

Standing Committee on Nutrition

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Report of the Standing Committee on Nutrition at its Twenty-Ninth Session

*Hosted by Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Government of Germany,
in collaboration with the German Foundation for International Development (DSE
and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)
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A. Introduction

1. Dr. Namanga Ngongi welcomed participants to the 29th Session of the SCN, hosted by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Government of Germany, in collaboration with the German Foundation for International Development (DSE) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ). Dr. Ngongi said that this year marked the second time in the SCN's 25-year history that the annual session is hosted by a bilateral partner, Norway having hosted the SCN in 1998. Dr. Ngongi welcomed Professor MS Swaminathan, World Food Prize Laureate and Distinguished Nutrition Advocate to

the annual session. While discussion continues on a new name for the SCN, Dr. Ngongi noted that the SCN is still the vibrant, tripartite body of the United Nations, bringing together UN agencies, bilateral partners and NGOs/civil society to harmonize nutrition policies and actions, and to speak for nutrition at global, regional and country level with one voice. Registration for the 29th session has again surpassed all previous years, a hopeful sign of increasing commitment to nutrition and to the vision of the SCN. Annex 1 contains a list of participants.

2. Dr. Ngongi said that the ACC reform process that had taken place over the past one year would result in only a few small changes to the functioning of the SCN. In addition to taking a new name, the way in which the SCN reports to the higher levels of the UN is now modified. The Chief Executives Board, formerly the ACC, no longer wish to receive routine reports. However, the SCN may, from time to time, bring critical matters to the CEB's attention. He suggested that one of the tasks during the 29th session would be to identify nutrition messages and content for the upcoming summits and follow up conferences scheduled for this year. These meetings and others are indeed important venues in which to galvanize action for nutrition, above all to mainstream nutrition in the poverty and development agenda.

3. Dr. Ngongi said that it would not be possible for him to continue as chair given his new responsibilities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since August 2001. One of the tasks of the Steering Committee over the past few months has been to select a new chair. An announcement would be made during the 29th session. He then explained that several changes had been made to the week-long agenda, based on feedback received last year. The length of time devoted to parallel meetings of the UN agencies, the bilateral partners and the NGOs/Civil society has been increased. The number of working groups holding full meetings is reduced and there are no parallel meetings of the working groups.

4. Mr. Ngongi then introduced Mr. Erich Stather, Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to give the welcome address. Mr. Stather said that the Federal Government of Germany attaches great importance to nutrition within its development policy. Germany hosted the IFPRI Conference *Vision 2020 – Food Security for All by 2020* in September 2001 in Bonn. Germany also hosted, in March 2001, the third Expert Consultation on the Right to Food, organized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Following up on this, together with Italy and Norway, Germany has been instrumental in putting the Right to Food and the related Code of Conduct in a prominent place on the agenda of the World Food Summit+5 event, taking place in Rome in June. Mr. Stather further explained that food security is included as a top priority in the plan of action that the Federal Government has set up to fulfil the commitments of the Millennium Summit.

B. 5th Report on the World Nutrition Situation

5. Dr. Jay Ross (Academy for Educational Development) presented a progress report on behalf of the 5th Report on the World Nutrition Situation Task Force.

Other members of the Task Force are Bruce Cogill (FANTA), Lawrence Haddad (IFPRI), Kathy Kurz (International Center for Research on Women), Milla McLachlan (World Bank), Arne Oshaug (Norway), Sonya Rabeneck (Secretariat). The working title of the Report is *Engaging Development for Improving Nutrition Outcomes*. The report will contain four to five thematic chapters, plus annexes providing updated information on key nutrition indicators. Dr. Ross explained that four background papers had been commissioned by the Task Force, covering trade, social sector reform, democratization, and poverty reduction strategy processes. A one-day workshop was held on March 10, 2001, chaired by Professor MS Swaminathan to discuss the content of the background papers and to chart a way forward. Taking questions from the floor, members of the Task Force clarified that the Report will be written in a readable style and format, with an appropriate executive summary. Key messages and themes will be defined over the next four months and a full first draft will be available by July 15, 2002, with publication scheduled for March 2003 in Chennai.

C. Symposium on Nutrition in the Context of Crisis and Conflict

6. The symposium was chaired by Dr. Ngongi. Karsten Heinrichs (Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany) gave the opening address, speaking for Minister Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul. This was followed by a keynote address by Austen Davis (Médecins Sans Frontières). Three papers were presented: Achievements in assessment, interventions and coordination by Frances Mason (Action Against Hunger/UK) and Anna Taylor (Save the Children/UK), Nutrition and livelihoods in situations of conflict and other crises by George Were and Helen Young (Famine International Famine Center, Tufts University), and the Right to nutrition in conflict situations prepared by the SCN Working Group on Nutrition Ethics and Human Rights and presented by Urban Jonsson (UNICEF).

7. Introducing Ms. Catherine Bertini (Executive Director, WFP), Dr. Ngongi said he was pleased to announce that Ms. Bertini had agreed to serve as Chair of the SCN, beginning August 1, 2002 for a two-year period. Ms. Bertini spoke to the symposium audience on reaching women as a key to better nutrition in humanitarian crises. Professor MS Swaminathan (World Food Prize Laureate) then moderated a panel discussion on the theme *Doing the Right Thing: Addressing Humanitarian Dilemmas*. Members of the panel were Susanne Jaspars (NutritionWorks), Manuel da Silva (WFP), Wolfgang Heinrich (Church Development Service, a German NGO), and Alain Mourey (ICRC). A special presentation was made by Angelina Ballart (UNICEF) on the refugee nutrition situation in western

Tanzania and nutritional status of host populations. The symposium concluded with the Sixth Dr. Abraham Horwitz Lecture given by Soha Moussa of Tufts University entitled Keeping schools open: school feeding in crisis and conflict. The proceedings of the symposium will be published in the July issue of *SCN News*.

8. A synthesis of the symposium discussions was presented by Jeremy Shoham (Emergency Nutrition Network/Dublin). These key points were covered:

- A significant advance in emergency nutrition has been the increased recognition of the social, economic and political determinants of malnutrition in emergencies and the role of these determinants in programme success. Food and nutrition interventions in conflict require careful analysis of the potential risks associated with implementation. Programmes should seek to maximize good and minimize harm. Interventions should never apply blanket protocols. Vulnerability assessments must consider the multiple risks facing people in conflict, and not single out individual criteria such as gender, class, race, ethnicity and age.
- The humanitarian imperative drives a needs-based response. The humanitarian imperative in emergencies is frustrated, and in some instances undermined, by the politicization of humanitarian assistance including in food aid allocations.
- Upholding the dignity of disaster-affected communities is highlighted in human rights legislation. The presentation on human rights did not go as far as outlining the practical application of human rights programming in emergencies. The Sphere Project is an example of the practical application of human rights in emergency assistance.
- The momentum created to explore programming to prevent malnutrition through livelihoods support and health intervention needs increased investment. Flexibility should be applied to the use of resources for emergency response to allow programming which is determined by local need. More flexibility should also be applied in food aid programming, such as to allow local purchase where appropriate. There is also a need to devote greater resources to non-food items as part of humanitarian assistance, in order to effectively address the multiple causal factors responsible for malnutrition in emergencies.
- The specialization of agency mandates risks creating gaps in intervention capacity.
- There is a lack of agency presence in low-profile areas. These low-profile emergencies are under-resourced and receive little attention from the media

and donors. Hence they require increased investment and improved dialogue between humanitarian and development actors. Humanitarian assistance only reaches a small proportion of people affected by hunger. The international community should also regard chronic hunger as a global humanitarian concern.

- Capacity building is a challenge in situations of conflict. At a minimum agencies should respect the Red Cross / NGO Code of Conduct and attempt to build disaster response on local capacity.

Recommendations for SCN action:

- i) The SCN Working Group on Emergencies should conduct an analysis of the politicization of food aid to inform members and provide a background paper for a meeting of politicians and technicians.
- ii) The SCN Working Group on Nutrition Ethics and Human Rights should engage with the Working Group Nutrition and Emergencies regarding sharing experiences of the application of human rights approaches in emergencies and particularly concerning experience with the Sphere Project
- iii) The Working Group on Emergencies should link further with the Working Group on Capacity Development in Food and Nutrition to determine what forms of capacity building might be appropriate in a variety of contexts.
- iv) Detailed recommendations appearing in the paper by Anna Taylor and Frances Mason should be followed up by the Working Group on Emergencies in 2002 and 2003.
- iv) The SCN should put forward to the Secretary General a statement on nutrition in conflict and crisis.

D. Launch of a new SCN Publication

9. Barbara MacDonald (Canada) and Rainer Gross (Germany) presented *Nutrition – a Foundation for Development* just published by the SCN and available on the SCN website. The idea for this publication came up during discussion with Birthe Holm Sorensen (Denmark) during the 24th SCN session in Kathmandu. It was clear that nutrition *per se*, as a development issue, would not be able to compete with all the other development issues such as health, education and agriculture as the traditional development sectors, but also gender, poverty alleviation and others. However, there is enough evidence that the nutrition community has the tools for the other sectors to do a better job. A proposal was presented at the 25th session in Oslo and the bilaterals were mandated to work on a set of sectoral briefs for use in advocacy. Dr. Gross gratefully

acknowledged funding support from Germany, the Netherlands and IFPRI.

10. Barbara MacDonald explained that the process of preparing the document involved identifying writers from across the SCN family and twinning them with experts from different development sectors. The document is meant to be used as a tool for advocating that nutrition is a key concern for each of the sectors. Incorporating nutrition into the development sectors does not replace adequate food and nutrition as a human right, which is still the cornerstone for our work in the nutrition field. The set of 12 briefs begins with some of the well-known sectoral linkages (education, health and agriculture) but goes beyond these areas to include communities and politics. The briefs present arguments for engagement. They cover recent trends in the sector, contributions of the sector to nutrition outcomes, and finally concrete joint actions that would help in achieving nutrition goals as well as goals for other sectors. A dissemination strategy is being developed and suggestions for this are welcome.

E. Dr. Ngongi's Closing Comments

11. Dr. Ngongi called for a moment of silence for Dr. Paul Arthur who died on March 8 in Accra. Dr. Arthur was a key figure in the vitamin A field, having been principal investigator of several important field trials of vitamin A supplementation and effects on young child morbidity and mortality.

12. In closing the plenary discussion, Dr. Ngongi said that his time as Chair of the SCN was too short, but was very exciting. He thanked the Steering Committee, an innovation amongst UN bodies that serves to keep the chair informed of the wealth of activity of the SCN, and also to provide guidance for the Secretariat's work. Dr. Ngongi thanked Milla McLachlan (World Bank) and the Secretariat for keeping the work moving since his posting to the DR Congo. He said that Ms. Bertini, as the eighth Chair of the SCN, will bring great energy, focus and engagement to the creative work of the SCN. Dr. Ngongi noted that the increased interest in nutrition and HIV/AIDS in Africa was due in part to the SCN's symposium of last year. He said he hoped the SCN would draft a statement during this 29th session to highlight critical issues needing urgent action in the area of nutrition in emergencies.

13. Milla McLachlan, speaking on behalf of the Steering Committee and the entire SCN, thanked the Dr. Ngongi for his leadership over the past two years, his quiet diplomacy, his wisdom and positive approach on difficult and complex issues. She added that the SCN is proud to be associated with Dr. Ngongi's important work in the DR Congo.

F. Reports of Working Group Meetings held in Berlin

14. Four working groups held full meetings during the 29th session. Reports are available on the SCN website (www.unsystem.org/scn) or from the Secretariat by email (accscn@who.int).

F.1 CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION—*Cutberto Garza (UNU) chair, Barbara Underwood (IOM) co-chair*

15. Barbara Underwood (IOM) summarized briefly the implementation of the three African regional action plans presented in Nairobi last year. The West African region has focused on the enhancement of advocacy skills in partnership with the West Africa Health Organization. Workshops are planned for July in the Côte d'Ivoire and for October in Ghana. HIV and stunting/underweight are the main foci for capacity development in eastern and southern Africa. A request was made for greater involvement by the UN agencies, bilaterals and NGOs in implementing regionally driven, coordinated plans for capacity development in Africa. Presentations were given by SCN participants representing IFPRI, UNU, the World Bank, Brazilian Forum on Food and Nutrition Security, and Norway. A theme in each of these presentations was the importance of linking training, especially specialized degree training, with relevant opportunities for retaining human resources in the regions most in need for enhanced capacity in the area of food and nutrition.

The Working Group recommended that:

- ❑ The Working Group be provided with quarterly updates of efforts to implement the African action plans presented at the 28th session in Nairobi and of new efforts in Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.
- ❑ Regional databases (accessible through the internet or a listserve) be developed and maintained to cover activities in priority areas identified in the regional action plans that are in the early stages of planning, individual and institutional expertise in action plan priority areas, and material for training in action plan priority areas
- ❑ Other mechanisms be explored for assuring greater collaboration among and between UN agencies, bilaterals and NGOs keeping in mind that these mechanisms should be supportive of regionally-derived and driven plans of action
- ❑ Greater collaboration be developed among working groups whose focus includes nutrition and HIV/AIDS and nutrition in other emergencies to assure improved capacity in these high priority areas

- A revolving bank be developed to circulate training materials within and between regions. Efforts should be focused on priority areas identified by each of the regional action plans
- Action plans developed by each region should include a specific section outlining ten-year human resource development master plans that build incentives for career development and placement. These plans should provide clear mechanisms for continuing education to enable individuals and institutions to respond to changing needs, improve links with sectors, and widen the discourse with the aim of recruiting economic policy makers
- UN agencies, bilaterals and NGOs also should review what each could do to create local opportunities, thus enhancing retention of capacity in the regions.
- The establishment of a fund linked to the need for external advisors/consultants on projects supported by UN agencies, NGOs and bilaterals should be explored.
- An Asian steering committee should be formed and a work plan developed by it to permit the presentation of a ten-year action plan at the 30th SCN session in Chennai next year. A similar effort should be undertaken in the Middle East.

F.2 BREASTFEEDING AND COMPLEMENTARY FEEDING—*Miriam Labbok (UNICEF) chair; Randa Saadeh (WHO) co-chair; Jay Ross (Academy for Educational Development) and Reina Buijjs (Netherlands) were rapporteurs*

16. <final report not yet received from the Working Group>

F.3 MICRONUTRIENTS—*Ian Darnton-Hill (Columbia University), chair, Bruno de Benoist (WHO) co-chair; Zeina Sifri (Helen Keller Worldwide) was rapporteur*

17. Recommendations of last year were that this WG would focus on integrated interventions including food-based approaches, rather than interventions involving single micronutrients. To do this, an agenda had been designed that gave an overview of the global situation, reports on multimicronutrient research, food-based approaches and an overview of activities regarding iron, zinc and some of the B vitamins. There was a short presentation from ICCIDD to ensure iodine was addressed. Dr. Underwood (IOM) presented GAIN (Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition), a new initiative aimed at supporting developing countries in fortification of existing staple foods with micronutrients. GAIN will be launched at the UN

Special Session for Children; more information is available at www.gainhealth.org. Professor John Mason (Tulane University) presented an overview of trends in micronutrient deficiencies and control programmes. The presentation highlighted the three methods for measuring trends: comparing national surveys at different times, fitting regression to diverse national results; and interpolating regional estimates at different times for comparison. The prevalence of clinical vitamin A deficiency is declining relatively rapidly, indicating that the ICN goal will be met. There is much less progress towards the control of iron deficiency and other forms of anaemia. Regarding IDD, where there are effective national salt iodization schemes there is impressive reduction in goiter. Presentations were also made by Professor Andrew Tomkins (Institute of Child Health) on multiple micronutrient supplementation during pregnancy, Dr. Heather Goldman (USAID) on USAID's support to vitamin A programmes, Professor Jack Ling (ICCIDD) on IDD elimination, Dr. Saskia de Pee (Helen Keller International) on homestead food production, micronutrient deficiencies and their role in poverty reduction, Dr. Richard Deckelbaum (Columbia University) on the March of Dimes recently-released report on the lifecycle approach to nutrition which targets preconceptual women, Dr. Gary Gleason (International Nutrition Foundation) on activities by a wide range of partners on iron, folate and zinc, and Venkatesh Mannar (MI) on the need for a new strategy for iron.

The Working Group recommended that:

- A programme planning framework be developed that is consistent with the new decade goals to be adopted in May 2002 at the UN Special Session on Children
- To enhance effectiveness and reduce non-productive competition, the possibility of setting up a group to promote the integration of different strategies for prevention of micronutrient deficiencies should be examined
- Coordinated efforts to develop effective strategies for preventing anaemia in children under two years should be promoted; IDPAS offered to initiate a task force of the Working Group for this.
- Methods need to be developed to identify groups not currently reached and the best approaches to address their needs; a task force involving INACG could take this on.
- Following the establishment in The Hague of the Global Network for Sustained Elimination of Iodine Deficiency, the sustainability of IDD control programmes should be examined; a task force involving UNICEF, WHO, ICCIDD and others should take this forward.

F.4 NUTRITION AND HIV/AIDS—*Badara Samb (WHO) chair, Stuart Gillespie (IFPRI) and Marti van Liere (Royal Tropical Institute, The Netherlands) were rapporteurs*

18. While the role of nutrition in HIV/AIDS prevention, care and mitigation is now better understood, there remains a large gap between commitment and action. The main objective of this working group meeting was to add impetus to this emerging nutrition agenda and highlight the opportunities for relevant action. Jos Perriens' (WHO) presentation dealt with the minimum care and support package, which includes nutrition care and counselling. For some of these elements there is no guidance available on how to scale up. Strategic partnerships have led to significant decreases in drug prices. The HIV/AIDS department at WHO is not yet discussing the relationship between HIV and nutrition. During the discussion the point was made that drugs alone are not a sufficient response and hunger is a growing concern. Dan Raiten (National Institutes for Health) put forward the role of diet/nutrition in HIV and issues that would require special consideration above and beyond provision of food. He proposed a guiding framework to prioritize critical issues. Andrew Tomkins (Institute for Child Health) discussed nutrition among children and distinguished between those infected with HIV/AIDS and those affected because the mother was HIV+ or because both parents were sick or dead. He showed that nutritional care makes a difference to children with HIV; many children can survive to school age. Community-based initiatives for children whose parents are both sick or dead are quite broad, and the question is how to scale up while maintaining quality. Maren Lieberum (consultant) presented an overview of the several UN agency initiatives dealing with nutritional care and support for people living with HIV and AIDS. Stuart Gillespie (IFPRI) focused on the livelihoods perspective in the relationship between nutrition security and HIV/AIDS. He recommended that priority attention be given to communication and information sharing, and how to scale up community responses.

The Working Group recommended that:

- A consultative meeting should be organized to review and compare all initiatives dealing with nutritional care and support. The meeting should include all stakeholders especially community-based organizations
- The new chair of the working group should approach Nutritionnet (www.nutritionnet.net) to open up an information sharing forum on nutrition and HIV/AIDS and permit day-to-day dialogue between those active and concerned with these issues

- The SCN chair should write to Peter Piot and heads of HIV/AIDS departments in UN agencies of the commitments to nutrition and HIV/AIDS shown last year and summarized in the SCN Statement. These letters should identify several interventions that have proven to work
- The working group should elaborate a conceptual framework for research priorities; this framework should be used in consultative meetings
- The Secretariat should consider bringing together the various presentations made on March 14 in Berlin and publishing these along with short summaries from other presenters, possibly in *SCN News*
- The new chair of this working group should discuss with other working group chairs, well in advance of next year's meeting in Chennai, how to incorporate HIV/AIDS into working group agendas with a view to harmonizing coverage

G. Summary Reports to Plenary by other Working Groups

19. Four brief reports were received from working groups which did not meet in full during the 29th session.

G.1 NUTRITION ETHICS AND HUMAN RIGHTS—*presentation by Urban Jonsson (UNICEF), chair*

20. Last year this working group decided to intensify work on benchmarks and indicators for monitoring the realization of the right to food, health and care, to seek active engagement in this work of all SCN member agencies, and to review the status of other human rights-related work relevant to nutrition within the agencies. A draft document on monitoring had been developed by the working group task force and presented to the 28th session. Since then, the document has been discussed internally in UNICEF, and was also presented to the UN Development Group's working group on human rights programming at its January 2002 meeting in New York. It will serve as an input into the development of generic guidelines for human rights based programming, spearheaded by UNHCHR and UNDP, and the working group should seize the opportunity to contribute to this process. A major item on the working group's continuing agenda is the preparation of a manual on the interpretation and use of General Comment no. 12 on the right to adequate food, issued by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. As a preparatory step the Group will have an opportunity to review, next year, the outcome of six national seminars to be held in the course of 2002 with support from Norway. The principal objective of these seminars is to set into motion a national process

to operationalize General Comment no. 12. Seminars are planned for South Africa, Brazil, Mali, Uganda, Nepal and Norway. A synthesis report will be compiled; this will provide the basis for which the working group would discuss the procedure for developing guidelines on the implementation of General Comment no. 12. This discussion would also consider how to bring in other relevant General Comments from the Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, notably on the right to health, to education and to housing.

G.2 HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY—*presentation by Brian Thompson (FAO), rapporteur*

21. This group decided last year that work would consist of sharing operational research on community-level best practices, reaching consensus on community-centered food-based nutrition improvement programmes, possibly holding a workshop to discuss this, drawing up a plan of action for incorporating community nutrition approaches into country level policies and programmes and exploring the use of food aid for improving household food security. A virtual task force was set up. The task force is in the process of identifying its priorities. These may include work on defining common terminology, concepts and approaches, the compilation and sharing of lessons learned for reaching a consensus on best practices, the identification of indicators related to household food security, advocating for the more prominent position of household food security in development efforts for improving nutrition and “moving from know how to do how”. The working group has had a slow year; the task force invites those interested in shaping the agenda to join the email discussion forum.

G.3 NUTRITION OF SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN—*presentation by Don Bundy (World Bank), chair*

22. This working group has been helping to support inter-sectoral partnerships to promote a common vision of school nutrition and health activities, which work synergistically to improve the health, nutrition and education of school-age children especially girl children and the most disadvantaged. Work is underway in three areas: school nutrition and health programmes, HIV/AIDS and school-age children, and knowledge management and information sharing. The FRESH partnership (Focusing Resources on Effective School Health) was launched in April 2000. This is an inter-sectoral initiative to improve access to health and nutrition services within school health programmes. The core components of the FRESH framework require school-community partnerships. FRESH programmes are now being developed in over 20 countries in Africa. WFP is working with WHO to

develop programmes linking school feeding with deworming. Following a successful pilot programme in Nepal, including regular fortified midday meals, regular deworming, health education and improvement of health and hygiene facilities, two workshops were undertaken in Africa in 2001 to help education and health sectors introduce deworming into school feeding programmes.

23. The working group recognizes that HIV/AIDS poses one of the greatest threats to nutrition, health and education of school-age children. Policies for strategic action have been developed by partnerships of agencies and by individual agencies. The UN Interagency working group on HIV/AIDS, Schools and Education has helped the development of strategic plans that support the UNGASS target of achieving a 25% reduction in infection rates among young people in the most affected countries by 2005 and globally by 2010.

24. A new document, *What's new in the health and nutritional status of school-age children* has been prepared by the working group. There are plans to publish this in full in the December issue of *SCN News*. Other initiatives taken include a SchoolHealth Mail List, to share information on school health and nutrition and to serve as a forum for debate and to act as point of contact. A school health website has been developed and is administered by the Partnership for Child Development. A new FRESH website is being developed; this site will contain sections on each of the core components of FRESH.

G.4 NUTRITION IN EMERGENCIES—*presentation by Francis Mason (Action Against Hunger/UK)*

25. Members of this working group were active during the year in supporting the Secretariat in developing the 29th session symposium programme. A task force meeting was held on March 14 in Berlin to follow up on various work activities under way. The task force agreed on the importance of a proposal prepared by Helen Young (Tufts University), the Refugee Nutrition Information System (RNIS) policy paper, to assess the technical basis and empirical origins of current field approaches to nutrition surveys, the purpose of which is to serve as a normative reference for agency policies, guidelines and training initiatives. The working group stressed the importance of raising funds for this initiative.

26. A new initiative by the US Government to strengthen the capacity for monitoring standard anthropometric and mortality indicators was discussed. A number of concerns were raised by the group with regard to the need for qualitative indicators to be used alongside quantitative indicators. It was also noted that the proposal for the RNIS policy paper would be a

useful pre-cursor or parallel analytical activity for a workshop to be convened by the US. Save the Children/UK presented recent experience of measuring mortality in Sudan.

27. The thematic group on infant feeding in emergencies has worked steadily throughout the year on operational guidance, which will now be translated into four languages. Two training modules will also be developed. It is extremely important that this work is seen through to completion, including pilot testing. This requires both funding and technical input from task force and working group members.

28. The thematic group on capacity building (focal point: Annalies Borrel, Tufts University) presented their work to date. This includes developing a work plan and preparation of a training inventory which will be put onto NutritionNet for further consultation and review. A new thematic group was initiated for home-based treatment and community therapeutic feeding (focal point: Mija Tesse Ververs, Action contre la faim/France). Recent experience and future proposed strategies were presented by Valid International, Save the Children/UK and Action contre la faim. The task force agreed that plans to employ ready-to-use therapeutic foods (known as RUTFs) should be carried out only in the context of very careful analysis. Furthermore, any plan to produce alternative RUTF should be subject to strict ethical review.

29. A second new thematic group was initiated, looking at the myths established over food and nutrition programmes. The focal point for this work will be Suzanne Jaspars (NutritionWorks). Working Group members have agreed to provide evidence that supports or negates these myths. The refugee thematic group (focal point; Zahra Mirghani, UNHCR) circulated a paper to initiate discussion of activities. NutritionNet, an interactive platform for nutrition professionals to share detailed knowledge about nutritional research and operations has been initiated by Médecins Sans Frontières/Holland. The task force encourages all those who have not already registered to do so. It is intended that NutritionNet can be used also as a forum for constructive work amongst thematic groups.

30. The task force agreed that it was time to do an assessment of how the RNIS reports are used. The task force was requested to provide suggestions on how the functioning of the RNIS can be further enhanced.

H. Report from the Bilateral Partners

31. Arne Oshaug (Norway) chaired the meeting and Ted Greiner (Sweden) was rapporteur. Elly Leemhuis (Holland), the longest-serving member of the bilateral group, introduced Reina Buijs who replaces her at the nutrition desk at headquarters in The Hague. Arne

Oshaug accepted to take over from Elly Leemhuis as the bilateral representative on the Steering Committee. Ted Greiner agreed to continue as an alternate and Shakuntala Thilsted (Denmark) agreed to serve also in that capacity.

32. The bilaterals commended the SCN Secretariat and the Symposium Task Force for the excellent symposium on nutrition in the context of crisis and conflict. The symposium highlighted the critical importance of nutrition and food security indicators in early warning, programme implementation, and evaluation of humanitarian crises. Monitoring of nutrition in emergencies, particularly the Secretariat's quarterly RNIS reports, should be enhanced if possible. Evidence on vulnerability to the effects of conflicts in areas of high levels of food insecurity and chronic malnutrition strongly suggests the need for greater development investment in such areas.

33. The bilateral group reminded the SCN that as of last year the bilaterals are "bilateral partners" which means that people from developing country governments are included in their discussions. The bilateral group offered to work with the Secretariat to enhance communication about the date and venue of annual sessions so that participation continues to grow. The bilateral group presented a proposal (Annex 2) for a funding facility to increase participation from developing countries in the SCN. The Secretariat was asked to follow up on this proposal. Developing country participants should be *actively* involved in all aspects of the work of the SCN, including making presentations on relevant issues.

34. The bilateral group is pleased that the SCN has accepted to hold the 30th session in Chennai. This will be an important occasion to learn about Tamil Nadu's efforts to create a malnutrition-free state. It is hoped that Brazil will also report on its efforts to take on nutrition as a human right.

35. The bilateral group expressed concern regarding the financing of the SCN Secretariat. The bilaterals support the SCN indirectly through contributions to the UN agencies, but will continue to support projects and publications and occasionally host the annual sessions. In addition, the bilaterals will attempt to raise at appropriate times the fact that increased earmarking of funding to UN agencies reduces the availability of core funds that enables contributions to efforts such as the SCN. The bilaterals believe that the new SCN should be at least as strong as the current one, with at least the same secretarial resources and level of activity and publishing. Core funds should continue to come from UN agencies, while project and publications support is contributed by the bilaterals in response to proposals.

36. The evaluation planned for 2003 should look at the funding situation, explore the causes for the decline,

and provide solutions. The evaluation should also examine other international coordination mechanisms used for intersectoral issues like water and rural development. A third priority area for the evaluation is reporting: what kinds of reporting by the SCN to stakeholders would have the most impact?

37. The bilaterals do not feel they received adequate information during the process of recruitment of the new SCN chair and request a more transparent process be used in the future. The SCN should draw up formal guidelines to ensure that decision-making and recruitment mechanisms use transparent approaches. Concerning a related matter, conflict of interest, the Secretariat should circulate the SCN's existing Conflict of Interest Declaration form for review and updating, as appropriate.

38. Nutrition is entering a new era of opportunity. The SCN and the Secretariat must give more attention to advocacy. The bilateral-sponsored advocacy packet *Nutrition – a Foundation for Development* will assist in this work. It focuses on reaching out to various sectors and on formulating political rationale and strategies. Attention needs to be given to translating the packet into various languages and ensuring that it is a living document, revised from time to time. It is more than a publication; it should form the basis for a communication-cum-advocacy strategy. A task force could be formed to develop such a strategy.

39. Also important is the fact that eradication of extreme poverty and hunger is now a Millennium Development Goal, a mid-way target set for 2015. The SCN's vision statement should be revised to reflect this and the *5th Report on the World Nutrition Situation* should give attention to this. For example, the Report should show the extent to which recent and current trends in undernutrition will be adequate (or not) for achieving this goal.

40. Concerning other global commitments, the Secretariat should monitor the nutrition content of documents and declarations being prepared for all potentially relevant UN and intergovernmental meetings and to assist relevant actors to insert appropriate nutrition language. Wherever it is deemed important, relevant and cost-effective, the SCN should consider sending nutrition activists or advocates to such meetings, including preparatory meetings where the language of outcome documents and declarations is negotiated and formulated. Examples, in the near future, are the World Food Summit+5 in June, HIV/AIDS in July, World Summit for Sustainable Development in August. Regarding the World Food Summit+5 a voluntary code of conduct on the right to food is a priority area for Germany, Norway and several other countries. The bilaterals also want to see a

commitment to more relevant actions related to HIV/AIDS.

41. The bilaterals strongly support ongoing efforts to invigorate the functioning of those working groups that still have difficulties developing active agendas, in particular the Working Group on Household Food Security and Working Group on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS. Each Working Group should periodically review its work in relation to its mandate. The bilaterals have so far taken the lowest share of chairing the working groups, and are prepared to assist in providing chairs and rapporteurs. If so requested, Denmark is prepared to co-chair the Working Group on Food Security together with IFPRI. HIV/AIDS needs to receive much more attention in the coming SCN meetings. HIV/AIDS is changing the health and nutrition profiles in many countries and decimating the professional classes, including ministry staff. Nutrition desperately needs to get more attention as a possible way to reduce transmission rates and as one of the major sustainable interventions that countries can pursue to improve and extend the lives of people living with HIV. HIV/AIDS as a threat to food security needs to be more vigorously addressed. Expertise in breastfeeding has so far been inadequately developed and drawn upon in the implementation of new policies and the conduct and evaluation of pilot projects for mother-to-child transmission of HIV. The SCN is so far doing far too little to address these gaps.

42. Regarding the *5th Report on the World Nutrition Situation*, the bilaterals are pleased with the ongoing preparatory work and believe it is important for the SCN to continue to prepare these types of reports. There is no single UN agency with a nutrition mandate and therefore it is critical for a coordinating agency like the SCN to balance perspectives and ensure credibility. Bilateral agencies use the reports for planning, policy development and advocacy. They are used extensively in educational efforts and the editing of the report should take this into account. Emergency nutrition and the impact of conflict on nutrition should continue to receive due attention in the 5th Report.

43. The bilaterals believes that capacity development is crucial and that special efforts are required, particularly in Africa. The entire nutrition community should work in ways that emphasize capacity building. The bilaterals support the goals of the African nutrition capacity building initiative and will actively look for opportunities to enhance this work within existing programmes within a wide range of relevant areas. Examples include two NIH programmes, the global Network for Maternal and Child Health Research, co-funded by the Gates Foundation, and the Partnerships for HIV Research in Africa which focuses on social, behavioural and cultural factors influencing care and

treatment of people living with HIV/AIDS. Another is an African initiative called ITANA 2002 which focuses on information technology in nutrition with support from some of the bilaterals.

44. It is not easy for ministries in developing countries to obtain and maintain a well-trained staff. Salaries tend to be low and the best-trained staff are recruited for jobs by the bilateral and UN agencies and by NGOs. Though the entire nutrition community is involved in capacity development of some kind, there are few programmes which make an equal effort to rebuild the local pool of talent with advanced academic degrees. Innovative funding strategies need to be developed.

I. Report from the NGOs/Civil Society Group

45. The NGO/civil society parallel meeting was chaired by Flavio Luiz Schieck Valente (Forum on Sustainable Food and Nutritional Security) and co-chaired by Barbara Underwood (Institute for Medicine). Rapporteurs were Gary Gleason (International Nutrition Foundation) and Lucia Brugnara (Hohenheim University). Close to 50 representatives of NGOs and civil society organizations attended, the majority for the first time. About 20% of those attending were from international NGOs and close to 60% from academic institutions. The remaining members were from national government ministries, agencies involved in emergency/relief work, national NGOs and advocacy organizations.

46. The group first reviewed activities since the last meeting. Dr. Valente briefed the group on the very intense activity of the Steering Committee over last year, including discussion on the search for a new chair, the de-linking of the SCN from the ACC (now the CEB), discussion on the new name and on proposals for a new structure, and the implementation of the strategic plan. Civil society representatives have a continuous role in the Steering Committee. Rotation of alternates works well to guarantee a voice for civil society. The relevance of civil society contributions to the work of the SCN is increasingly recognized. To maintain this will require a high degree of information sharing, communication and coordination. The launching of an electronic discussion group to facilitate exchange of information among civil society members of the SCN was seen as a very positive step.

47. Civil society recognizes that the SCN provides enormous opportunities for a range of organizations to become fully involved in the work of the UN agencies, in nutrition globally and in reaching towards common goals to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. During the parallel NGO meeting these points were highlighted

- the NGOs/civil society group should identify strategic issues for the SCN agenda. Two possible

issues are short donor project cycles and looking at the major differences among research, policy makers and action in the field to identify and tackle the reasons why it is so difficult to apply research results to field conditions

- all mechanisms to bring the civil society viewpoint into the process of developing the *5th Report*, including via the representatives from this group on the Steering Committee, should be fully taken advantage of
- the high cost of travelling to SCN meetings is a constraint for many civil society participants; this should be considered when SCN meeting venues are selected. Venues should be accessible both financially and geographically. It may be possible to identify a core set of groups that will consistently attend the SCN meetings. Financial support for key representatives should be considered, to guarantee the continuity of the group
- because the NGO/civil society group can play a role in the work of the SCN, this group should be more proactive in making clear the role it can play. It should have a clear set of objectives for each group meeting. Representatives should come to these meetings well briefed.

48. How can the NGOs/civil society *within the SCN* coordinate work with other partners to guarantee the prioritization of nutrition in the agenda of international conferences scheduled for this year? Rolff Kunnemann, Executive Secretary of FIAN, presented the history of civil society mobilization and the participation of some governments in the effort to define and guarantee the human right to food. There is ongoing work to move governments toward the commitments made at the 1996 World Food Summit. However, most countries are far behind in implementing the plan of action developed in 1996. In early 1996, a few NGOs and governments in Latin America came up with the proposal for a Code of Conduct regarding the right of food. This was diluted to a set of voluntary guidelines during the Summit. In 2002, there is much stronger support for to having a Code of Conduct on the right of food. The current draft Code incorporates the right to nutrition as part of the right to food. The draft Code speaks about what states and communities are obligated to do. It also allows for the definition of obligations of other intergovernmental organizations including the World Bank and the IMF, and it covers international enterprises. This approach reaches into the area of accountability. Several initiatives will be held leading up to the World Food Summit+5 in June. An NGO special committee on nutrition is expected to hold a major parallel event at the World Food Summit.

49. It was felt that the human rights approach brings added value to nutrition programming, especially as it relates to the clear definition of roles and responsibilities of different social actors and the legal obligation of duty bearers to provide adequate responses to claim holders. The enforcement is not easy, however, the Code of Conduct does give common standards for monitoring by NGOs and civil society. Also, there is complementarity between the needs approach and the human rights based approaches. The Code of Conduct on the Right to Food is recognized as a significant contribution to the process by the UN High Commission for Human Rights. Some Governments are in favour of bringing this up at the World Food Summit+5 aiming towards a formal draft to be approved by the World Committee on Food Security.

50. Rainer Engels of the Forum Umwelt Entwicklung, an umbrella organization for NGOs in Germany working on environment and development issues, gave a presentation on its work in agriculture and nutrition. Dr. Engels noted that there are different mechanisms for civil society participation in international fora. In the Commission on Sustainable Development (Rio+10), the NGOs participated by submitting papers as inputs for basic discussion documents. In the follow up to the World Food Summit there is an International NGO Committee working with FAO, organizing regional conferences in preparations for Rome. In some situations civil society organizations have difficulty in influencing international fora, but they can work via their national representatives. Other opportunities for influencing international, regional and national nutrition related public policies are through direct participation in the Plant Genetic Resources Fora, the CGIAR system, the EU Common Agricultural Policy, the European Agricultural agency and through discussion of poverty reduction strategy processes.

51. The NGO/civil society group discussed a new structure for the SCN and how civil society might fit in. It was felt that this is the time to reformulate the vision, image and role of the SCN, including the possibility of a new role for civil society. Regarding reporting within the UN, this was discussed however no clear proposals were made.

The NGO/civil society group made these recommendations:

To the NGO/civil society group

- Efforts should be made to strengthen internal exchange of information, to improve communication, and to promote coordination through all means available, including electronic means
- The diversity of the group should be reflected in representation of civil society on the SCN Steering

Committee: thus academia, NGOs, and local/national organizations should all be represented, maintaining as much as possible a regional balance

- There should be increased networking and organization of NGOs/civil society around the working group themes; NGO/civil society should become more involved in SCN working groups.

To the SCN

- the SCN should be more proactive in advertising and publicizing SCN meetings, in particular, the SCN should publicize how participants can get involved in working groups. The SCN should be more proactive in seeking out civil society involvement in its work, including participation in meetings; annual sessions should be held in countries where there are nutrition problems but no problems for obtaining visas
- the SCN should support the adoption of a Code of Conduct on the Right to Adequate Food and Nutrition by the World Committee on Food Security; the draft Code should be entitled the Right to Adequate Food and Nutrition and the content should reflect both food *and* nutrition; if the World Food Summit+10 supports the formulation of a Code of Conduct, the SCN should contribute to the draft to ensure that all articles are modified to adequately reflect the right to nutrition; the Secretariat should make copies of the draft International Code of Conduct available at SCN meeting venues
- the SCN should produce a strong statement to all nutrition relevant international conferences on the need for them to focus on nutrition both as an essential input as well as an output of development policies, as a clear indicator of human development
- the SCN should gain a regular presentation time on the agenda of each of the Executive Boards of the major UN agencies and report both to the Chief Executive Board and to the UN Secretary General, and seek the support of heads of state
- the SCN should stimulate the participation of NGOs and civil society in the process of elaboration, implementation and monitoring of the major strategies involved in poverty reduction strategy processes
- the SCN should stimulate the dissemination of documents and the implementation of capacity building processes in the field of human rights-based nutrition planning and strengthen community capacity to claim rights

- working groups should be active throughout the year. The NGOs/civil society appreciates the SCN agenda framework that allows participants to attend full working group sessions in addition to parallel sessions. Some working groups are working in sub-sectors that are relatively more active while other working groups are more effective in bringing to the overall meeting a synopsis of current issues, controversies, programming and research. Poster presentations should also be considered (with posters available throughout the week) as well as improved use of the SCN website.
- these new working themes should be considered: nutrition and development policy; donor, policy maker and civil society interface; nutrition and aging, nutrition and infection, nutrition and chronic disease
- the SCN should strive for mutual respect, transparency and healthy criticism among the major groups in the SCN; to ensure representation by NGO type and geography a 'funnel' or 'pyramid' approach (sub-region to region to SCN seat) to information sharing should be considered; local and national NGOs should be better represented and make more extensive use of existing consortia or umbrella organizations

To the Secretariat

- *SCN News* should publicize civil society contacts and working group contact points in all issues
- a task force should be established to prepare a concrete proposal on how to improve communication on nutrition and integrate efforts in the field of nutrition, carried out by the different SCN groups and participants
- a letter of commendation to representatives' agencies expressing the SCN's gratitude for the person's time and their agency/organization's investment should be sent routinely

J. Report from the UN Agencies

52. The UN agencies met twice during the week. The meetings were chaired by Namanga Ngongi (March 11) and Milla McLachlan (March 14). These meetings brought together representatives from eleven UN agencies and two inter-governmental bodies, about 42 people in total. Dr. Ngongi announced that Ms. Catherine Bertini had agreed to serve as chair of the SCN for a two-year period starting August 1, 2002. This was met with great enthusiasm. The UN agencies thanked Cutberto Garza (UNU) for the time and energy he invested in identifying highly-qualified candidates.

53. Regarding overall content and structure of the 29th session, the UN group felt that several important

improvements had been made, and these should be incorporated into future sessions – namely, fewer full working group meetings and more time for each. There was also more time to discuss future collaboration; this portion of the agenda was well served by the written reports submitted in advance. These reports will be summarized in the July issue of *SCN News*. However, the UN group also recognized that a sharper focus in their discussions in future should result in *commitments* to move particular issues forward. Several participants noted that the SCN has completely failed to implement several aspects of the Strategic Plan, and that monitoring the implementation of the Plan is weak.

54. The UN group reflected on the achievements of the working groups. The quality of the presentations in the working groups was high. However, the working groups should devote more time to discussion and less to presentation, as interesting as these presentations are in surveying new knowledge in the substantive areas. Several of the working groups have been inactive during the year, thus not living up to minimum expectations. Regarding selection of working group chairs, it was agreed that these should be drawn from across the three clusters of the SCN. Nominations for working group chairs will be collated by the Secretariat, and appointments made in April by the Steering Committee. The nomination process is open throughout the 29th session. There was a proposal to establish a new working group on Nutrition's Role in Optimizing Lifelong Health.

55. Sonya Rabeneck presented the Secretariat's report covering principally a) core functions, b) publications, c) income and fund raising, d) review of the performance of the Secretariat. The ACC reform process has had no impact on the functioning of the Secretariat. The workplan approved at the 28th session is in effect. The publication programme consists of the Reports on the World Nutrition Situation (one issue every 2-3 years), Nutrition Policy Papers (one issue per year), *SCN News* (two issues per year) and RNIS (quarterly). Publication targets set for this biennium have been exceeded for Nutrition Policy Papers, and are on track for the others. However, the Secretariat's publications programme is very demanding for a small office working within extreme budgetary constraints. Core contributions are at an historical low; UNDP and UNFPA recently have both ceased contributions. This means that work priorities are reviewed and revised month by month. A performance review of the Secretariat was initiated in November 2001 which included an assessment of the feasibility of the Secretariat's terms of reference. One of the main findings relates to the current budgetary system, which is not sustainable. Current budget projections constrain the Secretariat's ability to effectively carry out established functions. The review concluded that the terms of reference for the Secretariat are not realistic given the funds available. With

increased expectations of what this office should do, this situation will only worsen. Therefore, new funding sources in addition to the UN agencies, must be identified. The performance review also recommended that the Secretariat develop a vision statement for the SCN; it should identify the top 2-3 priorities for action in nutrition. The vision statement would be an essential part of what the Secretariat and Chair use to raise funds.

56. There is an increased need for information sharing between annual sessions of the SCN, in particular amongst the working groups and working group chairs. Something along the lines of NutritionNet could be very useful, a listserv could also be considered. The SCN website, maintained by the Secretariat, is useful for providing basic information about the work of the SCN. The site is used extensively for downloading SCN publications (for example, in excess of 1400 full copies of the 4th Report on the World Nutrition Situation in February 2002 alone). The Secretariat was asked to consider enhancements to the website, and possibly to incorporate an interactive element.

57. An important aspect of Ms. Bertini's work will be raising the visibility of nutrition on the global agenda. The UN group brainstormed on prospects and venues for this: key global conferences will be identified but approaches must be made well in advance and lead agencies need to be active in identifying opportunities for Ms. Bertini to speak either in the central event or a side event. A well written editorial on nutrition appearing in the Op Ed section of a major international newspaper at the time of a global conference would also have impact; use of Distinguished Nutrition Advocates should be revisited; reaching outside the nutrition community to finance and political circles was also proposed. Many other ideas came up and this discussion will continue.

58. It was decided that a letter should go to heads of agencies emphasizing how extremely important participation in the SCN annual sessions is for nutrition and for moving ahead with collaborative work in the agencies. A letter should also go to Dr. Peter Piot asking about follow up by UNAIDS on nutrition issues identified last year at the annual symposium. Dr. Ngongi said that he had observed more attention to nutrition and HIV/AIDS in countries in Africa, however, much more could be done to make nutrition part of countries' response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

K. New Name for the SCN

59. The SCN discussed the various possibilities presented by the need to drop the "ACC", as a result of its name change. The UN agencies said, as a group, they would prefer to drop the term "system" from the proposed new name, thus United Nations Nutrition

Forum, rather than United Nations System Nutrition Forum, "system nutrition" being rather meaningless. The bilateral group urged the SCN to take a creative approach. The acronym "the SCN" is virtually a brand name in the field of nutrition. If possible the acronym should be maintained. The bilaterals suggested that the C could stand for caucus, council, coalition or consultation. The term forum was felt by some to be inappropriately passive; if it were necessary to keep forum, it could be ignored in the acronym. Thus, the possibilities for keeping "the SCN" were: UN System Coordinating Forum for Nutrition, UN System Forum for Collaboration in Nutrition, UN System Committee for Nutrition, UN System Caucus on Nutrition, UN System Coalition for Nutrition, and UN System Consultation on Nutrition. The NGO/civil society also urged the SCN plenary to adopt a name which preserves the acronym "SCN". The NGOs group favoured Special Committee on Nutrition or Special Council for Nutrition. A vote was taken; it was not conclusive and a decision was taken to refer the matter to the Steering Committee to decide at their April meeting

L. Steering Committee Membership

60. Steering Committee membership was reviewed in each separate parallel meeting. The UN agencies confirmed that UN representatives are: IAEA, FAO, UNICEF, WHO, WFP, and the World Bank. IAEA represents those UN agencies with no seat on the SC. The NGO/civil society group elected David Sanders (University of the Western Cape) to replace Barbara Underwood (IOM) as their representative.

61. The bilaterals are represented by Arne Oshaug (Norway), Ted Greiner (Sweden) and Shakuntala Thilsted (Denmark).

M. Closure of the Session, Date and Venue of the 29th Session

62. The 29th session was closed on Friday, March 15.

63. The 30th session will take place on March 3-7, 2002 in Chennai, India, hosted by the MS Swaminathan Foundation.

List of Participants

Chair: Namanga Ngongi

Technical Secretary: Sonya Rabeneck

Special Guests : Catherine Bertini, Executive Director, World Food Programme
 Austen Davis, General Director, Médecins Sans Frontières, Holland
 Manuel da Silva, World Food Programme
 Wolfgang Heinrich, Collaborative for Development Action, Germany
 Karsten Hinrichs, Director, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany
 Susanne Jaspars, NutritionWorks
 George Were, Feinstein International Famine Center
 Urban Jonsson, UNICEF
 Frances Mason, AAH/ACF
 Alain Mourey, ICRC
 Erich Stather, State Secretary, Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
 M S Swaminathan, UNESCO Cousteau Chair in Ecotechnology and Chairman, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation

Abraham Horwitz Lecturer: Soha Moussa, Tufts University

United Nations Agencies

Asian Development Bank	Joseph Hunt
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Kraisid Tontisirin Brian Thompson
International Atomic Energy Agency	Venkatesh Iyengar
International Fund for Agricultural Development	Sean Kennedy
International Food Policy Research Institute	Stuart Gillespie Bonnie McClafferty
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Natalie Cohen
United Nations Children's Fund	Krishna Belbase David Clark Rainer Gross Miriam Labbok Marjatta Tolvanen Angelina Ballart Urban Jonsson Mahesh Patel Olivia Yambi Rolf Carriere
<i>Dar es Salaam</i> <i>Eastern and Southern Africa Region Office, Nairobi</i>	
<i>Indonesia</i>	
United Nations Development Programme	Dorothy Rosenberg
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	Jean Paul Habamungu Lucas Machyibya Serge Male

United Nations University	Abraham Besrat Cutberto Garza Fre Pepping Ricardo Uauy Emorn Wasantwisut
World Bank <i>Jakarta</i>	Don Bundy Milla McLachlan Juliawati Untoro
World Food Programme <i>West Africa, Senegal</i>	Catherine Bertini Rita Bhatia Christine Van Nieuwenhuysse Andrew Thorne-Lyman Manuel Aranda da Silva
World Health Organization	Graeme Clugston Bruno de Benoist Sultana Khanum Jos Perriens Randa Saadeh Badara Samb Constanza Vallenias
<i>Bilateral Partners</i>	
Canada	Barbara Macdonald
Denmark	Shakuntala Thilsted
Finland	Kaija Hasunen
Germany	Jochen de Haas Klaus Klennert Horst Muller Ludwig Nellinger Martin Nissen Hans Pfeifer Ines Reinhard Hans Schoeneberger
Japan	Toru Rikimaru
Netherlands	Raina Buijs Elly Leemhuis-de Regt Marti van Liere
Norway	Arnhild Haga Rimestad Gerd Holmboe-Otteson Arne Oshaug
Sweden	Ted Greiner
United Kingdom - <i>DFID India</i>	Arjan de Haan
United States of America	Bruce Cogill Cheryl Jackson Lauren Landis Tom Marchione Monique Mosolf Peter Morris

Yugoslavia	Ivanka Gajic
<i>Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) and Intergovernmental Organizations (INGOs)</i>	
Academy for Educational Development	Helen Stiefel
Action Against Hunger—UK	Frances Mason
Action contre la Faim (ACF)--France	Sylvie Montembault
Antenna—Switzerland	Isabelle Genoud
CARE, USA	Judy Canahuati Catherine McCaston Dan Maxwell
<i>East Africa</i>	
Catholic Relief Services, Kenya	Kari Noel Egge
Concern International	
<i>Eritrea</i>	Emily Mwadime
Emergency Nutrition Network	Fiona O'Reilly Jeremy Shoham
FIAN	Rolf Kunnemann
Global Forum on Sustainable Food and Nutrition Security	Flavio Luiz Schieck Valente
Helen Keller International	Zenia Sifri Victor M Aguayo Martin Bloem Regina Moench Pfanner
<i>Africa Programmes, Bamako</i>	
<i>Asia-Pacific Regional Office</i>	
International Center for Research on Women	Kathleen Kurz
International Council for the Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders	Jack Ling
International Federation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent	Alain Mourey
International Life Sciences Institute	Penelope Nestel
International Nutrition Foundation	Gary Gleason
International Rescue Committee	Faniel Inyangala Obare
International Union of Nutritional Sciences	Philip James Mark Wahlqvist
LINKAGES Project	Mary Lung'aho Jay Ross
March of Dimes Birth Defects Organization	Richard Deckelbaum
Médecins Sans Frontières	
<i>Holland</i>	Aranka Anema Austen Davis Gunilla Kuperus Saskia van der Kam Paul Rees-Thomas
<i>Spain</i>	
MERLIN	Craig Burgess

Micronutrient Initiative	Ibrahim Daibes Venkatesh Mannar Marc van Ameringen
OXFAM	Mary Atkinson
Save the Children, UK	Mark Myatt Elizabeth Stevens Anna Taylor
Terre des Hommes (also representing Lida Lhotska, GIFA/IBFAN)	Rebecca Norton
Valid International	Gwenola Desplats
World Alliance for Nutrition and Human Rights	Wenche Barth Eide Uwe Kracht
World Vision Canada Mongolia	Naomi Klass Mendbayar Nyamsuren
<i>Academia and Civil Society</i>	
Belgium—	Kristien Vliegen
Centres for Disease Control and Prevention	Christine Pfeiffer
Czech Republic—American Red Cross	Jindra Cekan
Denmark—Compact A/S	Carl Bjarne Mikkelsen
Ethiopia—Christian Children's Fund	Tadele Bogale Yitaferu
France—	Charlotte Dufour
Germany—ALYCKA e. V	Christine Rufine Evina
Germany—Arzte Ohne Grenzen	Peter Tinnemann Ulrike von Pilar Yana Heinlein Henrike Zillhart
Germany—Capacities for Peace Project	Wolfgang Heinrich
Germany—Care Deutschland	Bernd Baucks
Germany—Charite	Christian Braun
Germany—DLG-Verlag	Angelika Wilcke
Germany—Deutsche Welthungerhilfe	Jochen Donner
Germany—Deutsche Welle—Afrika Radio	Petra Stein
Germany—EU Commission in Berlin	Lena Hall
Germany—Evangelische Akademie Loccum	Kerstin Lanje
Germany—Forum Umwelt & Entwicklung	Rainer Engels
Germany—German Development Institute (GDI/DIE)	Uwe Otzen
Germany—G+H Communication	Annette Hornung- Pickert
Germany—Humboldt University	Barbara Abbenheren
Germany—Humboldt University	Karola Elwert- Kretschmer
Germany—Humboldt University	Ingrid Hartmann
Germany—Humboldt University	Bernd Schubert
Germany—Hohenheim University	Lucia Brugnara
Germany—Hohenheim University	Juergen Erhardt
Germany—Hohenheim University	Pamela Ayiera Marinda

Germany—Hohenheim University	Ilona Medrikat
Germany—Hohenheim University	Roberto Tinoco
Germany—IBCLC	Elizabeth Hormann
Germany—IFIS	Luitgard Matuschka
Germany—IUFOST	Walter Spiess
Germany—University of Berlin/FUB	Manfred Schulz
Germany—University of Bonn	Gudrun Stallkamp
Germany—University of Giessen	Friederike Bellin-Sesay
	Silvia Kaufmann
	Michael Krawinkel
	Helga Rau
	Marzella Wuestefeld
	Doris Wiesmann
	Ivonne Antezana
	Georg Bokeloh
	Jutta Diekhans
	Alica Rusta
Germany—ZEF b	
Germany—	
Germany—	
Germany—	
Germany—	
India—MS Swaminathan Foundation	M S Swaminathan
Italy—	Maren Lieberum
Kenya—Jomo Kenyatta University	Ruth Oniang'o
Kenya—MESK Consult	Estifanos Tekle
Kenya—Tufts University	Yacok Aklilu
Kenya—	Jane MacAskill
Lithuania—Public Health Centre of Kaunas	Asta Liubinait
Netherlands—Wageningen University	Inge D Brouwer
Netherlands—International Agricultural Centre	Wijnand Klaver
Netherlands—International Agricultural Centre	Tina van den Briel-van Ingen
	Fannie de Boer
Netherlands—International Agricultural Centre	Han Wartna
Netherlands—Knowledge Platform	Lucy Elburg
Netherlands—Consultant	
Nigeria—Ministry of Agriculture	Adeshina Adebayo
	Ademola
	Lateef Temitope
	Adekunle
	Oduleye Fatai Oluwatobi
Nigeria—Center for Health, Population and Nutrition	Tola Atinmo
Nigeria—Resources and Food Security Foundation	Ike E Ezeagu
Nigeria—International Institute of Tropical Agriculture	Ali Ismaila
Norway—Compact AS	Jan Are Heldal
NutritionWorks	Carmel Dolan
	Susanne Jaspars
Peru—Universidad La Molina	Guillermo López de Romana
Republic of Ireland	Mike Golden
South Africa—Department of Health	Patience Legoale
South Africa—University of the Western Cape	David Sanders
South Africa—University of Natal	Champak C Jinabhai
Sri Lanka—University of Sri Jayawardenepura	Narada Warnasuriya
Sudan—University of Endemic Diseases	Fazia Mohamed Osman

UK—Interagency Group on Breastfeeding Monitoring
 UK—Imperial College and Wye
 UK—Institute of Child Health
 UK—Institute of Child Health
 UK—Institute of Child Health
 UK—Partnership for Child Development
 UK—Partnership for Child Development
 UK—Royal Botanic Gardens
 UK—St George’s Hospital, London
 UK—

Jim Bewsher
 Roland Hornung
 Felicity Savage
 Andrew Seal
 Andrew Tomkins
 Lesley Drake
 Celia Maier
 Rory McBurney
 Helen Mitchell
 Kate Godden

USA—Centres for Disease Control and Prevention
 USA—Community Food and Nutrition Institute
 USA—Institute of Human Nutrition, Columbia University
 USA—The Manoff Group
 USA—National Institute of Health/National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)
 USA—Pennsylvania State University
 USA—TANGO
 USA—Tufts University, Feinstein International Famine Centre

Christine M Pfeiffer
 Ellen Harris
 Ian Darnton-Hill
 Kimberly Bumgarner
 Daniel Raiten

Namanjeet Ahluwalia
 Tim Frankenberger
 Annalies Borrel
 Helen Young
 George Were
 Soha Moussa
 Irwin Rosenberg
 Patrick Webb

USA—Tufts University

ACC/SCN Secretariat

Sonya Rabeneck
 Merced Blanquita
 Doroteo--*on loan from World Bank*
 Jane Hedley
 Brian Jones
 Andrea Moreira

DSE Centre for Food, Rural Development and the Environment: Conference Team

Meike Loth-Kraemer
 Petra Stolp
 Kerstin Knott
 Miriam Unverzagt

GTZ-Conference Team

Andrea Boettcher
 Thoralf Schulze

Funding approaches for increasing participation from developing countries in the SCN annual sessions

1. Regarding NGO/civil society participation in the Steering Committee, at least one of the three representatives/alternates should be from a southern NGO. Participation of this/these person/s in the annual sessions should be covered through the core budget.

2. Efforts are needed to ensure further SCN participation by NGOs/civil society representatives from the south. It is recognized that part of this goal can be achieved by holding meetings as often as possible in the south and funding experts from the south to present at symposia. In addition, the Secretariat should work with NGO/civil society to write a proposal to submit to funding bodies.

3. There should be an increase in the participation of developing country governments in the SCN annual session. To achieve this, a facility should be established with funding from SCN members. The Secretariat is requested to work with members to design an appropriate funding proposal.

Facilities 2 and 3 should be administered by the SCN Secretariat in a transparent way, making their existence known to as wide a range of developing country NGOs/civil society and governments as possible and ensuring a regional balance in travel support offered for each annual session. This funding should be reserved for participants living outside the region in which the meeting is being held.