



United Nations  
System

Standing Committee on  
Nutrition

## CFS 39<sup>th</sup> Session Side event

### **Nutrition in CFS: Strengthening the Connections and Ensuring Accountability**

17 October 2012 in FAO HQ, Rome

Co-organized by the UN System Standing Committee on Nutrition [UNSCN], the Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO], the World Food Programme [WFP] and the World Health Organization [WHO]

On 17th October 2012, representatives from Guatemala, Civil Society, the EU, UN agencies including FAO, WFP and WHO, and the SUN Movement shared their perspectives on strengthening food and nutrition security in the CFS and ensuring accountability for nutrition, during the 39th Session of the Committee on World Food Security at a side event hosted by the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition.

This event built on similar events during the CFS 36th and 37th session. It stimulated a dialogue on the need, experiences and challenges regarding measurements and results/accountability frameworks for nutrition, and nutrition sensitivity in agriculture and food security. The different stakeholders of the Panel addressed the following issues:

- Country level action on nutrition sensitive agriculture and food security and links to monitoring and accountability frameworks.
- The role and experience of stakeholders with special emphasis on partnerships and accountability.
- The link with relevant global policy frameworks in nutrition (World Health Assembly nutrition implementation plan and the six global targets) and what it needs to achieve these targets.
- The new SUN Movement strategy, its accountability framework and the UN SG's Zero Hunger Challenge and what this means for the CFS.

The event stimulated participants to reflect on ways and means for the CFS and its Member States to ensure that nutrition and accountability are adequately considered in all workstreams and thus contribute to accelerated progress in eliminating hunger and malnutrition in all its forms.

## **Opening Remarks**

By his Excellency Dr Yaya Olaniran, CFS Chair, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Nigeria to FAO

Dr Yaya Olaniran explained that a lot of work has been done by various experts, and what happens, yet today, is a typical example of how something that looks simple and is so deep rooted, is giving different interpretations by people (he refers to the terminology on food and nutrition security).

He emphasized the important role of the politicians to help to get government policies in place that work perfectly well for improving nutrition of people, so that less money is spent on expensive health care because people are healthier due to eating good nutritious food. His plea is for policies allow growing more local indigenous and culturally acceptable foods. Dr Yaya Olaniran finalized by emphasizing the importance of ensuring that the food production system is sensitive to nutrition, serving the needs of the people, especially those who are hungry.

## **Welcoming Remarks**

By Mr Ramiro Lopes da Silva, UNSCN Chair and Deputy Executive Director of WFP

Mr. Ramiro Lopes da Silva explained that the main objective of the meeting was to stimulate the discussion on results frameworks and accountability in the context of nutrition, and its linkage to agriculture and food security.

As Chair of the UNSCN, he conveyed a strong message that "the SCN is alive", referring to a meeting in New York where the four heads of agencies (FAO, WHO, UNICEF and WFP) reaffirmed their commitment to working together and to being mutually accountable. Mr. Lopes da Silva summarized the way forward, referring to challenges in two areas as follows:

- (i) the need for the four agencies to move swiftly in an inclusive manner to bring the rest of the UN system at the table and engage other elements of the UN system;
- (ii) as the Heads of Agencies emphasized, our goal should be, on the one hand to get things done better at country level, in a more cooperative, collaborative and coordinated manner; and on the other, to be as effective as we can at the global level.

He stressed the fact that the next three months will be key to advancing the UNSCN agenda and to ensuring that we are able to have a more inclusive approach. Our intent is to show concretely that we are determined to move forward in a more effective manner, with an aim to providing support to national governments and partners at the country level.

***Panel: Views and Perspectives from Key Stakeholders on how to strengthen the links between food security and nutrition and ensuring accountability***

**Moderator: Dr Barbara Burlingame, FAO Principal Officer, Nutrition and Consumer Protection**

## Presentations

**1. Guatemala, country voice:** Mr. Monterroso De León, Luis Enrique, Secretario de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional (Secretary of the Food and Nutritional Security Secretariat (SESAN), Guatemala,

Mr. Luis Enrique Monterroso, declared that he would like to present what can be really positive changes for our planet.

He explained that in Guatemala, for many years, there was no decrease in chronic malnutrition, He stressed that the subject of hunger and malnutrition was overlooked, forgotten, as if it was normal to have chronically malnourished children, living in a situation of poverty and entrapped in this vicious circle. This situation started to change at the beginning of this year. Mr. Monterroso explained that the Guatemalan government, bringing together all actors, decided that the country had to break this vicious circle between poverty and malnutrition. So Guatemala adopted the Zero Hunger Pact. Mr. Monterroso declared that Guatemala now has a national alliance against malnutrition, which brings together about 160 civil society and other organizations.

Mr Monterroso also shared an example of one of Guatemala's initiatives to create awareness of fighting hunger and poverty. The President and vice-president of Guatemala as well as 1500 government officials spent a couple of nights in one of one the country's poorest communities to fully experience what poverty and hunger feels like.

Mr. Monterroso underlined that the Zero Hunger Pact needed also to have an effective technical structure. The government had looked at the experience of Bangladesh, Peru, Chili and Brazil, and decided to try to bring those lessons to Guatemala. Paradoxically, Guatemala has a high percentage of students that graduated in nutrition. Furthermore, many experts in the country were aware of the SUN Movement. However, little had been done in practical terms. Somehow there was no involvement of the technical experts with the politicians. Mr. Monterroso repeated that it is high time that the decision and policy makers are involved. In Guatemala, through the interaction, the politicians focus on priority areas and are beginning to see the actions that have to be taken for the people.

Mr. Monterroso declared that chronic malnutrition certainly points to the structural gaps of the State. Now the ministries that were not paying attention to the most vulnerable families and households, have to understand the rural context and the poor indigenous people. Mr. Monterroso explained that there are a number of components to the National Plan, and one of these is improved water and sanitation. He cited the consequences of early diarrhea on the life course. Then he talked about the importance of breastfeeding. Guatemala included all these in a program aimed at improving children's health.

Mr. Monterroso then talked about the literacy campaign. It was realized that there were many mothers who are illiterate and almost automatically had chronically malnourished children. Literacy of mothers is very important to ensure adequate nutrition, so the role of women is very important.

Mr Monterroso said that today Guatemala supports the SUN program with all the possible energy. They have a lot to learn but they have a national priority focusing on the 1000 days from conception until the end of the second birthday, the first 2 years of life. He declared that Guatemala is ready to fight this battle so they can prevent hunger in future. The efforts that have been made to both acute and chronic malnutrition comprise a total of 15 steps. Five of these steps, dealing with acute malnutrition recognize the crucial role played by family agriculture. Mr. Monterroso said that family farming is essential.

In 2005, Guatemala adopted a law on food security and nutrition and established a structure, assisted by a secretariat of which he is the Head and 2 bodies, a nutrition support body and another one representing several sectors. Mr. Monterroso concluded with the concept of political sustainability, saying that Guatemala is dealing with a so-called “protracted crisis”. The country has a lot to say to the world at this stage because this long lasting period of hunger in Guatemala is now coming to an end.

## **2. Civil Society:** Ms Stineke Oenema, Program coordinator for Food and Nutrition Security at the Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO), Netherlands

Ms Stineke Oenema outlines the importance of nutritional accountability from a rights based approach: It is essential to develop a full vision of the direct causes and underlying determinants of malnutrition: But also the steps and benchmarks, including the establishment of an enabling environment and policies needed for reaching the full realization of the right to adequate food, need to be taken into account.

The role of Civil Society is not just to participate in the design of policies and interventions, but also to be involved in the monitoring of those people that are suffering from hunger and malnutrition at this very moment. For the Civil Society to take these responsibilities capacity building is still needed to educate people about their rights, to ensure full participation of people and to make sure that they indeed can hold governments accountable. Ms Stineke finalized by emphasizing that the nutrition community needs a neutral space/ platform that allows the debate of these and other nutrition related issues.

## **3. EU:** Mr Matthew Keyes, Rural development, Food Security and Nutrition Unit, Directorate General for Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid, European Commission

Mr Matthew Keyes described that, since 2007, the EU has placed a particular focus on nutrition, and the scaling up of nutrition programmes. The EU is supporting the SUN Movement (financing the Secretariat) and the G8 discussion around nutrition. Commissioner Piebalgs is a member of the SUN lead group, and this demonstrates the EU's commitment to the movement and indeed to nutrition at the political level. Mr Keyes explained that the EU will develop a policy document describing the EU's approach to nutrition in policy terms, and as a starting point it is expected to address the EU's commitment to the reduction in stunting. Furthermore, for the period 2014 to 2020, Food and nutrition security will be a key area in the EU. Those countries that are food

insecure will be encouraged to select food security or food and nutrition security as the focus area of their collaboration with the EU.

On measurements and accountability he stressed that nutrition is very much cross-sectoral with relevant interventions in various sectors. This means also that it is difficult to measure, and if we cannot measure it, it is difficult to be held accountable. The first challenge is about how to measure what we are doing in nutrition. The EU is part of the donor network of the SUN Movement and extensive work is ongoing on how best to track what is being done (in the absence of suitable DAC codes). Finally, the EU is planning to organize a High Level Conference in Brussels early next year (March 2013) about improving reporting on nutrition finance and on results and accountability.

#### **4. UN partner agency: Dr Francesco Branca, UNSCN Executive Secretary a.i. and Director for Nutrition in the World Health Organization of the UN**

Dr Francesco Branca described that the World Health Assembly in 2012 agreed having an approach to nutrition which is broad and multi-sectoral. Member States acknowledged the work the CFS is pursuing on the Global Strategic Framework for Food security and Nutrition.

He pointed out that this is the way forward trying to break the silos and trying to address food security and nutrition security in a comprehensive way. We are moving to a different horizon where we have the different sectors aligning and really looking at nutrition in a comprehensive manner.

Then Dr Branca emphasized the importance of the six 6 global nutrition targets as a good set of indicators that could help explain what good nutrition security means in concrete. These indicators were very positively picked up by the nutrition community. At the same time these targets are also a system to develop an accountability and monitoring mechanism, and to track progress in nutrition until 2025.

He finally reflected on the Zero Hunger Challenge of the Secretary General. We are all aligned towards this Zero Hunger Challenge that has been remarkably being able to bring together the different sectors on one single framework. This is an important moment to see how we can move together for the improvement of nutrition.

### **Progress in Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN)**

#### **Dr. David Nabarro, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Food Security and Nutrition and SUN Movement Coordinator**

Dr. David Nabarro described that during 2010 and 2011 nutrition as an issue has changed beyond all recognitions. The growing willingness and eagerness of governments to move so that they are enabled to secure better nutrition for their people, was accompanied by many groups around the world, who wanted to help to make this transformation happen. Dr Nabarro compared the evolution of the SUN Movement with the creation of a big tent, a space in which different groups can come together and work towards outcomes that matter to people. And within that space they developed the SUN Road Map (in 2010) in which countries and their people are at the center. And

there is an opportunity for all other actors to come in and support them. There was no firm structure, no governance at the time, just this real wish on the part of the many governments to make a difference. Now (October 2012) there are 30 countries participating in this movement, and the number is increasing all the time.

He then explained that it is not a simple process. There are tensions all the time. But as Alessandra da Costa Lunas, one of the members of the new Lead Group, has said, this kind of work transforming the extent to which people can realize their rights and achieve good nutrition involves a struggle and finding the space in which the struggle can lead to advancement and results. He observed that that struggle is even within the Lead Group, where some say our objective is to move as fast as we can towards the World Health Assembly targets. And others say that the targets are important but what really matters are the people, that the people are empowered and supported, so that they can have sustained nutritional outcomes. Dr Nabarro finalized by emphasizing that this will not be resolved easily and quickly. The CFS and the people in it are making it happen now. It is real life. And collectively we can help all concerned to achieve that kind of outcomes they want.

### *Closing remarks*

#### **Ms. Ann Tutwiler, the Deputy Director-General (Knowledge) for FAO**

First Ms. Ann Tutwiler talked about the work of FAO in nutrition. FAO had just concluded with a direction to mainstream nutrition throughout the organization with a focus on nutrition-sensitive agriculture. The priority is given to Member States implementing nutrition at country level. FAO has recently published a review on maximizing nutritional outcomes that showed key principals are needed for making agriculture more nutrition-sensitive. There is a need to work collectively on the specifications of the nutrition-sensitivity of agriculture. She explained that FAO recognizes the importance to liberate food security, public health and social protection into one conversation, through the UN country teams engaged in REACH and other initiatives at country level.

Finally Ms Tutwiler expressed that FAO is deeply engaged in the UNSCN and is very much looking forward to continuing this commitment and reviving the interagency platform and making sure it is healthy and strong.

Then Ms. Tutwiler summarized and highlighted the main points that came out of the panel discussion:

- She noted that it is very important for countries and for rural communities that people decide what it is they want to achieve. And she emphasizes that this has not been done sufficiently and collectively. We have our own ideas of what we want to achieve and we need more conversations collectively about that.
- Furthermore, it is important getting the national politicians and decision makers involved in the fight against hunger and malnutrition, as the CFS Chair emphasized and as the example from Guatemala demonstrated. But it is not enough for Governments to commit to improving nutrition, it is also necessary to take this into our practices and actions and change in order to achieve better results in the countries.

- Ms Tutwiler underlined that we need to use what we know, use what we have. Let us go back to basics and look at what we already committed to in previous years and where we are with this, before discussing new commitments.
- There were some strong messages about what offers accountability, but also, and what is more important, that we cannot do it without the people we serve. And the Chair had indicated that sometimes we forget the people we serve.
- The need for intersectoral platforms and the need for a big tent were expressed. Ms Tutwiler noted that these are not necessarily the same thing, but that there is a role also for the UNSCN and the UN system in providing a place for that neutral conversation which needs to be further discussed.
- She finalized by emphasizing that we have to recognize that struggle and tensions are part of the scene, are part of everything we as the collective community are doing. Nevertheless, we should not let this distract us from what we are ultimately trying to achieve for the people we are trying to serve. We need to move beyond our disagreements to move to what we are all trying to achieve.

**Mr. Ramiro Lopes da Silva, UNSCN Chair and Deputy Executive Director of WFP**

Mr. Ramiro Lopes da Silva thanked those present for their participation. He stated that we clearly listened to the requests to accelerate the process of reformulating the UNSCN, and to look for opportunities to offer that neutral platform that panelists made reference to today.



## **CFS39 Side Event**

# **Nutrition in CFS Strengthening the Connections and Ensuring Accountability**

**Wednesday, 17 October 2012**

**08.30 to 09.30hrs**

**in the**

**Lebanon Room [D-209]**

This symposium, organized by the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition [UNSCN] ([www.unscn.org](http://www.unscn.org)), aimed at strengthening the dialogue on nutrition within the Committee on World Food Security [CFS], on the need for measurements and accountability frameworks for nutrition and on how the CFS can contribute to accelerate progress in nutrition improvement.

## ANNEX 1



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### Agenda

- 08.30 - 08.35 **Opening Remarks**  
*His Excellency Dr Yaya Olaniran, CFS Chair, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Nigeria to FAO*
- 08.35 - 08.40: **Welcoming Remarks** and update on the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition (UN SCN)  
*Mr. Ramiro Lopes da Silva, UN SCN Chair*
- 08:40 - 09:05: **Panel - Moderator:** *Dr. Barbara Burlingame, Principal Officer Nutrition and Consumer Protection, FAO*
- Country voices on opportunities to strengthen the connections between food security and nutrition**  
*Mr Monterroso De León, Luis Enrique, Secretario de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional, Guatemala*
- Views and perspectives on policy options and nutrition accountability from key stakeholders**  
*Ms Stineke Oenema, Program coordinator, Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO), Netherlands*  
*Mr Matthew Keyes, Rural development, Food Security and Nutrition Unit, Directorate General for Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid, European Commission*  
*Dr Francesco Branca, UNSCN Executive Secretary a.i. and Director for Nutrition, World Health Organization of the UN*
- 09:00 - 09:05: **Progress in scaling up nutrition: aligning programs around common results framework**  
*Dr David Nabarro, SUN Movement Coordinator*
- 09:05 - 09:20: Plenary discussions
- 09:20 - 09:25: Feedback from Panel members
- 09:25 - 09:30: Wrap up, conclusion and closing remarks  
*Ms Ann Tutwiler, Deputy Director-General, FAO*

## ANNEX 2

### **ABSTRACT**

#### **NUTRITION IN CFS: Strengthening the Connections and Ensuring Accountability**

UN SCN side event

Duration: 1 hour

This side event further builds on similar events during the CFS 36<sup>th</sup> and CFS 37<sup>th</sup> sessions<sup>1</sup>. It aimed to stimulate a dialogue on the need, experiences and challenges regarding measurements and results/accountability frameworks for nutrition, and nutrition sensitivity in agriculture and food security. The event was opened by the Chair of the CFS and the Chair of the UNSCN. A panel discussion was organized to give voice to different stakeholders involved.

The Panelists addressed the following thematic issues:

- Country level action on nutrition sensitive agriculture and food security and links to monitoring and accountability frameworks. Panel members will be representatives from Member States.
- The role and experience of stakeholders including Civil Society and Bilateral Partners with special emphasis on partnerships and accountability.
- The link with relevant global policy frameworks in nutrition (the WHA 2012 MIYC Nutrition Implementation Plan and the 6 global targets) and what it needs to achieve these targets.
- The new SUN Movement strategy, its accountability framework and the UN SG's Zero Hunger Challenge.

The event was to stimulate participants to reflect on ways and means for the CFS and its Member States to ensure that nutrition and accountability are adequately considered in all workstreams and thus contribute to accelerated progress in eliminating malnutrition in all its forms.

#### **Panelists are:**

CFS Chair

UNSCN Chair

Mr Monterroso De León, Luis Enrique, Secretario de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional, Guatemala

Ms Stineke Oenema, ICCO interchurch organization for development cooperation, Netherlands

Dr Francesco Branca, UNSCN Executive Secretary and representative from WHO

Mr Matthew Keyes, European Commission

Dr David Nabarro, SUN Movement Coordinator

Ms Ann Tutwiler, FAO Representative

**Moderator:** Dr Barbara Burlingame, FAO Principal Officer, Nutrition and Consumer Protection

1) The CFS36 UNSCN/FAO side event: Nutrition and Food Security: Making the Connection, and the CFS37 UNSCN/FAO/WFP side event: Towards food and nutrition security, where connections were established to strengthen the CFS nutrition agenda.