DECADE PILLARS FOR NUTRITION ACTION

The Decade calls all Member States to act across six pillars for nutrition action based on the commitments of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the recommendations included in the ICN2 Framework for Action:

- Sustainable food systems for healthy diets
- Aligned health systems providing universal coverage of essential nutrition actions
- Social protection and nutrition education
- Trade and investment for improved nutrition
- Enabling food and breastfeeding environments
- Review, strengthen and promote nutrition governance and accountability

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The April 2016 proclamation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025) provides a unique opportunity for stakeholders to strengthen joint efforts towards eradicating hunger and preventing all forms of malnutrition worldwide. Governments, inter-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector, academia and other actors are invited to make their commitments to advancing the global nutrition agenda, within the 2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development and framed by the Rome Declaration on Nutrition. Implementation of the Decade is co-convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

Nutrition continues to be a central health, economic and sustainable development challenge for every region on the planet. If executed thoughtfully, catalysing the efforts, resources and voice of the vast nutrition community, the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition has the potential to propagate a society-wide movement, leading to national policy change and ultimately to the end of all forms of malnutrition.

Nutrition challenges faced by Member States are complex, and their solutions require strong and sustained political leadership. As an umbrella for consolidating and aligning nutrition actions, the Decade will facilitate policy processes across the areas identified in the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) Framework for Action for the commitments of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition. Specifically, it seeks to support and catalyse nutrition actions and investments by helping countries attain specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound (SMART) commitments by 2025. By addressing all forms of malnutrition in all population groups, from stunting, wasting and micronutrient deficiencies to overweight, obesity and nutrition-related noncommunicable diseases (NCD), actions under the Decade will lead the world to meeting the World Health Assembly global nutrition targets and the global nutrition-related NCD targets.

The UN Decade of Action on Nutrition is an unprecedented opportunity for achieving nutrition impact at scale, with a collective vision of a healthier, more sustainable future. UN-wide, convened by FAO and WHO, it ensures the highest level of credibility and accountability. Its fixed time frame provides energy and focus.

The Decade offers a robust, country-driven programme of work for all nutrition stakeholders, including UN bodies and other entities such as the Committee on World Food Security and the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition, civil society, the private sector and academia.

IMPLEMENTING THE UN DECADE OF ACTION ON NUTRITION (2016–2025)

Three groups of catalytic mechanisms will support progress on nutrition commitments across the Decade:

Evidence-informed advocacy
Means and methods of generating evidence and strengthening data on effective nutrition interventions and policies, sharing guidelines and best practices and communicating key messages among relevant stakeholders.

Convening platforms
Conferences, summits and forums to help develop and drive the Decade’s work programme, to provide the opportunity to recognize successes and voice challenges and obstacles, to facilitate collaboration among governments with common policy actions and commitments, and to encourage collective work across sectors and constituencies.

Accountability mechanisms
Monitoring and check-in opportunities to assess progress using mechanisms both convened by and independent of FAO and WHO.

Implementing the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition is:
A UN-wide, FAO and WHO-convened, Member State-driven global collective effort to set, track and achieve SMART policy commitments to end all forms of malnutrition worldwide within the Sustainable Development Agenda and framed by the Rome Declaration on Nutrition.