

UNSCN Commits to the Nutrition Decade February 2018

BACKGROUND

UNGA Resolution 70/259 declared on 1 April 2016 called on UNSCN's coordinating function to support the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025). From the start, UNSCN has stepped up to the request as part of the informal secretariat of the Nutrition Decade, through the implementation of its Strategic Plan 2016-2020 and in accordance with its mandate, which includes:

- Serve as a point of convergence in harmonizing the policies and activities in the UN system
- Support the development and harmonization of concepts, policies and strategies and programmes in the UN system in response to the nutritional needs of countries
- Appraise experience and progress towards achievement of objectives, and lay down guidelines for mutually supporting action at interagency and country levels
- Keep under review the overall direction, scale, coherence and impact of the UN system response to the nutritional problems of the world

Reference: ECOSOC, Institutional arrangements relating to nutrition, 63rd session, E/5968, 26 April 1977

UNSCN'S COMMITMENT IN PRACTICE

UNSCN is doing its part to assist the UN "delivering as one" in accordance with its four Strategic Objectives (SOs) as formulated in its Strategic Plan (2016-2020). These include: SO1 - Maximize UN policy coherence and advocacy on nutrition; SO2 - Support consistent and accountable delivery by the UN system; SO3 - Explore new and emerging nutrition-related issues; and SO4 - Promote knowledge sharing across the UN system.

SO1. Maximize UN policy coherence and advocacy on nutrition (Action Areas 1, 2, 4 and 6¹)

UNSCN will provide global strategic guidance for strengthening policy coherence on nutrition across the UN system, through dialogue, research and policy briefs, as well as through rallying UN agencies around unified positions. This effort will also serve the purpose of more effective UN advocacy on nutrition. UNSCN will also engage and facilitate exchanges of views and experience on issues related to nutrition, water and sanitation, social protection, and food and health systems with other (non-UN) stakeholders through existing platforms, such as the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), the Inter Agency Task Force (IATF) on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), the 10 Year

¹ The Nutrition Decade's Work Programme embraces six cross-cutting and connected action areas derived from the FfA recommendations, namely: i) sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets; ii) Aligned health systems providing universal coverage of essential nutrition actions; iii) Social protection and nutrition education; iv) Trade and investment for improved nutrition; v) Safe and supportive environments for nutrition at all ages; and vi) Strengthened governance and accountability for nutrition.

Framework Program on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP SFSP) and the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement. In addition, UNSCN will selectively engage in global “non-nutrition” fora to raise awareness on the impact of other sectors on nutrition (e.g. climate and trade).

Concrete actions under Strategic Objective One include:

- Follow-up on the outcomes of ICN2 and WHA 2025 and SDGs, respective of UNSCN mandate, in the context of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition
- Consolidate the UN interagency and non-state actor response to commitments and deliverables under the UN Decade for Action on Nutrition
- Ensure coherence of UN engagement in global fora, committees and networks in the context of global nutrition targets, i.e. CFS, WHA and IATF on NCDs
- Engage in major events for UNSCN outreach, policy influencing and knowledge sharing in person and virtually (through joint messaging)

2. Support consistent and accountable delivery by the UN system (Action Areas 1, 3, 5 and 6)

UNSCN will contribute substantially to the harmonization of UN methodologies, guidelines, policies and strategies to better respond to the needs of countries in achieving their nutrition goals. It will foster joint global actions, partnership and mutual accountability between UN agencies, working closely with the UN Network for SUN, which is mobilizing UN action at country level. UNSCN will also support FAO and WHO by mobilizing other relevant UN agencies for ensuring a robust and coherent response and engagement of the UN system in the implementation and monitoring of the outcomes of the 2025 World Health Assembly (WHA) and Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), in the broad context of contributing effectively to the achievement of the sustainable development goals (SDGs). The envisaged UN Decade for Action for Nutrition will provide a helpful framework for most of the work of UNSCN.

Concrete actions under Strategic Objective Two include:

- Integrate nutrition and NCDs in upcoming 10YFP SFS project proposals, making the link between sustainable production and sustainable and healthy consumption
- Engage with the GAFSP and with Global Nutrition Cluster
- Ensuring a close and efficient dialogue and interaction with the SUN Movement, and in particular the UN Network for SUN regarding strategic priorities, work programmes and alignment with global guidelines and targets
- Build an inventory of consolidated lessons learned and practices from members on how they engage with Private sector
- Actively engage with UNDG, UN Development Operations Coordination Office and with the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination
- Out-reach to new UN agencies to join UNSCN, specifically in support of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition

3. Explore new and emerging nutrition-related issues (Action Area 6)

UNSCN will keep abreast of, and inform on, global trends, progress and results in relation to nutrition in the context of the 2030 Agenda. It will identify critical emerging issues and propose strategies to investigate them and address knowledge gaps, in collaboration with members also engaging with several platforms such as CFS, 10YFP SFSP and IATF on NCDs, as well as strategic research and knowledge institutes. UNSCN will undertake to continuously advance nutrition challenges, in relation to emerging new dimensions, as is the case with climate change, trade and investments.

Concrete actions under Strategic Objective Three include:

- Continuously map knowledge/evidence gaps for nutrition specific and sensitive actions, in close collaboration with academia
- Work with academia (IUNS, GNR, HLPE, CGIAR, etc.) and participation in selected scientific fora

4. Promote knowledge sharing across the UN System and beyond (Action Area 6)

UNSCN will selectively convene time-bound communities of practice or working groups to advance the analysis and discussion of key topics, capitalizing on the competence and experience from its members. It will also facilitate networking and joint research within the UN system with a view of producing knowledge products and identifying normative issues to be potentially raised by UNSCN members. Through a state-of-the-art website, supported by other means of communication, UNSCN will offer a user-friendly “one-stop-shop” for information and knowledge exchange on nutrition, including on best practices.

Concrete actions under Strategic Objective Four include:

- Consistent and timely communication through the UNSCN website and social media
- Develop and disseminate regular E- alerts and quarterly newsletter
- Produce and disseminate UNSCN News
- Facilitate regular meetings between members
- Supporting time-bound UNSCN-hosted communities of practice (CoP): Accelerated Reduction Efforts of Anaemia CoP, Nutrition and Climate change eGroup, Agriculture-Nutrition CoP, and Nutrition and NCDs CoP
- (Co-) organise (side) events back to back with global meetings such as CFS, WHA, UNGA, etc.