

CFS contribution to the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025)

Chair's Summary

Recognizing that the causes associated with malnutrition are complex and multidimensional and require stepped-up efforts by all stakeholders, including from the United Nations System, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) endorsed at its 43rd Plenary a proposed strategy on “CFS Engagement in Advancing Nutrition”. This strategy spelled out a vision for CFS to step up its work on nutrition, with a proposed early focus on food systems, and outlined a series of activities over coming years to support this commitment, to take place under the framework of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) and as part of the global efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The document further called for CFS Members and stakeholders to “*discuss, in the intersessional period 2016-2017, the work programme of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition*”, and to “*identify CFS potential contribution in line with its mandate.*”

The UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025), proclaimed by the UN General Assembly on 1 April 2016, is for everybody. It is an opportunity for all stakeholders to take action, to work together to end malnutrition in all its forms, and to build and maintain momentum for efforts throughout the Decade, in order to reach the assigned goals and targets by 2025. The Work Programme of the Nutrition Decade, developed jointly by FAO and WHO in collaboration with other partners, WFP, IFAD, UNICEF, proposes a framework to guide collective efforts, with guiding principles, suggested action areas, means of implementation, governance and accountability sections.

The CFS Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) on nutrition met on 10 February 2017 and discussed both the draft UN Decade of Action on Nutrition Work Programme, and a background document “CFS Engagement in Advancing Nutrition and its Contribution to the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2015” (document CFS OEWG-Nutrition 2017/02/10/02). The discussion was opened by a joint presentation by FAO and WHO on the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and its first draft Work Programme. The proposal from WHO and FAO suggested roles for CFS to support the implementation of the Work Programme by: i) generating commitments and actions; ii) supporting the establishment of action networks; iii) convening a dialogue on accountability with its Members and stakeholders; and iv) providing a platform for political debate and greater policy convergence.

CFS Members and stakeholders provided feedback on the FAO/WHO draft Work Programme, and asked for some clarifications around some of the proposed roles for CFS which could guide the drafting of the next version. CFS Members and stakeholders reiterated their commitments to support collective efforts to eradicate all forms of malnutrition, which will be guided by the CFS strategy on nutrition endorsed at CFS 43. The first concrete contributions from CFS to the Decade of Action were, based on the CFS strategy, as follows:

- An independent, evidence-based report from the CFS High Level Panel of Experts on Nutrition and Food Systems (October 2017)
- Inclusive policy guidance on nutrition and food systems to promote global policy convergence (October 2019)
- Lesson sharing and experience on nutrition (October 2017 and October 2018, and biennial)
- Progress reporting on nutrition actions (Biennial from October 2017)

The CFS role to promote policy coherence and convergence at global level will be inclusive policy guidance focused on nutrition and food systems which is expected to be the main contribution to the Decade of Action, as well as the organization of biennial lesson and experience sharing sessions. Space will also be provided for partners such as FAO, WHO and others to track progress on nutrition, on ICN2 follow up and any potential policy gaps.

The OEWG acknowledged that the ongoing part of the Work Programme of the Decade of Action which is compiling commitments is to be updated regularly could provide an opportunity for the Committee to take stock of its own work, overall progress, and to reflect on opportunities to further intensify its efforts. If necessary the CFS Nutrition Strategy could be updated after 2019.