr Rabeneck's performance in carrying out a full programme of SCN tasks, as well as contributing significantly to the efficient and harmonious working of the SCN. The SCN decided unanimously to request the extension of Dr Rabeneck's contract until June 2001, i.e., two years plus four months, for reasons of completing the work of the annual meeting which usually takes place in March or April each year.

### **E. Date and Place of the Next Meeting**

13. The representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) invited the SCN to hold its next Session at the office of the UNHCHR in Geneva. Much progress has been made in the UN system in recognising the human right to adequate food and nutrition. The invitation by the UNHCHR was complemented by the selection of the subject for the Symposium, proposed by the SCN's Working Group on Nutrition, Ethics and Human Rights, i.e. "The substance and politics of a human rights approach to food and nutrition policies and programming".

14. All UN agencies are now committed to the human right to food and nutrition and the choice of this subject and its venue would further advance the cause of nutrition, in particular if senior agency representatives, as well as the High Commissioner for Human Rights, could directly participate in the Symposium.

15. The Chairman expressed appreciation to the High Commissioner for Human Rights for her invitation and hoped she would play a leading role in the Symposium. There would be some financial implications for UNHCHR in bringing developing-country participants to Geneva. Several UN organizations and bilaterals expressed their intent to provide support, as well as to submit relevant case studies. The dates proposed for the 26<sup>th</sup> Session (Geneva) are 12-15 April 1999.

### **F. Other Matters**

#### **F.1 ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK**

16. A request had been received from the Asian Development Bank to become an SCN member and participate fully in its work and meetings. Regional development banks can be very effective in integrating nutrition in development work,

and accordingly the Asian Development Bank's request was approved unanimously. The Chairman undertook to approach other regional development banks seeking their participation in the SCN.

## F.2 INCREASED COLLABORATION

17. Several participating UN agencies (e.g. IFAD and UNESCO; ILO was only represented in working group meetings) had not sent representatives to the 25<sup>th</sup> Session. The Chairman undertook to write and encourage them to attend the 26<sup>th</sup> Session in 1999, as well as to participate in other SCN meetings and activities, especially in view of UN reform which calls for increased collaboration.

## II. WORK IN PROGRESS: SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

### A. Advisory Group on Nutrition (AGN) Report

18. The Chair of the Advisory Group on Nutrition (AGN) explained that the AGN held two meetings last year. The first was in Kathmandu and the second in Montreal in July on the occasion of the IUNS Conference. As AGN members were traveling to the IUNS Conference anyway, costs to the SCN budget were very much reduced.

19. The AGN Chair presented results of the Montreal meeting where the AGN:

- reviewed material for the anthropometry chapter of the *Third Report on the World Nutrition Situation*;
- considered issues related to a World Bank proposal - the Africa Nutrition Database Initiative;
- worked on establishment of the *Commission on Nutrition Challenges for the 21st Century*, including a framework for direction of the Commission's efforts;
- discussed with Commission members the process and content of the planned work, and in an open public forum obtained preliminary reactions to the outline of work.

20. The AGN Chair explained that the AGN worked closely with the SCN Secretariat to identify Commission members, and reviewed contents of the Commission's work. It was stressed that the AGN is responsible to and is a structural component of the SCN. The Commission, on the other hand, has a specific task and will not continue to function in its current form once that task is completed.

21. One AGN member (Dr Jak Jervell) presented main findings of the AGN's country visits over the past year. Opportunities were taken to enquire and learn about coordination among UN agencies at the country level, during visits to two countries. These visits were planned in conjunction with other travel, i.e., at no cost to UN system. The AGN members found that while there was often considerable coordination and cooperation, it was on an *ad hoc* basis, and worked best in acute emergency situations. This observation underlined the need for capacity building and a common approach in countries. It was suggested that strong leadership from a national nutrition council (for example) would be a step forward in some countries.

22. The AGN felt the trips were useful to discuss coordination and should continue. More publicity might be a useful way to create awareness of nutrition during these visits. The AGN were cautioned not to take too superficial a view of country-level coordination since bilaterals and NGOs, important actors in some countries, do not fall within the UN Resident Coordinator system. The need for agreement on what problems to address during these visits was emphasized. It was agreed that AGN members take advantage of other opportunities to visit more countries focusing on those with successful

experiences in country coordination. Countries might be selected from amongst those participating in the UNDAF pilot scheme. It was stressed that the purpose of the visits would be to provide constructive help, not to conduct an evaluation.

23. In order to try to answer the question "*What can be done to reduce malnutrition globally: speed the rate of decline and/or reverse the increase noted in some regions?*" the AGN reviewed a number of documents to identify approaches that were successful. Documents chosen were flagged by SCN member agencies. The 1943 Hot Springs Conference Report was cited as a visionary document by the AGN with poverty identified as a root cause for malnutrition. Agricultural, food and nutrition, and health links were very clearly made, and this was the basis for the founding of FAO.

24. More recently published documents highlighted similar themes, such as:

- gender issues;
- environmental issues and sustainable agriculture;
- nutrition as outcome but also as input into human capital development;
- multi-faceted approach to nutrition and food security;
- orientation to food-based strategies;
- nutrition education.

25. SCN members suggested that a wider range of documents could be reviewed by the AGN including: material on the household and community-based component of IMCI (UNICEF and WHO), "*The Care Initiative*" (UNICEF), and "*Ending the Inheritance of Hunger*" (WFP).

26. The AGN reviewed a paper prepared by FAO on using Food Balance Sheets (FBS) to determine the micronutrient content of food supplies. This was a very useful exercise, since some ideas to strengthen the FBS methodology were identified and opportunities to incorporate new information in the FBS methodology became clear. However, it was agreed that using FBS to calculate micronutrient availability figures is premature, moreover the figures could be misinterpreted. The collaboration between the AGN and FAO was useful, and should continue in order to further strengthen general FBS methodology.

## **B. Report on the World Nutrition Situation**

### **B.1 THIRD REPORT ON THE WORLD NUTRITION SITUATION**

27. The Technical Secretary introduced the *Third Report* and acknowledged with thanks the input from a large number of organizations and individuals. A focus on stunting rather than underweight was highlighted as the main departure from previous reports in this series. All anthropometric data used in the chapter on stunting were obtained from the recently-published WHO Global Database on Child Growth and Malnutrition.

28. Comments on chapter 1 (Stunting and Young Child Development) were then received. The World Bank and USAID felt that lack of underweight data was an omission which could be corrected by including the latest underweight data in an Annex, also on the SCN web page. The Technical Secretary explained that in the planning of the *Report* there was felt to be a need to do something new, to incorporate new indicators. Resources were also limited. She assured that both underweight and stunting trends will be included in the *Fourth Report*. The representative of Italy welcomed the chapter on stunting, in the hope that this would raise awareness to what is often a neglected area due to the resistance in taking measurements of height. The representative from the UK also welcomed the focus on stunting and raised the issue of whether or not stunting was reversible after the age of three. It was suggested that the aetiology of stunting may

be different from that of wasting and that these differences should be addressed. In response to the point on reversibility of stunting, the Chair of the AGN stated that it was unusual to see this in developing countries. UNHCR pointed out the importance of stunting in emergency situations (which can last for many years) and welcomed the inclusion of this indicator in the *Third Report*. WHO/Europe commented that Box 2 "The Nutrition Problem in Central Asia and the Caucasus" was made possible by the focus on stunting. The Chair noted that the data showed some progress in regions with declines in per capita income, and questioned to what extent progress in stunting trends may reflect improvements in areas of child health rather than economic advance. It was highlighted that trends in stunting data did not show the same decline in the 1990s that the trends in underweight data had shown in the 1980s.

29. UNICEF commented that chapter 4 (Policy Implications for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century) was useful, but that care factors were not embedded in the structure of the chapter. UNICEF and UNU suggested that full drafts of these reports should be circulated to the SCN for comment prior to publication. In response to these points, the Technical Secretary informed that the AGN serves as the review panel for the *Third Report*, but that new reviewers would be most welcome in the future. The review process for the *Fourth Report* would be built in at an early stage; however it is critical that deadlines be respected.

30. Referring to the section on calcium in chapter 2 (Micronutrients), IAEA welcomed this new addition and requested information on the editorial process. The Technical Secretary indicated that she had made all editorial decisions. This was supported by the SCN Chair. Referring also to chapter 2, the representative from Italy commented that assessment of micronutrient status during pregnancy is a neglected area, one which these reports could try to highlight. There is special need to develop reliable indicators for sub-clinical deficiencies.

31. The Chair concluded that demand for this very useful *Third Report* is high. Some 8000 copies had been printed, and highlights are available on the SCN website.

## B.2 DRAFT OUTLINE OF THE FOURTH REPORT ON THE WORLD NUTRITION SITUATION

32. The draft outline for the *Fourth Report* was presented by the Technical Secretary and a member of the AGN. The *Fourth Report* will be used for advocacy through presenting new scientific evidence and revisiting success stories. It will also report on emerging issues and continue work on trends, nutrition in emergencies and will emphasize policy.

33. The World Bank proposed a new format: a focus on one theme in the text with a number of statistical and trend tables at the back of the publication. *The case for investing in nutrition* was proposed as a possible theme. The suggestion for a new format was supported by the representative from Germany and by UNICEF. UNICEF further suggested that with too many short essays or themes, the important role in providing a good empirical situation analysis may be missed. FAO disagreed with the idea of one theme, stating that the low frequency of publication is not sufficient to support this idea. On the issue of a new format, the Chair reminded that the title refers to the "World Nutrition Situation", and whilst recognizing the value of focusing on one theme, concurred that the *Report* is published too infrequently to warrant this.

34. WANHR requested that progress in realizing the human right to food and nutrition be added to the outline. Norway urged that various aspects of breastfeeding also be included, specifically the economics of breastfeeding. UNU suggested that "new results on links with chronic disease" be divided into two parts: evidence for the relationship between diet and chronic disease, and the link between malnutrition during pregnancy and chronic disease. FAO offered to take the lead on writing chapter 5 and indicated that chapter 9 could report on information available through FIVIMS, which may be operational by that time. UNU emphasized the need for practical examples and key references.

35. Additional written comments on the draft outline were requested by the Chair. He further asked the Technical Secretary to revise the outline in light of comments made, leaving open the possibility to make further adjustments later,

as this project is still in the early planning phase.

**C. Reports of Decisions taken in Working Groups**

36. Full reports of all Working Group meetings are available from the SCN Secretariat. The following is a summary of main conclusions and recommendations.

*C.1 NUTRITION, ETHICS AND HUMAN RIGHTS -- REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP*

37. The Working Group noted a positive shift in the atmosphere of the meeting compared with five years ago. This was attributed in part to a shift in the UN within the reform process, to incorporate human rights approaches in all UN programme activities. It was noted that human rights is a cross-cutting issue for all our work, and that the SCN should seize the opportunity to define how to measure the impact of this approach.

38. The Working Group recommended that the SCN:

- take steps to strengthen collaboration with the office of the UN High Commission for Human Rights in order to: emphasize the human right to food and nutrition as an integral part of the new UNDAF, promote capacity building, and contribute to the process of monitoring the realization of the human right to food and nutrition;
- seek funding for preparation of an IEC strategy paper, which would propose IEC techniques for building awareness of international human rights norms;
- propose broad guidelines for national workshops on the right to food and nutrition and its obligations at the national level;
- facilitate the preparation of a draft Model Law on the human right to food and nutrition.

*C.2 IODINE DEFICIENCY DISORDERS -- REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP*

39. Massive implementation of universal salt iodization programmes was reported along with concrete examples of country programmes in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America. Progress towards achievement of the goal of IDD elimination was described as "spectacular". The absolute need for permanent monitoring however was underscored. It was noted that sustainability is fragile in many countries and that progress may be waning in some circumstances due to political and socio-economic factors. Other technical issues discussed included harmonization of databases, the need for simplified measurement of iodine in salt and urine in the field, and the human right to adequate iodine. A suggestion was made to include IDD in country reporting guidelines with respect to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

40. The Working Group felt that the elimination of IDD (still the most common cause of preventable mental impairment worldwide) needs continued prioritization and noted that the ACC should maintain its commitment to this important goal. Monitoring and continued financial and technical support were also identified as key needs. The Working Group cautioned against complacency. Hard-to-reach areas need to be identified in some countries and appropriate measures implemented.

41. The Working Group identified these issues as needing follow-up:

- WHO will take up salt trade issues with WTO;

- coordination of databases will be the responsibility of all those currently managing databases, and would be enhanced by use of the world-wide web;
- WHO will make copies of the "10 Key Points for Sustainability" available to members of the SCN.

### C.3 HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY -- REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP

42. The Working Group heard presentations on several agencies' approaches to household food security, as an integrated part of a larger livelihood security approach. The Group identified these follow-up actions:

- an intercountry workshop focused on promotion of household food security in Africa will be sponsored by FAO in August 1998;
- a summary of agency highlights in the area of household food security will be prepared; in addition case studies from 2-3 countries focusing on interagency collaboration will also be developed. FAO and the AGN will carry this forward;
- operational methods for targeting household food security interventions need to be addressed by the Working Group over the coming year.

### C.4 BREASTFEEDING AND COMPLEMENTARY FEEDING -- REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP

43. Key recommendations of this Group are:

- Maternity Legislation: UNICEF and WHO should remain in contact with ILO and advocate with partners, including counterparts at country level, to become involved in renegotiation of Convention (No. 103) Concerning Maternity Protection (revised 1952) to ensure the protection of breastfeeding rights of working women.
- The Care Approach: UNICEF should continue to promote the Care Approach.
- Code Implementation: UNICEF and WHO should continue to use the process of reporting to the CRC Committee as an opportunity to advocate for full implementation and enforcement of the International Code at national level.
- Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative: UNICEF and WHO should continue to implement BFHI and expand breastfeeding counselling further into the community and into pre-service training of health workers.
- The Economic Value of Breastfeeding: The Policy Analysis Tool for Calculating the Health, Child Spacing and Economic Benefits of Breastfeeding (BOB) methodology should be made available for use in breastfeeding advocacy, particularly over the internet with a view to stimulating dynamic discussion.
- HIV and Infant Feeding in the Context of Vertical Transmission: The working group welcomed the forthcoming Technical Consultation on HIV and Infant Feeding and the production of the documents entitled HIV and Infant Feeding: Guidelines for Decision Makers, HIV and Infant Feeding: a Guide for Health Care Managers and Supervisors, and HIV and Infant Feeding: A Review of HIV Transmission through Breastfeeding. These documents should be widely disseminated to guide countries in the management of infant feeding in the context of the HIV pandemic. Detailed practical guidance is required as a matter of urgency to manage the distribution of breastmilk substitutes for use by infants of HIV positive mothers, in ways that 1) avoid spillover to the majority of infants that would benefit from breastfeeding and 2) comply with the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and subsequent relevant WHA resolutions. Progress and

sustainability of BFHI and Breastfeeding Counselling implementation should be ensured as critical elements in preventing needless decline in breastfeeding rates among HIV negative women and in ensuring a woman's right to make informed decisions about infant feeding. Relevant agencies should encourage research into ways to reduce the risk of transmission through breastfeeding, for example by continuing antiretroviral therapy after delivery.

#### C.5 NUTRITION OF SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN -- REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP

44. The objectives of the Working Group on School Age Children (aged 6-18 years) are advocacy, briefing of agency activities, and, if necessary, bringing issues to the attention of ACC. The Group meets every two years and this year a technical NGO presented recent findings and a summary of agency activities in this area.

45. It was noted that malnutrition (stunting, anaemia) in schoolchildren is serious, sometimes worse than in preschool children, and gets worse over the school years. Boys may be more affected than girls during this period. Reasons for this gender difference were not clear; one possible reason is that only better-nourished girls are enrolled and stay in school. There are clusters of activities aimed at improving the nutritional status of school-aged children, including school feeding, school health and nutrition (micronutrients, deworming, nutrition education and first aid), programmes aimed at preventing HIV infection, and water and sanitation projects. There are also programmes aimed at those children not enrolled in school, particularly deworming.

46. Recommendations from the Group:

- more and better data on nutrition status of school aged children are needed;
- the growth reference curves and criteria for anaemia need to be reviewed, however WHO stated that they were more likely to focus first on the adolescent age group;
- there is a need to identify good practices (pointing out gaps).

#### C.6 NUTRITION OF REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PEOPLE -- REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP

47. The Working Group appreciated and acknowledged the participation of some 20 NGOs at the meeting, several attending for the first time.

48. As a point of information it was reported that revised *Guidelines for Estimating Food and Nutritional Needs in Emergencies*, by WFP and UNHCR, have been published and distributed to SCN members. The study on the *Acceptability and Use of Cereal-Based Foods in Refugee Camps* (use of cereals and blended foods carried out in three refugee sites), was presented. As a follow-up, WFP will explore with UNHCR, MI and other partners, plans to hold a meeting to discuss levels of micronutrient fortification in blended foods.

49. A panel discussion on "How Food Aid Works", with invited speakers from ICRC, WFP, USAID and CIDA, reflected on issues related to the appeal process, food aid procurement and nutrition. The objective of this discussion was to improve understanding of how the procurement process can best work for nutrition improvement. Full cost-recovery, retrospective ration provision and tying of donations to domestic production were identified as practices with potentially important impact on nutrition. The Group agreed that the SCN's Refugee Nutrition Information System (RNIS) should broaden its scope to cover non-food as well as food responses to emergencies.

50. It was proposed by WFP and UNHCR to change the name of this Working Group to "Nutrition in Emergencies"

to signal a broader scope for discussion.

*C.7 IRON DEFICIENCY CONTROL -- REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP*

51. This Group's report discusses technical issues, along with some encouraging reports from agencies. However, it was noted with dismay that attention paid to the problem is not commensurate with its magnitude. Control (encompassing both treatment and prevention) calls for an integrated, strategic approach. Such an approach would combine dietary interventions, fortification of appropriate foods and supplementation of the most vulnerable groups. Promoting exclusive breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding, improving women's reproductive health and child spacing, and controlling infectious disease (with special concern for malaria and parasitic diseases that directly precipitate iron deficiency and anaemia), are an integral part of this approach.

52. Prevention of iron deficiency throughout the lifecycle is needed, focussing on periods when iron deficiency can cause the most lasting damage, i.e., pregnancy and young childhood. This requires assuring that mothers enter pregnancy with adequate iron and folate status and also meet their added iron needs during pregnancy. Success requires information, education and communications components (IEC), along with monitoring and evaluation. Micronutrient malnutrition often appears as a cluster of deficiencies. A human rights approach was welcomed.

53. The Group agreed that:

- UNICEF and UNU develop a combined statement on the integration of approaches to the control of vitamin A and iron deficiencies,;
- a technical workshop to resolve issues using a practical, field-oriented, science-based approach be held before the next meeting of the Working Group. The report of this workshop will be presented at next year's Working Group meeting.

*C.8 VITAMIN A DEFICIENCY -- REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP*

54. The Working Group expressed caution in citing the global estimates of subclinical vitamin A deficiency (VAD) due to methodological difficulties and recommended that WHO and UNICEF work together to update prevalence estimates, using a new methodology. Updated estimates could be disseminated through SCN publications and in other ways.

55. Some principal conclusions of the discussion were highlighted.

- The Bangladesh national vitamin A deficiency survey results were presented. Xerophthalmia is no longer a problem of public health significance, and sub-clinical VAD is greatly reduced. These results showed that access to home gardens played a role in addition to supplementation in reducing VAD over time.
- USAID-funded research in Nepal on supplementation during pregnancy and maternal mortality was noted. The challenge is to continue to undertake studies of the mortality reduction benefit of improved vitamin A status during pregnancy. WHO has organized a meeting in May to discuss vitamin A and maternal mortality.
- A near crisis in Guatemala where the government was considering revoking a law requiring vitamin A fortification of sugar was highlighted. UNICEF with PAHO collaboration will write and disseminate lessons learned.

- All donors and agencies are invited to be part of a global initiative by UNICEF, USAID, MI and CIDA to secure greater commitment to achieving the goal of elimination of VAD as a public health problem. Vitamin A programmes are not yet an integral part of child survival strategies.

56. A need for field-friendly assessment tools was highlighted. It was agreed that the interrelationships between iron and VAD should be considered at the next meeting. An informal technical consultation on Vitamin A was held in New York in December 1997. This group concluded that while assessment is important in countries likely to have a VAD problem, programmes should not necessarily await completion of serum surveys.

#### **D. Commission on Nutrition Challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and Follow-up to the Commission's First Report**

57. The Chairman of the Commission highlighted that in its work the Commission sought to look at the problem of persistent malnutrition. The SCN Chair recalled that the terms of reference for the Commission were agreed upon in Kathmandu and subsequently published in the SCN News (No. 14) and put on the SCN web page.

58. Various agencies expressed support for the many positive elements in the Commission's first draft report. The document brings a sense of urgency to the problem while maintaining optimism. It also provides strong technical leadership and new directions, underlining the need for renewed political commitment to nutrition.

59. Potential audiences for the Commission's report were discussed, of which two were considered central:

- policy makers in developing countries, donor governments, NGOs and the private sector;
- UN agencies related to nutrition and the UN in general.

60. Advocacy and awareness raising were considered to be important purposes of the finished document. All concurred with the need for stronger advocacy and stressed the need for concise, coherent messages. These could be used in conjunction with other documents such as *The State of World's Children*, *the ICN Plan of Action* and *WFS Plan of Action*.

61. Coordination within the UN system is an important factor in enhancing the impact of the UN on food and nutrition outcomes. The report could serve to highlight how the UN agencies could have a more profound impact on malnutrition reduction. Significant work is going on at country and regional level, and there is coordination amongst agencies in many circumstances. We need to build on this and strengthen it. As an example of a missed opportunity, WHO stated there is a task force on rural development and food security set up after the World Food Summit. This task force focuses on agriculture but not nutrition. At country level, we are missing an opportunity to influence activities because many SCN members are not included in the task force network.

62. Support for the Commission's work and its completion was expressed by SCN participants. The Commission should revise the present draft taking into account the comments from the Symposium, AGN and the SCN in their discussions. When the draft is completed, it should be circulated to all SCN members for comments which would be incorporated into the final report at the Commission's discretion. Other versions were also requested. A short (two-page) summary of the document could serve to bring in new insights, and to energize efforts to reduce malnutrition. This summary should be addressed to policy makers. Also, an executive summary for UN leadership and for the main SCN agencies should be prepared. The possibility of a document for ECOSOC consideration was raised and considered useful by many. The SCN chair will explore this. It was suggested that the release of the Commission's final report be widely publicized, both within and outside the UN system. WHO confirmed they would be pleased for key findings relating to the Commission report to be brought into regional ICN follow-up workshops.

63. Funding for the work of the Commission is essential to complete this task. The Commission is prepared to continue its work, although setting out a timetable for completion is not possible at this time. The approved budget for the biennium makes specific reference to the work of the Commission.

64. The need for a strategic plan, focusing on the work of SCN member agencies to address food and nutrition problems, was considered. This task was deemed necessary but outside the mandate of the Commission. It could be taken up by a sub-group of the SCN. The strategic plan would address the *implementation aspects* of improving inter-agency collaboration for nutrition including implementation of key findings and recommendations of the Commission's report. It will not discuss technical issues or priorities, but rather it will define the framework for cooperation by UN agencies in the implementation of the agreed nutrition priorities and the Commission's recommendations. It will include eight to ten key recommendations and identify two to three examples of success stories, to be provided by agencies. How to accelerate nutrition improvement within the context of the UN reform process would be highlighted. The document will ideally be five to ten pages in length, but not more than 20 pages. A specific budget allocation of about \$20,000 is required for this work.

65. The following steps were agreed:

- A first draft of the document will be prepared by a small drafting group consisting of the SCN Chair and Technical Secretary and an AGN member. Efforts will be made to secure the inputs of regional offices, since in the case of some UN agencies there is little technical (nutritional) expertise at the country level. The group will take into consideration UN initiatives in inter-agency cooperation, and also take account of trends in donor coordination with respect to sector wide approaches and "theme teams".

- The first draft will be circulated to a larger review group of approximately 12 individuals. This review group will include representatives of the UN agencies concerned with nutrition, but might also include a bilateral agency representative if possible, an NGO representative, and representatives from developing country institutions who are also responsible for nutrition programmes in their countries. The review group will submit written comments. It was emphasized, however, that agencies not necessarily wait until receiving the first draft before providing input into the strategic plan.

- The drafting group will revise the first draft in the light of comments received. The review group will meet (during July-Sept 1998) to discuss the second draft. The final draft will be circulated to SCN participants well before to the 1999 SCN meeting.

66. *The Asian Development Bank (ADB)* experience presented by Joseph Hunt served as an example of regional/country coordination in the field. The presentation highlighted a regional partnership with UNICEF and governments to move beyond project-specific interventions to a regional model for strategic planning with community-based programmes and implementation. Links to nutrition and cognitive development and a human rights approach were underscored. The themes found in the Commission's report are supportive of this ADB work. This might be a useful model to adapt for an African context. The Bank and UNICEF invite SCN participants to attend an *Investment Roundtable for Asian Children*, scheduled for September 1998 at ADB headquarters in Manila.

#### **E. A New International Growth Reference for Infants and Young Children**

67. A joint WHO/UNU project to develop a new international growth reference for infants and young children was presented by WHO and UNU. This new reference will reflect physiologic growth patterns for all children. The new reference

will be based on breastfed children because of:

- the increasing recognition of the benefits of breastfeeding;
- repeated documentation of the negative deviations in growth of healthy breastfed infants when the existing reference is used to assess growth;
- concern that perceived negative deviations of growth lead to the premature introduction of complementary feeding;
- premature introduction of complementary foods is likely to have adverse consequences.

68. The protocol used in this study deviates considerably from past efforts in that it is prescriptive rather than descriptive and the pooled sample will represent wide geographical and ethnic composition. A "healthy" population was defined as having optimal nutrition, environment, and health care resulting in optimal growth and health. It was underscored that optimal growth is not necessarily equivalent to maximal growth.

69. This is a large multi-center study with a complex protocol and a budget of about \$6 million. A strong breastfeeding support component will be put in place at each site to minimize drop-outs; compliance with feeding recommendations will be monitored carefully. The study has started in Brazil and will begin at other sites during 1998. It will take four years to complete the study.

70. A number of additional benefits of the study were highlighted. These include:

- additional references for attained growth and velocity of growth than those available at present;
- reference data for BMI for lactating mothers;
- isotope techniques to determine nutrient requirements (in collaboration with IAEA);
- strategy for promoting healthy growth and development.

71. The meeting congratulated WHO and UNU on taking on this important and much-needed work. It was stressed by several members that full funding for this project is crucial. Donors were invited to discuss their interest in supporting this project with WHO and UNU.

#### **F. 20/20 Guidelines for Basic Services**

72. The Chair introduced the 20/20 initiative as a re-prioritization within national budgets and aid budgets (20% of each), with the aim of mobilizing adequate financial resources to support basic social services. The 20/20 initiative is an interagency collaboration with practical guidelines focusing on the goals of major global conferences. Guidelines are already prepared on primary health care, basic education and reproductive health to send to country field offices and resident coordinators.

73. Draft nutrition guidelines prepared by the Technical Secretary were then discussed. Substantive comments were received and the following process proposed:

- revised draft guidelines would be distributed to SCN participants for comment;
- guidelines would be finalized by the Technical Secretary and submitted to the UN Development Group for formal consideration, by mid June;
- final version presented at the 20/20 Conference in October 1998, Hanoi.

74. WANHR offered to rewrite the section on human rights to reflect current thinking in this area. The Sphere project

should be included in the reference list. The suggestion to include evaluation in the guidelines prompted discussion on the possibility of forming a technical working group on this topic.

75. It was agreed that the presence of nutrition within the 20/20 initiative is an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of nutritional issues. More advocacy for nutrition as a part of the 20/20 initiative should be encouraged. Specifically, it was requested that the booklet being prepared by UNICEF on implementing the 20/20 initiative emphasize nutrition.

### **G. Follow-up to the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) and World Food Summit (WFS)**

76. WHO reported that 162 countries are in the process of preparing, or have finalized, national food and nutrition plans or policies (NPANs). Recent discussion amongst regional WHO advisors indicated that effectively implemented NPANs have three common features:

- political commitment, i.e., a committed budget or a food and nutrition policy as part of a national development policy;
- a focused approach and targeted priorities;
- an institutional infrastructure for nutrition, for example a national institute.

Some countries have prepared an NPAN with a limited focus, others are more comprehensive. Some countries are only implementing part of their NPAN. Following a consultation in the European region, a comparative analysis and synthesis of 51 country reports has been completed by WHO/Copenhagen and will be sent to individual countries with a follow-up questionnaire in 1998. A similar synthesis for the SE Asia region is also available. Regional and sub-regional meetings are planned to continue reviewing and evaluating progress with follow-up.

77. WHO offered to carry out a comparative analysis of budgetary allocations in NPANs across different countries, in collaboration with FAO and IFPRI. An analysis of the best examples of NPANs was also suggested to identify important lessons learned. The idea that the Commission's work should be incorporated into regional follow-up meetings was again supported. The question of availability of the NPANs and country reports was raised. Some copies are held at WHO and others at FAO. However, it was observed that these plans are continually being updated at ICN follow-up regional meetings. Updated plans are held at regional offices.

78. The Chair reminded that the SCN is mandated by the ICN Plan of Action to prepare periodic reports on ICN follow up, and it was recognized that this obligation has not been met. However, it was felt that the newly-proposed strategic plan might be considered as part of this follow-up. It was suggested that a country representative be invited to the next SCN Session to present their NPAN. More discussion of WFS follow up was requested for the next SCN Session. It was concluded that:

- a process of circulation and availability of the NPANs should be encouraged;
- this process should be drawn on in preparing the strategic plan of action;
- the Commission's work should be fed into the regional follow-up ICN meetings;
- WHO and FAO should explore with IFPRI some options for analysis of "best practice" NPANs;
- participation by bilaterals and donors in the follow-up process especially regional meetings should be encouraged.

## H. UN Agency Reports

79. FAO's programme on food security operates in about 30 countries. FAO's web site is a source of information on the range of FAO's activities. Future meetings include a joint FAO/WHO expert consultation to revise nutrient requirements (September 21-31 1998, Bangkok), and an interagency meeting on FIVIMS to be hosted by IFAD in April 1998, Rome. Two new publications; "Human Nutrition in the Developing World" by Michael Latham, and "Agriculture, food and nutrition for Africa" were mentioned. A statement to the 25<sup>th</sup> Session by FAO, including the position of FAO on the Commission, is available from the SCN Secretariat.

80. IAEA reported positive outcomes of two external reviews of their nutrition programmes, assuring the sustainability of nutrition activities at IAEA. A significant expansion in nutrition activities is expected in 1998. IAEA has active collaborations with WHO, UNICEF and USAID and is discussing possibilities for future collaboration with WFP, UNHCR and UNU. A written report is available from the SCN Secretariat.

81. UNDP highlighted the forthcoming conference on the 20/20 Initiative (October 1998, Hanoi). Attention was also drawn to this year's Human Development Report on consumption.

82. UNFPA pointed out that 1999 is the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development. During 1998, a number of preparatory activities will be carried out, including an international forum with representation from over 130 member states. The series of technical meetings will cover reproductive health and rights, adolescent reproductive health, and reproductive health in crisis situations. The presenter commented that UNFPA does not receive requests for nutrition components of reproductive health country programmes, indicating an enormous need for awareness raising in this area.

83. UNHCHR indicated that no specific programmes and activities are carried out with respect to nutrition, but encouraged SCN members to provide inputs to the High Commissioner in undertaking the mandate received through objective 7.4 of the WFS, i.e., to define the core content of the right to adequate food under article M of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. In particular, SCN members were encouraged to provide inputs to the work of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which has taken the decision to draft a General Comment to define the core content of the right to adequate food.

84. UNICEF referred to the 1998 *State of the World's Children Report* on nutrition, and highlighted the availability of a companion video and press packet. In partnership with UNAIDS, UNICEF has carried out rapid country assessments of the current status of breastfeeding promotion programmes within the context of vertical transmission of HIV/AIDS. This was identified as a high priority area. UNICEF is discussing with WFP the possibility of acquiring large amounts of breastmilk substitutes for those countries making such requests. Other areas of activity include rights-based programming and programming to increase caring capacity. With regard to emergency issues, there is a new MOU with WFP. Among the activities to support community-based nutrition programmes, the WHO/UNICEF Integrated Management of the Child with Illness (IMCI) was highlighted as being an important new programming tool. In the area of micronutrients, UNICEF is currently studying the effect of a multiple vitamin and mineral supplement in collaboration with Emory University at the request of the government of Mexico. Work on bioavailability of carotenoids also continues.

85. UNU informed that Abraham Besrat is the new Senior Vice Rector of UNU, and that Cutberto Garza is the new Director of the Food and Nutrition programme at UNU, with Nevin Scrimshaw as Senior Advisor. Collaborations with WHO on child growth and with IUNS on training initiatives were highlighted. The new IDECG publication "Causes and Consequences of Intrauterine Growth Retardation" was mentioned and it was stated that INFOODS (in partnership with FAO) now has five new regional food composition databases available on the Internet.

86. Representatives from the WHO Nutrition Programme and the WHO Programme of Food Safety and Food Aid gave reports on their activities.

- The WHO Nutrition Programme continues to provide technical and financial support to countries, largely with respect to the ICN follow-up, and to produce authoritative scientific guidelines and criteria. An ongoing multi-centre study on caring and household food security practices being carried out in six countries. Forthcoming activities include a meeting on HIV and infant feeding practices (April 1998), and a meeting to review nutrition guidelines in the elderly (May 1998) at Tufts University. A global report on IDD will go to the WHA in 1999.
- WHO's Programme on Food Safety and Food Aid addresses food safety issues through both legislation and education. The main involvement in the legislative context is the partnership with FAO on the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Lack of food safety plays an important role in infant diarrhea, which accounts for 3.2 million deaths/yr as well as high morbidity contributing to undernutrition. Education aimed at the domestic setting is essential to address this problem. Other activities in this area include collection of data on prevalence of food borne diseases, and safety assessments of foods produced by modern technologies. The presenter appealed to the SCN to give more attention to the food safety dimension: for example, breastfeeding counseling should incorporate food safety messages.

87. The World Bank gave a presentation of the Africa Nutrition Database Initiative (ANDI), an interagency effort originating at the World Bank, with a demonstration of the software. The objective of the ANDI is to provide a low-cost system using a query engine via the Internet to enable rapid access to good quality nutrition data sets housed in UN agencies. For the time being the project focuses on Africa. The system will help to reduce duplication and standardize the use of indicators across agencies. The intention is not to use all data sets available, rather those data that meet quality control criteria. The relevance of this Initiative was appreciated by many; if successful, this could be expanded to include other regions. The role of the Economic Commission for Africa in providing statistical data to many African countries was highlighted. Cost containment issues were also discussed. The next step is to obtain agreement to share datasets and to modify these datasets so as to enable access and linkage through the engine.

88. It was suggested that agency reports at the next SCN Session provide examples of how agencies are working together at the national level, accompanied by a short written report.

## ***I. Procedural Issues***

### ***I.1 GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR SCN WORKING GROUPS***

89. In response to suggestions at the two preceding SCN Sessions, a discussion paper had been submitted covering nine aspects of the functioning of working groups. A number of comments were made, including a list of suggestions by bilateral organizations, affecting functions, new names and topics, and duration of working groups.

90. All participating organizations were asked to rank and comment on all proposed groups, old and new. In the course of the discussion two new groups were suggested as follows:

- Health education and food safety
- Life cycle consequences of foetal and infant malnutrition (policy and programmes)

in addition to the existing groups on:

- Iodine Deficiency Disorders (to next meet in 2000)
- Vitamin A (to be combined with Iron in 1999)
- Nutrition in Emergencies (new name)
- Household Food Security
- Breastfeeding and Complementary Feeding (to put more emphasis on complementary feeding)
- Nutrition, Ethics and Human Rights (may not meet in 1999 due to Symposium topic)
- Nutrition of School Age Children (to next meet in 2000).

91. The SCN Chair noted these decisions:

- Regarding organization and structure, Working Group chairs should take full responsibility. He/she will be appointed by the SCN Chair and rotate every two to three years. Groups can discuss by Email or by a specifically created website or chatline and convene workshops if funds are available. The Working Group chair should decide on frequency, form and venue of the meetings; Working Groups are encouraged to appoint more than one rapporteur.
- As to content, Working Groups should follow scientific, policy and programmatic developments, keep informed of what all agencies are doing in their area of responsibility, and develop priorities and recommendations for action.

92. FAO stated that they agree with the principle of rotation and would relinquish chairship of the Working Group on household food security. Norway suggested that the World Bank be designated as chair with IFPRI as rapporteur.

### *1.2 ADVISORY GROUP ON NUTRITION (AGN) MEMBERSHIP*

93. The non-renewable term of office of one member expires at this 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the SCN, and the current two-year terms of other Advisory Group on Nutrition (AGN) members will expire at the SCN Session meeting in 1999. Members are appointed to serve two-year terms of office, renewable twice. Renewal of membership is not automatic. The SCN Chair and the Technical Secretary, in consultation with the AGN Chair, jointly decide whether individuals rotate off, taking into account performance and attendance.

94. The Technical Secretary recalled that at its 24<sup>th</sup> Session it was decided to reduce the size of the AGN membership from eight to six, for the time being. She undertook to start the recruitment process in September 1998 following the procedure decided during the 21<sup>st</sup> Session, i.e., adapted from that used by the US National Academy of Sciences and other organizations. Nominations would be requested from both UN participating agencies and bilaterals. The number of vacancies will be determined prior to the call for nominations. The names of former candidates may be resubmitted.

95. The Chairman undertook to write a letter of apology to one member of the AGN whose membership had erroneously been revoked; his membership was reinstated with immediate effect.

96. The structure, function and agenda of the AGN will be discussed by the SCN (26<sup>th</sup> Session) in the Executive Session.

### *1.3 INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SCN SECRETARIAT*

97. Participants expressed interest in being updated on a regular basis about developments in the SCN Secretariat, i.e. work in progress, travel by the Technical Secretary, along with any interesting developments in UN and bilateral

agencies. A short summary 'to keep in touch' by Email received broad support, the format and timing being left to the Technical Secretary.

### **J. Bilaterals' Statement**

98. The bilateral organizations' statement is reproduced below. Since UN agencies report to the SCN on their activities in nutrition, it was suggested that in future bilateral agencies report briefly on activities funded by them or carried out jointly with developing country agencies. This would be beneficial to all agencies participating in the work of the SCN.

"In line with previous SCN meetings the bilateral group used this opportunity to meet informally several times. We want to note that this year there has been a wider representation of bilateral organizations than ever before and that some bilateral organizations have participated for the first time. Our meetings have therefore served as important fora for informal discussions of common issues, networking and sharing of experiences.

We appreciate the work by the Secretariat during the year, notably SCN News, the finalization of the Third Report on the World Nutrition Situation, and the preparations for the 25<sup>th</sup> SCN Session. From our discussions we would like to report on the following:

WORKING GROUPS: Well organized and productive working groups have shown the important role these can play. For further improvement we suggest:

1. Working Groups should be clearly task-oriented and once the task has been accomplished, made redundant.
2. Topics be developed for working groups in the light of the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Many important topics are not represented in the working groups, at the same time some of the current ones have outlived their purpose as a separate group. Thus we suggest that the individual micronutrient groups are combined into one, that the question of complementary feeding is given due consideration in the infant feeding group and that topics such as general malnutrition and nutrition during the lifecycle be considered for future groups.

STRENGTHENING NUTRITION IN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES: We are pleased to note that the issue paper initiated by DANIDA was considered favourably by the AGN and welcome their suggestions. We discussed the relation between this paper and the first draft report by the Commission.

FOOD AID AND EMERGENCY FEEDING: The SCN work on food aid and emergency feeding is appreciated and should be continued.

INFANT FEEDING: The bilateral group urges the SCN to take up the policy suggestions raised by Isatou Semega-Janneh, in particular the challenges to SCN members to include colostrum as part of the immunization scheme, to add breastmilk to the list of essential drugs and to consider including breastmilk in the food balance sheets.

MAINSTREAMING GENDER EQUALITY: We appreciate that gender was the focus of this year's Symposium. In light of the platform for action, developed and endorsed by national governments at the Fourth UN Conference on Women in Beijing, there is a need for SCN to recognize a gender approach to nutrition policy and programme development, i.e. focus on both women and men and the relation between them rather than an exclusive focus on women.

COOPERATION: We have noted with concern the comments made about the adverse effects on poor developing countries of the lack of cooperation at the country level, between UN agencies. We would urge the SCN to make every effort to rectify this, and the proposed strategy document should present a clear strategy for such cooperation.

INFORMATION BY THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB): The bilateral group also appreciated the information given by Dr J. Hunt in that the ADB has started to commit resources to investment in nutrition.

OTHER ISSUES: The bilaterals also noted the need for more coherent support to nutrition training and human capacity building for the nutritional well-being of people, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa. In addition the bilateral group also discussed SCN networking, follow-up to the World.”

**Annex I**

**ACC/SCN 25<sup>th</sup> Session  
Oslo, Norway, 30 March to 2 April 1998**

**List of Participants**

**Chairman: Richard Jolly**  
*Technical Secretary: Sonya Rabeneck*

**Special Guests:** Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland, Director-General Elect, World Health Organization  
Dr Fernando Antezana, Deputy Director-General a.i., World Health Organization  
Dr Hilde Frafjord Johnson, Minister of International Development and Human Rights, Norway  
Dr Alien Gaye, Director of Health Services, The Gambia  
Dr Ernest Loevinsohn, Director-General, Multilateral Programs Branch, CIDA  
Dr Tomris Turmen, Executive Director, Family and Reproductive Health, World Health Organization  
Ms Isatou Semega-Janneh, Head Nutrition Unit, Ministry of Health, Social Welfare and Women's Affairs, The Gambia, Abraham Horwitz Lecturer

**United Nations, its entities and programmes:**

United Nations Children's Fund	David Clark Joanne Csete Nita Dalmiya Urban Jonsson Stephen Lewis Lida Lhotska Roger Shrimpton Ray Yip
United Nations Development Programme	Rolf Aspestrand Richard Jolly
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Susan Van der Vynckt
United Nations Fund for Population Activities	Richard Osborn
Office of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights	Sylvie Saddier
Office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees	Rita Bhatia
United Nations University	Cutberto Garza Nevin Scrimshaw Fernando Viteri
World Food Programme	Trudy Bower-Pirinis Anne Callanan Torbin Due

**Specialized agencies:**

International Labour Organization

Ann Herbert

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

William Clay

World Health Organization

Fernando Antezana

Bruno de Benoist

John Clements

Graeme Clugston

Mercedes de Onis

Fritz Käferstein

Chizuru Nishida

Felecity Savage

Tomris Turmen

Aileen Robertson

Wilma Friere

*Regional Office for Europe*

*PanAmerican Health Organization*

World Bank

Dario Berradi

Judith McGuire

Milla McLachlen

International Atomic Energy Agency

Robert Parr

**Commission on "Nutrition Challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century":**

Philip James (*Chair*)

Suttilak Smitasiri

Julia Tagwireyi

Ricardo Uauy

**Advisory Group on Nutrition:**

Lawrence Haddad (UK)

Jak Jervell (Norway)

Eileen Kennedy (USA)

Lilian Marovatsanga (Zimbabwe)

Ruth Oniang'o (*Vice Chair*) (Kenya)

Ricardo Uauy (*Chair*) (Chile)

**Secretariat of the Sub-Committee:**

Sonya Rabeneck

Arie Groenendijk

Jane Hedley

Cathy Needham

Jane Wallace

**Norwegian Host Secretariat:**

Bodil Blaker

Gunn-Elin Aa Bjorneboe

Gerd Holmboe-Ottesen

Lene Johnsen

Knut-Inge Klepp

Ahmed Mader

Kaare Norum

Arnhild Haga Rimestad

Thomas Tangen

***Bilateral agencies:***

Belgium	Albert d'Adesky
Canada	Ernest Loevinsohn Barbara MacDonald
Denmark	Shakuntala H. Thilsted Birte H. Sorensen
Finland	Kajja Hasunen
Germany	Ute Heinbuch Rainer Gross
Italy	Anna Ferro-Luzzi
Israel	Dorit Nitzan Kaluski
Japan	Toru Rikimaru
Netherlands	Elly Leemhuis-de Regt
Norway	Anne Alvik Solveig Gedde-Dahl Elisabet Helsing Hege Hertzberg Inge Nordang Arne Oshaug
Sweden	Gunilla Essner Britta Ogle Lars Ake Persson
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Suraiya Ismail Marion Kelly
United States of America	Frances Davidson Tom Marchione

***Non-Governmental Organizations:***

Action Contre la Faim	Michael Golden Yvonne Grellety
Care International	Tim Frankenberger
Concern Worldwide	Annalies Borrel
Global Forum on Sustainable Food and Nutritional Security	Flavio L.S. Valente
Helen Keller International	Martin Bloem

International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders	Francois Delange Basil S. Hetzel
International Committee of the Red Cross	Jean-Pierre Floret
International Development Research Centre	Alain Berranger
International Dietary Energy Consultancy Group	Beat Schurch
International Food Policy Research Institute	Lisa Smith
International Nutrition Foundation	Gary Gleason
International Union of Nutritional Sciences	Barbara Underwood
Irish Aid	Vincent O'Neill
Linkages, Academy for Education Development	Sandra Huffman Jay Ross
Micronutrient Initiative	Jenny Cervinkas Venkatesh Mannar
Oxfam	Judith Appleton Catherine Mears Helen Young
Save the Children Fund (UK)	Lola Gostelow
Wellstart International	Audrey J. Naylor
World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action	Elisabet Helsing
World Alliance for Nutrition and Human Rights	Wenche Barth Eide Siri Damman Asbjorn Eide George Kent
<b>Symposium Presenters:</b>	Gro Harlem Brundtland Philip James Alan Lopez Per Pinstруп-Andersen Isatou Semega-Janneh Suttilak Smitasiri

**Other Participants:**

Anniken Owren Aarum

Mohamed Abdulla, Trace Element -- Institute for UNESCO, Lyon, France

Lill Andersen, Institute for Nutrition Research, Norway

Ingrid Barikmo, Institute for Nutrition Research, Norway

George Beaton, Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto, Canada

Ingunn Bergstad, Norway

Christina Bergsten, Institute for Nutrition Research, Norway

Rune Blomhoff, Institute for Nutrition Research, Norway

Berit Borch-Iohnsen, Institute for Nutrition Research, Norway

Kari Bugge, Opplysningskontoret, Norway

Donald Bundy, Parasite Epidemiology, University of Oxford, UK B Partnership for Child Development

Asta Bye, Norway

Ed Clay, Sussex, UK

Marina de Paoli, Institute for Nutrition Research, Norway

Pal Jaregg Dis, Norway

Andreas Disen, Norway

Christian A. Drevon, Institute for Nutrition Research, Norway

Trine Ellefsen, Ministry for Agriculture, Norway

Eva Ellingsen, Ministry for Agriculture, Norway

Ase Fulke, Norway

Sissel Graff-Iversen, SHUS, Norway

Helene Gelmuyden, Norway

Thomas Gundersen, Institute for Nutrition Research, Norway

Anton Haglerod, Norway

Andrew Hall, Field Programme Coordinator, University of Oxford -- UK Partnership for Child Development

Marit Hallaker, Ministry for Agriculture, Norway

Leif Hambraeus, Norway

Anne Hatloy, Institute for Nutrition Research, Norway

Rut Haugen, SAIH, Norway

Gry Hay, Institute for Nutrition Research, Norway

Halvor Holm, Tonje Holte, SAIH, Norway

Joseph Hunt, Education, Health and Population, Asian Development Bank, Philippines

B. Christian Jenssen, Asker Naeringsrad, Norway

Ingunn Johansen, Norway

Lars Johansson, Norway

Kathrine Johnsen, SAIH, Norway

Lene Johnsen, Norway

Line Johnson, Norway

Kreftregisteret, Norway

Vibeke Landaas, Institute for Nutrition Research, Norway

Einar Lied, Norway

Elin Bjorge Loken, Institute for Nutrition Research, Norway

Arne Lowo, Institute for Nutrition Research, Norway

Ingrid Matheson, Norway

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Arnhild Mostol, Institute for Nutrition Research, Norway

Mari Myrstad, Institute for Nutrition Research, Norway

Gro Nylander, Norway

Grete Odegaard, Norway

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Richard Orraca-Tetteh, Nutrition and Food Science Dept, University of Ghana, Ghana  
Fiona O'Reilly, Emergency Nutrition Network, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland  
Turid Ose, Norway  
Abe Parvanta, CDC, Atlanta, USA  
Jan I. Pedersen, Institute for Nutrition Research, Norway  
Ase Marie Rusaanes, Ministry for Agriculture, Norway  
Maria Daniel Vaz de Almeida, Faculty of Nutrition and Food Sciences, University of Porto, Portugal  
Amrit Sakeri, Institute for Nutrition Research, Oslo  
Claire Schofield, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK  
Jeremy Shoham, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK  
Silikoset, Institute for Nutrition Research, Norway  
Bjorg Berge Skara, SHUS, Norway  
Guri Skeie, Institute for Nutrition Research, Norway  
Atle Orbeck Sorheim, Norway  
Liv Elin Torheim, Institute for Nutrition Research, Norway  
Stine Ulven, Institute for Nutrition Research, Norway  
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Maurizio Vichi, University of Chieti, Italy  
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***Provisional Agenda for SCN 26<sup>th</sup> Session***

***Geneva, 12-15 April 1999***

1. Symposium on "The substance and politics of a human rights approach to food and nutrition policies and programming".
2. Report from the Advisory Group on Nutrition.
3. Fourth Report on the World Nutrition Situation.
4. Reports of decisions taken in Working Group meetings.
5. Agency Reports.
6. Commission on Nutrition Challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century "What role for the United Nations".
7. Strategic Plan.
8. International Conference on Nutrition/World Food Summit follow-up.
9. Executive Session, to include approval of 2000/2001 budget.



## ***SUB-COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION***

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### **Potential Conflict of Interest Policy [CIP]**

#### ***Purpose***

The purpose of this policy is to avoid conflicts of interest interfering with the work of the SCN by providing for a straightforward disclosure of all potential conflicts of interest.

The intent of the policy is to make the SCN aware of potential conflicts of interest so that SCN can take account of them if they arise during the work of the SCN. It is not the intent of this policy to discourage participation in the activities of the SCN.

#### ***Scope***

All SCN participants other than those individuals from SCN Member Agencies are required to disclose to the SCN any potential conflicts of interest that may be relevant to the mission of the SCN.

#### ***Types of dual interests that should be reported***

The following relationships should be disclosed to the SCN:

1. Main institutional affiliation (from who one receives salary or regular payments). All persons should complete this item.
2. Consultancies, grants in support of research, support to attend conferences and meetings, or to cover travel or publication costs from any profit-making company or non-profit organization whose products or services are directly related to matters of nutrition before the SCN or its Working Groups.
3. Membership on the board of directors or the direct holding of stock of any such profit-making company or non-profit organization.
4. Gifts, donations and other benefits from any such profit making company or such non-profit organization.

The test to guide decisions about what to disclose is to ask whether a particular interest outside the SCN could influence, or could be perceived as influencing, an individual to act other than in a completely objective manner in participating in the work of the SCN.

#### ***Reporting process***

SCN participants other than those individuals from SCN Member Agencies should complete a *Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement* and file it with the SCN Secretariat in Geneva before attending an SCN meeting or official SCN function. A new statement should be filed yearly, if there are changes. All completed Statements will be available at annual sessions in an open binder for review by SCN Agency members and observers.

#### ***If a relevant conflict of interest arises***

In any matter coming before the SCN in which an SCN participant has a relevant conflict of interest, that participant shall make clear that interest in making any statement and shall be prepared to leave the room if requested to do so by the Chairman.

## POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

I have read the Conflict of Interest Policy of the Sub-Committee on Nutrition and understand and support its intent.

My main institutional association(s) from which I receive salary or regular payments is (are):.....

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.....

My potential conflicts of interest are the following: .....

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**Potential conflicts of interest, include links with profit making organizations in the form of:**

**Brief description, continued on separate page if necessary**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 9 | Honoraria or consultancy fees .....                                   |
| 9 | Receipt of grants for research .....                                  |
| 9 | Receipt of support for travel to attend conferences or meetings ..... |
| 9 | Publications .....  |
| 9 | Board membership .....  |
| 9 | Direct stock holder .....   |

I agree that if in the course of my participation in the activities of the Sub-Committee on Nutrition, I am involved in an activity in which there is a potential conflict of interest, I will make clear that interest in any statement I make or action I take.

Name.....Signature.....

Date .....