

**Participants**

Civil Society Network (CSN)	SUN Business Network (SBN)	Donor Network (SDN)	UN System Network (UN N4SUN)	SUN Movement Secretariat (SMS)
- Claire BLANCHARD - Cecilia RUBERTO	- Jonathan TENCH	- Maren LIEBERUM	- Nancy WALTERS - Nicolas BIDAULT - Ilaria SCHIBBA - Lina MAHY	- Christine CAMPEAU (CC) - Ounfanatt EDUI - Ferran PÉREZ

The Chair (CC) welcomed all and reviewed the agenda.

**1. The 69<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly**

The 69<sup>th</sup> Session of the [World Health Assembly](#) (WHA69) took place in Geneva from 23 to 28 May 2016. The Assembly was the most ambitious so far and included a packed agenda with almost [80 reports](#) for consideration. The Assembly had 3939 participants from Member States, and partners in official relations, 419 special attendees and more than 200 Secretariat core staff; totalling to more than 4500 people.

**Overview of the nutrition-related outcomes of the 69<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly**

The WHA69 approved two resolutions on the nutrition Agenda item 12.1 Maternal, infant and young child nutrition (document A69/7).

The first one (A69 A CONF5 Rev1 – which will become resolution [WHA69.8](#)) relates to the Decade of Action on Nutrition and contains a call to Member States to develop policies and financial commitments that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound (SMART) in respect of the outcomes of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2). This resolution was proposed by the delegates of Chad, Ecuador, Haiti, New Zealand, Panama and Peru.

The second resolution (A69 A CONF7 Rev1 - which will become resolution [WHA69.9](#)) relates to Ending inappropriate promotion of foods for infants and young children “welcomes with appreciation” the guidance by the Secretariat, calling for a number of implementation steps by Member States and the World Health Organisation (WHO). The resolution could encourage concrete action and implementation at country level, and included a footnote for countries to go beyond what was agreed when developing their national legislation. This resolution was proposed by delegations of Ecuador, Panama, Mexico, Thailand, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Norway, Niger, Chad, Mozambique, Sudan and Switzerland.

In the Committee A plenary, there has been a remarkable discussion on the nutrition item, with 26 Member States taking the floor, 3 observer Members and 12 non-governmental organisations in official liaison status. In addition, in Committee B, a progress report on iodine deficiency disorders has also been discussed, with 3 Member States providing comments.

Under agenda item 12.2 the **Report of the Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity ([Document A69/8](#))**, Delegates considered the report of the Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity, which sets out the approaches and combinations of interventions that are likely to be most effective in tackling childhood and adolescent obesity in different contexts around the world. Member States welcomed the 6 recommendations detailed in the Commission's report. These include strategies to tackle environmental norms that foster obesity, reduce the risk of obesity through the life-course and treat children who are already obese to improve their current and future health. The Assembly calls on the WHO Secretariat to develop an implementation plan to guide further action, in consultation with Member States, and invited stakeholders to work towards implementation of the actions. The Assembly also recommended Member States develop national responses to end childhood and adolescent obesity, in-line with the report's recommendations. A Decision on the report was adopted.

#### **Agenda item 12.4 Prevention and Control of non-communicable diseases**

A resolution ([WHA69.6](#)) was adopted covering processes to update Appendix 3 and approaches to measure contributions from non-State actors towards non-communicable disease (NCD) targets, in relation to Agenda item 12.4 Prevention and Control of non-communicable diseases (document A69/10). In preparation for the third UN High-level Meeting on NCDs in 2018, WHO will update a set of very cost-effective and affordable NCD interventions that can be implemented by all Member States, as well as develop an approach to register and publish contributions of the private sector to achieving global NCD targets.

Member States reviewed the progress made by countries in addressing non-communicable diseases, including heart and lung diseases, cancers and diabetes, since the first UN High-level Meeting on NCDs in 2011. There has been a significant increase in the number of countries with a national multi-sectoral NCD action plan (from 18% of countries in 2010 to 37% in 2015) and a NCD department within national ministries of health (from 53% to 66%). Globally, the probability of dying between the ages of 30 and 70 from a major NCD has dropped slightly, as well as alcohol per capita consumption, and the prevalence of raised blood pressure. However, significant global increases are witnessed in the prevalence of obesity and overweight.

#### **Agenda item 13.3 Operational plan to take forward the Global Strategy on Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health**

More than 40 Member State interventions and 12 observers who took the floor on Agenda item 13.3 Operational plan to take forward the Global Strategy on Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (document A69/16). There was overwhelming support for the Strategy and its resolution seeking country commitments for implementation of Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016-2030) and monitoring. The resolution ([WHA69.2](#)) calls on the WHO Secretariat to provide technical support to Member States in updating and implementing their national plans and to report regularly to the WHA on progress towards women's, children's and adolescents' health. It also requests the Secretariat to continue to collaborate with other UN agencies and partners to advocate and leverage assistance.

The Strategy sets out to ensure every woman, child and adolescent, in any setting, anywhere in the world, is able to both survive and thrive by 2030.

The Strategy, and the new operational framework, place a strong emphasis on country leadership. They highlight the need to strengthen accountability at all levels through monitoring national progress and increasing capacity to collect and analyse data. They underscore the importance of developing a sustainable evidence-informed health financing strategy, as well as strengthening health systems and building partnerships with a wide range of actors across different sectors.

Three nutrition side-events took place in the auspices of WHA69. They include:

- Accelerating national progress on tackling child obesity and child undernutrition in a sustainable way (organized by Finland with Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Kenya, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, UK, USA and Zambia)
- Why breastfeeding matters for women and children in all countries and how breastfeeding practices can be improved at scale: New evidence in 2016. (hosted by WHO, UNICEF, and HKI)
- Ending childhood obesity: securing the future for our children (organized by Ghana with Malaysia and Mexico)

### **Feedback from those on the call**

WHO is very pleased with the outcomes of the WHA69, and highlighted the exemplary role of civil society who engaged with Member States, increasing their commitment and appreciation of the growing importance of NCD and overweight/obesity on the global nutrition agenda.

A mapping of countries who have developed NCD action plans would be useful, especially for the SBN to consider the role of business in relation to the multiple burdens of malnutrition.

**Action point:** WHO to work with the SUN Movement Secretariat to develop an update about the WHA69 outcomes and relevant actions that can be taken at national level. These are to be discussed and agreed among the SUN Networks prior to dissemination.

Information on the practical implications of the Decade of Action on Nutrition on all relevant actors is forthcoming by UN agencies.

## **2. Reporting back from the African Development Bank Annual Meetings in Lusaka**

The high-level event “[Achieving Nutrition Security: A call for leadership, partnership and investment](#)” was organized by the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition and the African Development Bank (AfDB) with strong support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The event brought together leaders, finance ministers, philanthropists, and businesses to discuss ways to achieve nutrition security through increased investments and public-private partnerships.

Akinwumi Adesina, AfDB President, and John Kufuor, former President of Ghana and co-chair of the Global Panel outlined their intent to create the African Leaders for Nutrition (ALN) to bring together Heads of State, Finance Ministers, and leaders from key sectors across the continent to catalyze and sustain political will and leadership on the economic case for nutrition investment. The ALN should formally be launched at the 27th African Union Summit (July 2016, Rwanda - TBC).

The event built on the “Investing in Nutrition: The Foundation for Development” event hosted by the World Bank during its Spring Meetings in Washington, D.C. and will be followed by the summit to

which Finance Ministers were invited by Jim Kim, President of the World Bank, to be held in Washington D.C. in October 2016, during the Bank’s Annual Meetings.

### **3. Spotlighting Women’s Nutrition at the 4<sup>th</sup> Women Deliver Conference**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Women Deliver Conference held from 16-19 May in Copenhagen was the largest gathering on girls’ and women’s empowerment in more than a decade. It was attended by 5,500 participants from 2,000 organizations, over 150 countries, 1,200 young people and over 500 journalists. Private sector representatives from multiple industries, as well as UN Agencies and government representatives, including ministers and parliamentarians from over 25+ countries.

The Women Deliver Conference had 14 core themes; one being “Spotlighting Girls’ and Women’s Nutrition” which provided a significant opportunity to focus global attention to the importance of improving nutrition as a means to unlock the full potential of women and girls.

A number of high level nutrition champions attended the event, including the incoming SUN Coordinator, Gerda Verburg. SUN members and partners, such as Micronutrient Initiative, UNICEF, WHO, USAID, Save the Children, GAIN among others organised concurrent session specific on nutrition, launched campaigns and raised awareness at their exhibit booths.

During the event, the SUN Movement In Practice Brief “Empowering Women and Girls to Improve Nutrition: Building a Sisterhood of Success” was launched. As evidence has long suggested, gender inequality can be a cause as well as an effect of hunger and malnutrition. Not surprisingly, higher levels of gender discrimination are associated with higher levels of both acute and chronic undernutrition.

Gender and nutrition are not stand-alone issues with some experts considering women to be the nexus of the agriculture, health and nutrition sectors. Studies have shown that when women’s incomes rise they tend to invest more in the nutrition, education, and health of their family, causing a ripple effect that can benefit entire communities— Higher female earnings and bargaining power translate into greater investment in children’s education, health and nutrition, which leads to economic growth in the long term.

Authors from five SUN Countries, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan, Malawi and Zimbabwe, have contributed accounts of their experiences of gender responsive nutrition actions. Their stories make it clear that a community-centered approach that ignites the power of sisterhood is essential. Women are very often best placed to decide how resources are used at home to improve nutrition. Supporting them to reach out to other women in their communities to share their experience, knowledge and aspirations is vital. But we must not only look to the women - men must champion and actively engage in women’s empowerment. From presidents, to chiefs to husbands, fathers and brothers, men must actively engage in ensuring that every member of their families can enjoy good nutrition. The publication serves to inspire other SUN members to address immediate nutrition needs while progressing women’s social and economic empowerment.

Additional information, including access to the publication, is available at [http://scalingupnutrition.org/news/putting-women-and-girls-nutrition-first-for-healthy-generations#.V0\\_wAI9OLct](http://scalingupnutrition.org/news/putting-women-and-girls-nutrition-first-for-healthy-generations#.V0_wAI9OLct).

### **4. Feedback from the “Making the SUN Movement Support System Fit for Purpose” pilot call – Action points and next steps**

Network Facilitators agreed that the pilot call was useful and that this type of information sharing is useful and should be continued using the same platform (WebEx). There was also some agreement on

changing the structure/methodology of the call with the recommendation of revisiting the format of the calls and to make them more action oriented.

**Action point:** A second round of information sharing will take place on the next Network Facilitators' call on Thursday 16 June at 15 CET. This exercise will be continued with countries that have submitted the results from their Joint Assessment. A list of selected countries will be shared in one week's time.

**Themes to consider** for upcoming Network Facilitators calls:

- CSN proposed using one of the two monthly Network Facilitators calls to discuss country situations. Supported by the UN N4SUN.
- CSN agreed to lead the discussion on 25 August on the theme social accountability.
- UN N4SUN agreed to organise a presentation within the provisional agenda of calls to provide an update on the UN Network Guidance Package on the Nutrition Inventory and UN Nutrition Strategy/Agenda, as previously requested by the group.
- The SDN agreed to share the latest on the existing multilateral and bilateral financing mechanisms mapping, as well as the SDN Strategy once finalised, around 20 June.
- Updates on nutrition related events should be shared prior to the calls to allow more discussion space during the call.

**Mark your calendars:** A 2.5 days face to face workshop on “Strengthening the capacity to deliver of the SUN Movement support system” will be held in Geneva on 11-13 July, 2016. Several on the call recognised the need to get the balance of knowledge and expertise right for this workshop to be successful. An initial concept note will be shared within the next week or two for feedback.

## 5. A.O.B.

- SUNGG16: Proposals for dates and locations are with the SUN Movement Executive Committee to consider at their meeting on Wednesday 8 June 2016. **Mark your calendars:** A teleconference to provide a summary of the outcomes of that meeting, and the related Action Points, will be organised by the SUN Movement Secretariat on Thursday, 9 June at 15 CET. During this call, Networks would also like a space to discuss how they might be able to interact better with the Executive Committee.
- UN N4SUN: Joyce Njoro attended the African Task Force on Food and Nutrition meeting, in Addis Ababa from 26-27 May. The main objective of this meeting was to discuss the implementation plan for Regional African Nutrition Strategy focusing on strengthening coordination at continental, regional and country level. The AU intend to align and advocate for all member countries to join the SUN Movement. Key discussions were around: i) strengthening continental information systems and knowledge sharing platforms; ii) strengthening coordination and communication at continental, regional and country level and iii) resource mobilization strategy for the implementation of the plan. The inputs from these deliberations will be used to finalize the implementation plan.