

May 2016

Agenda item 12.1: Maternal, infant and young child nutrition

Statement to the 69th World Health Assembly on Agenda item 12.1, Document A69/7 Add.2 – United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025)

Honourable chairperson, distinguished delegates,

This statement is delivered by World Cancer Research Fund International together with NCD Alliance, supported by 1,000 Days, Concern Worldwide, International Diabetes Federation, Jamie Oliver Food Foundation, Save the Children, SUN Civil Society Network, UK Health Forum and World Obesity Federation.

We welcome and support the proclamation of a UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (Decade), which endorses the Rome Declaration and Framework for Action (FFA) of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2). ICN2 highlighted the importance of tackling malnutrition in all its forms, including stunting, wasting, micronutrient deficiencies and overweight & obesity.

Today, there are 41 million overweight or obese children under 5, whilst 159 million children are stunted and over 50 million are wasted. Malnutrition affects all countries and in many settings multiple forms of malnutrition co-exist within communities, families and individuals.

Governments are currently off-track to meet global nutrition and NCD targets by 2025. Therefore, the Decade must galvanise efforts to achieve existing global targets to improve maternal, infant and young child nutrition and reduce non-communicable diseases by 2025, and attain nutrition-related targets in the SDGs.

We urge Member States to endorse the WHA Resolution on the Decade and without delay:

- Set ambitious national food and nutrition targets aligned with ICN2 FFA;
- Make SMART financial and political commitments to implement ICN2 FFA;
- Develop robust accountability mechanisms to review, report on and monitor SMART commitments;
- Align national agriculture, nutrition, and NCD strategies and related policies to ensure policy coherence across sectors;
- Prioritise 'double-duty actions', which impact undernutrition and overweight & obesity at the same time;
- Protect public policy-making from undue commercial interests and ensure transparency when conflicting interest exist.

We look forward to working with the WHO and FAO in the development of an ambitious and impactful work programme for the Decade.

Thank you.