To: All Country and Regional Representatives

Dear Colleagues,

The causes of child undernutrition – food insecurity, poor health, lack of hygiene, inadequate access to water and inappropriate care – are known, predictable and preventable. They require continued and intensified scaling up of proven interventions that – delivered together – can rapidly improve nutritional status.

The UN System Network for Scaling Up Nutrition is one of the five networks of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement and is co-facilitated by the UN System Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN) and the REACH partnership.

In June 2013, whilst attending the G8 nutrition event in London we, the Directors-General of FAO and WHO, the President of IFAD and the Executive Directors of UNICEF and WFP, further committed to our joint engagement and support in achieving the goals of the SUN Movement through the UN System Network. The UN System network workplan and its commitments can be found on the UNSCN website.

The UN System Network for SUN is the collective effort of the UN in support of scaling up nutrition actions at country level. We encourage all relevant UN agencies to become active members of the UN System Network and work together at all levels. We support joint UN efforts to harmonize nutrition guidelines and messages; to mainstream nutrition into United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks; and to support the development of national strategies and programmes. At the country level, we encourage the roll-out of REACH as an effective inter-agency initiative that supports national nutrition governance. At the same time, we foster the UNSCN’s role as the global UN harmonizing platform.

The UN is, by nature, multi-sectoral. When we work well together, we have the potential for enormous impact. The UN System Network for SUN reafﬁrms our support for scaled up nutrition efforts. We believe it can drive us to do better at country level.
It is you – our UN country and regional representatives, supported by the global, regional and country nutrition teams – who can make this happen. Through your efforts, we are confident that we can achieve the greater impact the world expects of us as we strive to end child hunger and undernutrition.

Sincerely,

José Graziano da Silva
Director-General
Food and Agriculture Organization

Margaret Chan
Director-General
World Health Organization

Kanayo Nwanze
President
International Fund for Agricultural Development

Anthony Lake
Executive Director
United Nations Children’s Fund

Ertharin Cousin
Executive Director
World Food Programme