Consultation on the work programme of the UN Decade of Action for Nutrition, FAO/WHO

The work programme is very broad; it would be interesting to develop more some of the positions and objectives. There is a risk in the current shape of the programme that it would add more complexity to an already crowded nutrition landscape. We would highlight three areas where the Nutrition Decade could adequately complement existing initiatives:

- To serve as the framework of reference for monitoring progress against global nutrition targets (last bullet points in para 9, p.2). This should start, as stated, by “a full and thorough mapping [...] to identify and chart all existing nutrition-related initiatives and movements, financing mechanisms and policy actions”. It is not clear which entity will carry out this important piece of work, which will be necessary to encourage the emergence of a clear action line for the Nutrition Decade. The CFS could be a good candidate because of its experience in terms of progress tracking and its inclusiveness.

- To push member states to engage and commit funding for nutrition, and to translate existing commitments taken at the global level into their national policies. The document should be careful not to provide a window for reducing the scale of existing engagements (cf para 42 “achieve one or more” → aiming at achieving one target is not enough).

- To provide a leverage to advocate for nutrition at the highest levels and a very visible scene for reporting progress and promoting accountability of states.

The work programme should provide a clearer vision on some of the action areas presented, on what are their objectives and strategic orientations:

- The role and added value of the “action networks” (para 48) need more argumentation. Particularly, it is quite unclear how the list of potential topics (p.14) has been developed. The proposed topics form quite a heterogeneous list.

- The section on “technical support for implementation” remains quite vague. Which type of support are we discussing? What would be the role of the Nutrition Decade in implementing technical support?

- Since advocacy will be one the focus of the Nutrition Decade, it would be helpful to detail how WHO and FAO envision advocacy efforts and modalities.

- The focus on food systems approaches is welcome, but not sufficiently developed. Particularly, the economic barrier in accessing a healthy diet is sometimes overlooked (affordability). The impact of climate change on food systems should also be a point of specific interest.