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Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Economic and Social Council the report of the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition, submitted pursuant to Council decision 2018/207.



Report of the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition*

[Original: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

I. Background

1. In April 1977, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) established the Sub-Committee on Nutrition (SCN), eventually renamed the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN). The original ECOSOC mandate (1977) remains valid: focusing on UN policy coherence and harmonization for nutrition. The main areas of responsibility are to: i) keep under review the overall direction, scale, coherence and impact of the UN System response to nutrition problems; ii) be point of convergence to harmonize UN policies and activities; iii) provide initiative in development and harmonization of concepts, policies, strategies and programs in UN System; and iv) appraise experience and progress towards the achievement of objectives in order to be better able to develop guidelines for mutually supporting action at UN interagency and country levels.

II. Evolution

2. Since its debut, UNSCN has built a strong reputation, representing a powerful and respected voice in the global nutrition arena and serving as the only UN entity with a formal mandate from a UN governing body, focused solely on nutrition. UNSCN is helping to pave the way for the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025, hereafter Nutrition Decade), as a follow up of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and as impetus to the achievement of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UNSCN remains committed to ensuring that the UN and the wider nutrition community ‘deliver as one’ on nutrition by strengthening policy coherence, fostering joint global actions, enhancing dialogue and knowledge sharing, and promoting accountability and advocacy on nutrition. UNSCN applies a consistent approach guided by the human rights framework, particularly the right to adequate food and nutrition and it acknowledges that gender equality and realization of women’s rights are central to achieve nutrition goals.

3. Historically, there were three core constituencies within UNSCN: UN agencies, including finance institutions and intergovernmental bodies, bilateral partners and NGO/civil society/research institutions. Since 2016, UNSCN’s membership focuses solely on the UN system but has invited a selection of non-UN organization to join as associate members and observers. It is also actively engaged with multi-stakeholder platforms, such as the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement (SUN), acknowledging that a diverse range of actors is needed to contribute to eradicating malnutrition in all its forms. The UNSCN secretariat has strong links with governments, research agencies, funding agencies and individual donors.

4. Cornelia Richter, Vice-President of IFAD, became the 13th UNSCN Chair in January 2018 by unanimous vote by the UNSCN Executive Committee. From 2016–2018, Michel Mordasini, IFAD Vice-President, served as UNSCN Chair and was instrumental in helping to reestablish the UNSCN secretariat after its move back to FAO (Rome) from WHO (Geneva).

* The present report is being issued without formal editing.

5. UNSCN welcomed United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as a new member in 2018. The continual increase in membership with agencies who have a mandate beyond nutrition (currently 14 official members, one associate member and two observers¹) demonstrates the multi-disciplinary nature of nutrition and the growing number of UN agencies considering nutrition in their policies and programming. UNSCN builds on the mandate and strengths of its members, ensuring maximum impact while avoiding the duplication of efforts. The UNSCN Steering Committee consists of FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, UNSCN Chair and secretariat.

6. UNSCN works in accordance with its four Strategic Objectives (SOs) as formulated in its Strategic Plan (2016–2020):

- (a) SO1 – Maximize UN Policy Coherence and Advocacy on Nutrition
- (b) SO2 – Support Consistent and Accountable Delivery by the UN System
- (c) SO3 – Explore New and Emerging Nutrition Related Issues
- (d) SO4 – Promote Knowledge Sharing Across the UN System And Beyond

7. UNSCN’s strategies have been adapted over the years to respond to the ever changing nutrition challenges, while maintaining its focus on accountability and good governance for better nutrition. UNSCN strives to do so by stimulating discourse on emerging issues and assessing the evolving state of play in the global nutrition landscape and the governance arrangements therein.

III. Nutrition landscape and governance

8. UNSCN is making a contribution to global governance for nutrition through its four Strategic Objectives and guided by the assessment made in the discussion paper – *Global Governance for Nutrition and the role of UNSCN*. These efforts are carried out in support of Nutrition Decade Action Area ‘Strengthen governance and accountability for nutrition’.

9. Tackling all forms of malnutrition is first and foremost the responsibility of national governments. They set national policy frameworks within which other public and private sector actors operate. When done properly, these policy frameworks provide key public goods, catalyze support from the private sector to make positive contributions, and guide consumers to make good choices. But governments are not the only influence so inclusive governance and careful stewardship is needed to operationalize the necessary transformative action at global, national and local levels.

10. UN agencies – through their governing bodies, convening mechanisms and country-based platforms – support governments in their policy development to eliminate all forms of malnutrition. This support aims at increasing government’s access to nutrition resources, and building and strengthening technical and functional

¹ Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UN Environmental Programme (UNEP), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Women, World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and CGIAR (formerly the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research) through Bioversity International as an associate member. The CFS Secretariat and the UN Network for SUN/REACH Secretariat are observers.

capacities. These agencies' nutrition functions are connected via UN wide mechanisms, such as the UNSCN.

11. Given the evolving nutrition landscape and the many direct and indirect nutrition-related agendas that are being pursued by a variety of state and non-state actors at the international, national and sub-national levels, UNSCN helps assess the state of play and the governance arrangements therein. UNSCN convenes selective convening of time-bound Communities of Practice (CoP) to advance analysis and discussion of relevant topics, capitalizing on the competence and experience of its members. UNSCN also engages in broader interactions beyond the UN system with other core constituencies, such as bilateral partners, research consortia, civil society and the private sector, through existing international platforms. The communication work carried out by the UNSCN helps to unite these communities and stimulates others to be involved.

12. Efforts to support consistent and accountable delivery and concerted roll-out in countries has meant intensified collaboration with the UN Network for SUN. This harmonized approach allows for the better identification of the needs of countries to ensure that UNSCN delivers effective policy guidance that responds to local needs. Closer alliance also guarantees that important tools are able to reach intended users for better programme design. During a period of UN Reform, and guided by the will for continuous improvement, UNSCN is showing that working together achieves a greater impact through a more efficient and effective use of resources.

IV. Under the umbrella of the Nutrition Decade

13. The proclamation of the Nutrition Decade brought nutrition to the highest political agenda within the UN system. UNGA Resolution [70/259](#) called on UNSCN's coordinating function for support. As part of the informal secretariat of the Nutrition Decade, UNSCN was instrumental in the progress made in 2018, assisting FAO and WHO in their leading and convening role. This was done through: i) the development, collection, publishing and promotion of commitments to the Decade from a range of UN agencies, as well as other actors; and ii) by helping with the production of the [Nutrition Decade Work Programme](#) and how ways that this working document could be updated. Additional activities are listed under Strategic Objective 4 – *Promote knowledge sharing across the UN system and beyond*.

14. The universality of the malnutrition problem requires a comprehensive outlook to identify solutions moving forward. For the Nutrition Decade to be a success, UNSCN works to build greater synergies between the actors and sectors impacting nutrition, as well as the various on-going UN Decades.

15. As the first UN agency to [commit to the Nutrition Decade in 2017](#), IFAD is best placed to report on its achievements thus far. Given its dual nature as a UN specialized agency in smallholder agriculture and rural development, and an international financial institution that provides governments with the finance needed to make lasting and effective investments in nutrition, IFAD plays a unique role among development actors. Its work specifically targets the poor and most vulnerable households in rural areas, including women, children, youth – in particular adolescent girls – and indigenous peoples. In October 2018, IFAD encouraged actions beyond health interventions at the third International Conference on Adolescents Girls,² to a broader focus on holistic approaches to prevent early marriages and pregnancies.

² IFAD in close cooperation with Save the Children Italy and with the support of the Government of Canada. *Leaving no one behind: Making the case for adolescent girls*, Rome 22–23 October 2018.

Special attention was given to youth empowerment initiatives and indigenous peoples' empowerment to ensure that girls grow up and are educated in a healthy and safe environment.

16. In 2018, 100% of the country strategic opportunities programmes (COSOPs) approved by the IFAD's Executive Board were nutrition sensitive. For projects (loans and grants), 13 of the 27 projects approved for financing were nutrition sensitive,³ equalling 48% of projects during the course of the year and surpassing the original target of 33% of projects. IFAD organized two regional capacity building workshops⁴ to strengthen the capacity of both design and implementation of nutrition sensitive programs, training 117 professionals⁵ representing various IFAD investments in both Latin America and the Caribbean and East and Southern Africa regions. In addition, technical assistance was provided to COSOP development, project design and implementation. A Nutrition-Sensitive Value Chain guide⁶ was also published as a step-by-step guide for project design. IFAD has developed a new Nutrition Action Plan (2019–2025) and commits to improving the nutrition of 12 million people by 2021 and increasing the target of projects that are nutrition sensitive at design to 50% by 2021.⁷

V. Strategic Objective 1 – Maximize UN policy coherence and advocacy on nutrition

Actions under this theme are in support of Nutrition Decade Action Area “Strengthened governance and accountability for nutrition”⁸ and “Sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets”

17. The global nutrition targets as agreed by the World Health Assembly (WHA) in 2012, the global Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) targets and the recommendations of the ICN2 in 2014, provide a clear direction for action to fight all forms of malnutrition. These have been woven into the fabric of the SDGs, where they should be seen as crosscutting and essential to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The Nutrition Decade amplifies this message by calling for ten years of accelerated, coordinated, global action on nutrition so that the above targets can be reached.

18. To maximise policy coherence and advocacy for nutrition, it is essential that nutrition is fully integrated into a range of intergovernmental processes and platforms. Therefore, UNSCN engagement in 2018 encompassed activities with the following bodies to promote consistent nutrition messages across the various bodies, linking the health, 2030, gender and food security agendas.

³ Nutrition sensitive projects approved by IFAD's Executive Board in 13 developing countries (IFAD Member States): Bangladesh, Benin, Burundi, Brazil, Central Africa Republic; Chad, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Mozambique, Myanmar, Niger, and Sierra Leone.

⁴ IFAD's action area 2, *Contributing to strengthened capacity in nutrition-sensitive agriculture*, contributing to the Nutrition Decade action areas 1, 3, 4 and 5.

⁵ Seventy-one people in Botswana and forty-six in Panama.

⁶ <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/knowledge/publication/asset/40805038>.

⁷ A nutrition-sensitive project has explicit nutrition objectives, activities and indicators.

⁸ The Nutrition Decade's Work Programme embraces six cross-cutting and connected action areas derived from the Framework for Action (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.

(a) UNSCN convened an [Expert Group Meeting \(EGM\) Linking Nutrition with the SDGs under Review](#) (June) in 2018. This event built on the lessons learned at the [SDG2 Expert Group Meeting](#) (June 2017), and the more recent outcomes of the FAO-WHO-UNSCN event [Actioning Nutrition to drive the 2030 Agenda](#) held a few weeks prior at the Stockholm EAT Forum (June 2018). Experts from a wide range of disciplines (i.e. academia, research institutes, private sector, UN and civil society) spent one and a half days examining the SDGs from various angles, highlighting how nutrition can be a connecting force between the SDGs and a catalyst to their achievement. After the deliberations, key messages were delivered to Member States at a briefing by the UNSCN Coordinator. Notably, several of the authors that contributed to the background document eventually published their submissions as standalone publications, giving credit to the UNSCN process. Furthermore, the UNSCN secretariat was invited to provide input into the [Agriculture development, food security and nutrition](#) Report of the Secretary-General to the 73rd session of the UNGA (A/73/293, Aug 2018).

(b) The UNSCN supported the preparation and participated in the intergovernmental processes of UNSCN members, such as the WHA, the FAO Council, the Commission on the Status of Women and the UN Environment General Assembly to help promote sustainable and healthy food systems.

(c) To encourage action on all forms of malnutrition, and as convener and member of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs), the UNSCN secretariat: i) supported the development of the Task Force's work plan and deliverables; ii) supported country missions and led the development of a guidance note on nutrition for up-coming country missions – forthcoming in the first quarter of 2019; iii) developed the [UNSCN Brief: Non-communicable diseases, diets and nutrition](#) in preparation of the [Third High-level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of NCDs](#) that took place in the auspices of the 2018 UN General Assembly; and iv) assisted with the organization and participation in the side-event organized by UNSCN and the UN IATF on NCDs entitled [Friends of the UN IATF on NCDs event: Supporting Member States to achieve the NCD-related SDGs targets](#) (Sept 2018, UN HQ).

(d) The UNSCN served as part of the Advisory Group of the CFS and as a member of most of its Technical Task Teams (CFS TTT), being specifically active in the CFS TTT on Nutrition. Throughout this process, the UNSCN secretariat worked to reach consensus among members on common positions and approaches, and delivered statements on behalf of members who were not able to be present. UNSCN is also soliciting ideas to take the work forward, for example, through the UNSCN-CFS hosted event [Assessing Food Systems For Better Nutrition: Towards The Preparation Of The CFS Voluntary Guidelines](#) at the IFPRI-FAO event [Accelerating the end of hunger and malnutrition](#). These events also served to link other UNSCN activities with the platform CFS offers and feed into plenary discussions, such as the CFS 45 session [Nutrition: Good Practices and Lesson Sharing](#).

(e) In accordance to UNSCN's full commitment to accountability towards Member States, UNSCN made a formal presentation to the ECOSOC Coordination and Management Meeting (April 2018, New York) to show how its activities maximise policy coherence and advocacy for nutrition across the UN System as well as on current global nutrition challenges, including the latest Nutrition Decade developments. The [2018 Report to ECOSOC](#) was also submitted as a response to the ECOSOC decision 2018/207.

19. UNSCN carries out several initiatives to circulate messaging through its communication efforts (see Strategic Objective 4 – *Promote knowledge sharing across the UN system and beyond*) to assist UNSCN members and subscribers'

meaningful participation in these discussion, and to inform a wider audience of the importance of linking these thematic agendas.

VI. Strategic Objective 2 – Support consistent and accountable delivery by the UN system

Actions under this theme are in support of the Nutrition Decade Action Area “Sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets”, “Safe and supportive environments for nutrition at all ages” and “Strengthen governance and accountability for nutrition”. Other Action Areas will be covered in coming years.

20. Coherent policies need to be followed by consistent delivery on the ground to achieve the global nutrition targets. To help advise countries on how to define, submit and report on SMART commitments to facilitate the commitment-making process, UNSCN assisted with the production of the *Strengthening nutrition action: a resource guide for countries based on the policy recommendations of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)*.

21. UNSCN works to provide global guidance on selected policy options and strategies to improve action at the country level, in line with the 2030 Agenda and various regional strategic frameworks. Clear common principles should guide the process of developing and implementing local strategies, which can then be applied to specific contexts with an aim at developing locally specific and pragmatic strategies. The work of the UNSCN in this area is carried out in close collaboration with the UN Network for SUN/REACH secretariat, which is mobilizing UN action at country level. A primary objective of 2018 was to further disseminate UNSCN publications created between 2016–2017 to stimulate discussion, and consistent and accountable delivery by the UN system. For example, the UNSCN’s *Guidance Note on Integration of Nutrition in the UNDAF* was distributed through UN Network for SUN at country level, as well as the country office of UNSCN members. UNSCN will continue to work with UN Development Coordination Office (UNDCO) and the UN Sustainable Development Groups to create consistent messaging for this work to continue forward. UNSCN also started mapping lessons learned from country level nutrition interventions to analyse how global level guidance is being implemented at country level.

22. Significant progress was made in 2018 to update the UNSCN joint statement *Treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition and Moderate Acute Malnutrition* (2007) ensuring the newest insights and policy guidelines are taken into account. This work is being led by the UNSCN secretariat and in collaboration with members UNHCR, WHO, UNICEF and WFP. It will be released early 2019 to feed into the wasting summit later in 2019.

VII. Strategic Objective 3 – Explore new and emerging nutrition related issues

Actions under this theme in support of the first and second Strategic Objectives and in support of the Nutrition Decade Action Areas.

23. For the Nutrition Decade to achieve longstanding results, the global community needs to be forward thinking and adaptive to the constantly evolving nutrition landscape. UNSCN brings together new and emerging insights from several sources to fuel debates contributing to policy convergence and coherence. UNSCN convenes its members to gather the latest guidance and insights of their work leading to joint statements that guide global and country level actions.

Sustainable food systems for better nutrition

Actions under this theme are in support of the Nutrition Decade Action Area “Sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets”.

24. Food systems – in other words, the types of foods produced and how they are processed, traded, retailed and marketed – is failing to provide adequate, safe, diversified and nutrient-rich food for all in a sustainable way. Transforming food systems, so that they are sustainable and promote healthy diets, is vital to improving nutrition. This can only be realized when quality production is able to address micro-nutrient deficiencies, is geared towards lowering the consumption of ultra-processed foods that are too high in sugar, salt and fat and is produced in a way that promote biodiversity and respects the environment. ICN2 called for “strengthening sustainable food systems”. The Nutrition Decade takes that one step further by placing its support for the improvement of diet quality through sustainable food systems.

25. Actions that UNSCN took to support these goals are the following:

(a) Investments in food systems are often disconnected from nutrition policies and programs. Agricultural and food investment policies aim to increase economic rates of return in the sectors rather than the quality of food produced. Therefore, UNSCN used the findings of the *UNSCN Discussion Paper – Investments for Healthy Food Systems* to reach out to the international financial institutions. In February 2018, it hosted, together with IFPRI, the *Investment for Nutrition* Joint Policy Seminar. The event was well attended by the physical and virtual participation of more than 200 individuals. The discussion about investments for better health and nutrition continued during the *Global Financing Dialogue* event in April 2018 in preparation for the *Third High-level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of NCDs*. UNSCN’s role in this process was to emphasize the need to shift investment in a range of areas – from large-scale infrastructure improvements to small-scale technical and marketing support, to technology and research and development for nutrition – and should be complemented by regulatory and voluntary measures, consumer education and incentives.

(b) Developed, with support from Olivier de Schutter, the previous UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food (2008–2014), the *UNSCN News 43 – Advancing equity, equality and non-discrimination in food systems: Pathways to reform* (2018). This publication explores some of the drivers of malnutrition, how they intersect and overlap, and how this intensifies the exclusion of certain groups of people and prevents them from overcoming persistent and intergenerational malnutrition and poverty.

(c) Contributed to the integration of nutrition and NCDs in upcoming *Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Programme of the 10-Year Framework for Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns* (since renamed One Planet Network) project proposals and its overall communications and messaging, making the link between sustainable production and sustainable and healthy consumption.

(d) The outcomes from UNSCN’s *Sustainable Diets for Healthy People and a Healthy Planet* (2017) featured at several international events in 2018, and is mentioned in the report by the *EAT-Lancet Commission* (January 2019). Throughout 2018, UNSCN provided guidance on the *One Planet Transformative Sustainable Food Systems Framework* and provided an opportunity for the wider membership to engage through a presentation at it November 2018 Face-to-Face meeting. The *FAO’s Food Systems Framework* was presented in parallel.

(e) In the context of the CFS, UNSCN hosted several events highlighting the potential of food systems to work better for nutrition, [micronutrient-rich small fish species](#) included, and the need for [policies to be translated into country practices](#).

Schools as a System to Improve School Nutrition

Actions under this theme are in support of the Nutrition Decade Action Area “Sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets” and “Safe and supportive environments for nutrition at all ages”.

26. School meals are known as a vehicle for getting children to school, keeping them there, and ultimately improving their learning. Good nutrition equals improvements in math, language and cognitive test so school meals are an investment in the future. Schools are also the fertile ground for families – directly and through the messages that their children bring home – to learn about and practice healthy eating habits and the importance of physical fitness.

27. Actions that UNSCN took to support these goals are the following:

(a) The UNSCN paper [Schools as a System to Improve School Nutrition](#) (2018) was developed under the leadership of the UNSCN secretariat, building on the expert capacities of the technical staff of eight UNSCN members (FAO, IAEA, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, WHO and Bioversity International/IFPRI). Input were also received from outside the UN family, including from the BMGF, GCNF, PCD, and WB. The findings of this paper were presented at the [International Conference on School Gardens](#) (Apr 2018, The Philippines) and again at the Half-Day Seminar on Nutrition for School-Age Children (May 2018, Washington). This work supported the development of the [Home-Grown School Feeding Resource Framework](#), a knowledge product by the RBAs that harmonizes the existing approaches and tools, and builds on the wealth of expertise and experience with home grown school feeding models, and will serve as a chapter in the book *Schools, Gardens and Agrobiodiversity: Promoting Biodiversity, Food, Nutrition and Healthy Diets* (working title only) to be published in 2019.

Private Sector Engagement for Greater Nutrition Results

Actions under this theme are in support of all the Nutrition Decade Action areas.

28. During the March and November 2018 face-to-face meetings, UNSCN members were invited to present their experiences and rules of engagement for the partnerships between the UN agencies and the private sector. This helped foster a better understanding of the potential opportunities as well as challenges of these types of relationships, especially for those agencies that are considering engaging. In 2019, the intention is to create an inventory of experiences, strategies, policies, guidelines and framework on how UN agencies engage with private sector for better nutrition. A meeting to delve deeper into the inputs received is being considered. If found useful, the results could lead to the development of a set of basic principles of engagement with private sector actors on nutrition related matters.

VIII. Strategic Objective 4 – Promote knowledge sharing across the UN system and beyond

Actions under this theme are covered in support of the first and second Strategic Objectives, and in support of all the Nutrition Decade Action areas.

29. Communications tools and products are an important means to translate the discussions and commitments taking place in one forum to a much wider audience. It

helps break down silos and showcase how nutrition can serve as a stimulus to achieve a variety of development goals. In 2018, UNSCN's communication products evolved to better inform and connect the wider health, agriculture, nutrition, environment and humanitarian communities about the issues that UNSCN members are addressing through its Strategic Objectives One and Two. The connection between these themes is made especially apparent in updates about how UNSCN is connecting the dots between the conversations and the research to improve nutrition being undertaken by the various sectors and actors.

(a) In support to the Nutrition Decade awareness raising efforts, the UNSCN secretariat collected inputs from its members to assist with the production of the *Biennial Progress Report to UN General Assembly (UNGA) on the Implementation of the Nutrition Decade*. The UNSCN secretariat also serves as the main twitter feed for the Nutrition Decade and continues to raise awareness of its potential, including by highlighting the latest news through the [webpages dedicated to the Nutrition Decade](#) and newsletters. The 2017 publication *UNSCN News 42 – A Spotlight on the Nutrition Decade* continued to be used in 2018 as a reference document showcasing examples of what a Nutrition Decade looks like in practice, including for UNSCN regional and country trainings.

(b) Throughout 2018, UNSCN products and news regularly appeared in the briefs and online libraries of other organizations, including: IFPRI Compact, 10 YFP SFSP, IISD SDG Knowledge Hub, UN Special Rapporteur Newsletter, SDG2 Hub, the SUN Movement, EBSCOHost, as well as by UNSCN members.

(c) Nutrition news and information sharing has also been ramped up through E-Alerts and Quarterly Updates to UNSCN subscribers, and to a wider audience through social media.

(d) To ensure the greatest level of uptake, UNSCN translates its discussion papers into all six official UN languages.

(e) UNSCN has also facilitated the following online communities of practice: i) AREA Community of Practice for 2017, ii) The Agriculture-Nutrition Community of Practice, iii) The Nutrition and Climate Change E-group and iv) Nutrition and Noncommunicable Chronic Diseases – e-discussion Forum. A new forum about human rights, law and NCDs is being considered for 2019.

(f) Upon request, UNSCN secretariat contributed to the following publications: the article *Transforming the food system to fight non-communicable diseases* (The British Medical Journal, available early 2019), the chapter *Ten Years to Achieve Transformational Change: the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025)* in the publication *Sustainable Diets: Linking Nutrition and Food Systems* (CABI, available early 2019); *FAO Policy Guidance Note #12: Food systems for healthy diets* (FAO, available early 2019). The goal was to increase global recognition that nutrition is an essential building block for sustainable development.

IX. Conclusions

30. UNSCN has worked to maximize policy coherence among UN agencies and initiate global guidelines for nutrition policies and programming in line with global frameworks and its Strategic Objectives. Engagement with members helped identify synergies and ways to optimize available resources. Engaging with various processes and platforms, UNSCN elevated the importance of coherently addressing nutrition and the nutrition challenge throughout the UN System, which is key to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It has provided guidance on integration

on nutrition in the UNDAF to ensure delivery at the country level, and continues to disseminate this guidance to UN Country Teams directly and through its members.

31. UNSCN seeks to further promote policy coherence and consistent delivery across the UN system. To do so, it will further expand the UNSCN membership base to enable a more comprehensive approach to nutrition. UNSCN will also deepen its engagement with the governing bodies of its members. It will continue to highlight the interlinkages across the 2030 Agenda, and contribute to a successful Nutrition Decade and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
