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**7TH MEETING OF THE AFRICAN TASK FORCE ON FOOD
AND NUTRITION DEVELOPMENT (ATFFND)
JOHANESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA
23-24 MARCH 2015**

**REPORT OF THE 7th MEETING OF THE AFRICAN TASK FORCE ON FOOD AND
NUTRITION DEVELOPMENT (ATFFND)**

1. Introduction

The Seventh African Task Force on Food and Nutrition Development (ATFFND) was held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 23rd to 24th March 2015. The objectives of the meeting included reviewing progress on implementation of the revised African Regional Nutrition Strategy (ARNS) and receiving updates on implementation of the recommendations of its 6th meeting. The other objectives of the 7th ATFFND were:

- review the status of implementation of commitments made during the 6th ATFFND meeting;
- discuss the process of dissemination and implementation of the revised ARNS; including developing effective implementation plan and activities for it;
- propose a criteria for selection of the African Nutrition Champion and Nutrition Ambassadors;
- Provide updates on stakeholder initiatives across Africa;
- Consider upcoming events, including activities of the AU Nutrition Champion.

2. Participating Organisations

Participants of the meeting included the following:

The African Union Commission (AUC), His Excellency Mr. Nyolosi Mphale, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Lesotho to the Republic of Ethiopia and the African Union, Government officials from the Republics of Burkina Faso, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, South Africa, Swaziland and Uganda. Others were the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Agency, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East, Central and Southern African (ECSA) Health Community, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Eastern Africa and the West African Health Organization (WAHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the SUN Movement, the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Helen Keller International (HKI), the Food Fortification Initiative (FFI), Smarter Futures, Harvest Plus, the European Union (EU), the Federation of African Nutrition Societies (FANUS), the African Nutrition Society (ANS), the Dutch State Mining (DSM) and BioAnalyt GmbH and the African Graduate Students Network (AGSNET). There were also individual experts from the University of Western Cape (South Africa), Northwest University (South Africa) and Cornell University (United States).

3. Opening

The meeting commenced with preliminary activities such as self-introductions and a security briefing.

During the opening, the representative of The Government of The Republic of South Africa, Ms. L Moeng-Mahlangu, Chief Director of Nutrition, expressed concern with the nutrition-related challenges that exist in Africa. She reminded all stakeholders to implement the declarations that already exist before adopting new ones. On behalf of the AUC, the Acting Head of Health, Nutrition and Population, Dr Mabvuto Kango took stock of achievements made in improving nutrition in Africa and highlighted the opportunities that lie ahead. After reminding stakeholders that the ATFFND is the body mandated by the AU Assembly to coordinate nutrition activities in Africa and to serve as its advisory body, he urged stakeholders to take advantage of the availability of this task force.

Speaking on behalf of the RECs, Mr Shadrack Oiyee of IGAD highlighted the gravity of stunting in Africa and called on all stakeholders to avoid duplicating efforts but work together to improve the situation. On behalf of UN Agencies, Mr Thomas Yanga, Director of the World Food Programme (WFP) Liaison office to the AU, reiterated the problem of stunting in Africa and thanked stakeholders such as the AUC for prioritising nutrition-related issues. Whilst acknowledging the contribution of the agriculture counterparts, he called upon all stakeholders in nutrition to utilise on-going initiatives such as the Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) study and school feeding programmes, to address the situation. Representing CSOs, Ms Hadijah Mbwana, bemoaned the low ranking of nutrition on the development agenda and explained the role that CSOs could play in lobbying AU Member States to prioritise nutrition.

4. Review of the status of Implementation of the Outcomes of the 6th ATFFND Meeting;

The 7th ATFFND had an overview on the implementation of the recommendations of the previous meeting.

On nutrition advocacy, the AUC informed the meeting that following a call from the 6th ATFFND, they have received several names of persons being proposed as nutrition ambassadors and efforts are underway to operationalize the work of the nutrition ambassadors, including resource mobilisation. On the search for already existing nutrition champions appointed on other platforms, the AUC only received one name, the former Head of State of the Republic of Cape Verde.

The meeting was informed that data base of nutrition experts already exists and now it is up to the ATFFND start utilising it.

The meeting was informed that COHA has started skills transfer at Member States level, where multi-sectoral teams are part of the data collection processes.

The 7th ATFFND also received an update on the revision of the 200-2015 Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy (ARNS). The meeting heard that the process has been completed including drafting of the 2015-2025 ARNS that shall be availed for consideration by AU Ministers at the First Session of the Specialised Technical Committee on Health, Population and Drug Control (STC-HPDC-1) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 13th -17th April 2015.

The table below provides a summary of the status of implementing the outcomes agreed at the 6th ATFFND meeting.

Outcome	Status of implementation
1. Compile nomination of 5 ambassadors and commence advocacy	Ongoing
2. Compile names of champions already existing in Africa and develop mechanism to link their work to AU Champion	Not started
3. Define the role of RECs in nutrition advocacy campaigns	Not started
4. Strengthen mechanism of following up on ATFFND meeting recommendations	Ongoing
5. Explore possibility of the African Nutrition Champion at the US-Africa summit and other international for a outside Africa	Done
6. Date & venue of next meeting	Done
7. Planning and ownership of the AFNSD should be delegated to Member States;	Ongoing
8. There is need to have a database of nutrition experts/consultants in Africa;	Ongoing
9. There is need for the COHA to include skills transfer especially for researchers in countries under study;	Done
10. Through technical cooperation programmes, African countries need to take advantage of the IAEA's use of stable isotope techniques	Done
11. ANSP to include local researchers and share lessons learnt.	Done
12. Lessons should also be taken from multisectoral approaches used in other sectors such as HIV and climate change;	Not started
13. Develop nutrition training package with emphasis on leadership & change management	Ongoing
14. Complete revision of ARNS	Done

5. The implementation plan for the revised ARNS;

Following completion of the draft 2015-2025 ARNS, a framework for its implementation was presented to the 7th ATFFND. The framework outlined the approaches to be

undertaken in the first three years of the ten-year strategy, that included, resource mobilisation, advocacy, aligning Member State policies to ARNS and setting-up accountability mechanisms.

6. Updates of 2014 AU Nutrition Champion activities and Consideration of the 2015 calendar of Events for the AU Nutrition Champion;

The meeting recalled the activities undertaken by the AU Nutrition Champion since the 6th ATFFND that included hosting of a side event at the AU Heads of State and Government Summit in Malabo in 2014. The meeting was informed that the advocacy work of the AU Nutrition Champion in the last period was aimed at increasing investment in nutrition. The meeting was informed that the current AU Nutrition Champion was not only available when called upon, but was also eloquent on nutrition matters when addressing his target audiences. The commitment and effectiveness of the current AU Nutrition Champion, His Majesty King Letsie III was well appreciated.

7. Criteria for selecting AU Nutrition Champion and consideration of Nominations for the AU Nutrition Ambassadors;

For the selection of future AU Nutrition Champions, the AUC proposed several options of selecting a candidate that included rotation by among the AU regions (Central, East, North, South and West Africa, in alphabetical order), awarding the assignment on first-come-first-serve basis to volunteers and having the ATFFND to nominate a candidate of their choice. After deliberating on the pros and cons of the options, it was decided that a combination of factors could be considered when selecting a champion although the regional rotation should take precedence.

Some names of proposed candidates were availed for both AU Champion and Nutrition Ambassadors. The secretariat shall propose a name from the proposed names that fit the current eligible region, West Africa. Among the proposed names, the only one eligible name proposed from West Africa was H.E. the President of Côte d'Ivoire.

8. Updates on the Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) Study and the Africa's Renewed Initiative for Stunting Elimination (ARISE);

A representative of the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland made a country presentation on the Cost of Hunger Study (COHA). The meeting was informed of how high stunting rates result in lower work productivity, higher national health costs, missed work hours due to illness, and lower rates of educational attainment. It was reported that in manual activities, the associated loss is estimated at SZL 126 million (US\$ 14.8 million) of potential productivity not realized, whereas, in non-manual activities, where the losses are associated with lower schooling achievement, the economic losses are estimated at SZL 251 million (US\$29.5 million) in a single year. The meeting was

informed that the findings and recommendations from the COHA study have generated a strong momentum for nutrition initiatives and placed stunting reduction at the center of Swaziland's socio-economic development.

As a means of showcasing how to utilise the results of the COHA, the AUC made a presentation on how to reconceptualise the "Africa's Renewed Initiative for Stunting Elimination" (ARISE 2025). The meeting was informed of the status of the ARISE, the challenges and opportunities that exist ahead and a way forward was proposed. The stakeholders were also requested to identify roles and responsibilities that they can play in the ARISE.

9. Stakeholder initiatives;

In an effort to coordinate nutrition initiatives on the continent, the task force stakeholders were given an opportunity to share their work and make recommendations on how coordination and collaboration could be improved. The updates from stakeholders were as follows:

i. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);

The UNICEF made a presentation on the Africa's Nutrition Security Partnership (ANSP), a European Union funded project aimed at contributing to solving the widespread and growing problem of malnutrition on the continent of Africa. The meeting was briefed on the work being done in the four pilot countries Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali and Uganda under a four-year programme (2011-2015). The ANSP has four pillars, (i) upstream Policy & Nutrition Security Awareness, (ii) capacity Development, (iii) Data Analysis & Knowledge Sharing and (iv) scaling Up Interventions. The meeting was informed that through the ANSP, UNICEF has been working with governments and partners targeting one million children and 600,000 pregnant and lactating women to (i) improve nutrition security for child survival, growth and development during the first '1000 days window of opportunity' including pregnancy , (ii) scale up nutrition high-impact interventions for women and children in selected areas of the targeted countries, and (iii) strengthen countries' delivery and information systems on nutrition.

UNICEF outlined the ANSP as multi-country nutrition initiative aimed at improving Africa's nutrition security, especially during the first 1000 days of life. Some of the key achievements of the ANSP as described to the meeting include, increased awareness and political commitment to nutrition (especially for women and children), revision of some nutrition strategies and plans (including the ARNS, regional nutrition strategy of IGAD and the national nutrition policies), development of pre- and in-service technical training modules on nutrition and facilitating understanding of multi-sectoral approach to nutrition in Africa.

The UNICEF also reminded participants and all stakeholders that more work needs to be done to clarify the concept of multi-sectoral nutrition approaches, both in countries and institutions. Stress was placed on the fact that institutions should ensure they are multisectoral on nutrition before advising governments to do so. It was also recommended that nutrition interventions should be designed and implemented with a clear theory of change at the onset and that emphasis should be put on monitoring of the implementation process, using the right indicators, and not just monitoring impact of nutrition interventions.

ii. World Health organisation (WHO);

The WHO informed the meeting that the nutrition targets set in the ARNS reflect the targets set by the 65th World Health Assembly (WHA) as stated in the WHO's Comprehensive Implementation Plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition. Stakeholders were encouraged to undertake appropriate actions that will ensure achievement of these targets. Among the actions outlined include, creating a supporting environment for effective implementation of nutrition policies, scale up high impact nutrition interventions, provide adequate human and financial resources for nutrition interventions and to monitor the implementation of these policies and programmes. The WHO availed itself to provide the relevant tools and expertise in the implementation of the ARNS 2015-2025.

iii. Smarter Futures;

The Smarter Futures explained to the meeting that their organisation is a public-private-civic partnership that provides support to make food fortification a reality in Africa. They emphasized that adding vitamins and minerals to food is economically viable and cost effective intervention to be undertaken in Africa. Finally, the meeting was informed that several tools and expertise exist within Smarter Futures and beyond for implementing and monitoring food fortification interventions, including FORTIMAS, advocacy materials and BioAnalyt.

iv. Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN);

The GAIN presented its nutrition initiatives in Africa and they explained that they have four main initiatives targeted at addressing malnutrition in Africa, including large-scale micronutrient fortification of foods, multi-nutrient supplementation, nutritious foods for mothers and children and market based interventions to improve nutrition along the agriculture value chain. The GAIN lamented on the widespread micronutrient deficiencies in Africa, resulting from Africa's agriculture policies focused mainly on production of cereals and cash crops with limited production of nutritious foods like

pulses, vegetables, fruits and animal products. They called for increased advocacy to policy makers in a language they understand, e.g. using socio-economic & financial benefits of improving nutrition and also called upon African countries to embark on large-scale micronutrient fortification of foods, since this is a proven cost-effective intervention.

v. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA);

The IAEA presented their nutrition programme in Africa, where participants were informed that African countries can take advantage of IAEA's stable isotope techniques (which are safe) for objective nutritional assessments and monitoring of nutrition interventions. Examples provided where IAEA's techniques have been used in Africa included monitoring of interventions promoting exclusive breastfeeding in Cameroon; vitamin A supplementation in Senegal; biofortified iron rich beans in Rwanda and overweight/obesity assessments in urban areas of some African countries, among others. IAEA is also planning a study with UN agencies to objectively assess factors that contribute to child stunting in the African context. Finally, the meeting was informed that IAEA provides two streams of funding for countries, including supporting: Research projects on use of stable isotopes and Building capacity of Member States to use stable isotopes.

vi. Helen Keller International (HKI);

The HKI provided an overview of their nutrition programs in Africa and explained that HKI's main high impact nutrition interventions in Africa, includes behavioral change communication to promote optimal breastfeeding and complementary feeding; homestead food production for diet diversification, micronutrient supplementation, fortification and biofortification of foods. The meeting was informed of the importance for African countries to implement the proven nutrition interventions at scale and embark on extensive research and advocacy for policy development and implementation. Finally, the meeting was informed that HKI is planning to work with ECOWAS on harmonization of fortification standards and regulations in the ECOWAS focussed countries.

vii. The European Union (EU);

The European Union informed the meeting that EU is committed to improving nutrition security in Africa and backed this point with examples of several food and nutrition security initiatives that EU is supporting financially, including the ANSP, ATFFND meetings, revision of the ARNS, etc. The meeting was further informed that the EU is planning several streams of funding, some of which may support nutrition initiatives in Africa. The EU also reminded the meeting of on-going support to the AU including a

continental approach that gained ground with the adoption of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES) by 80 African and European Heads of States in 2007. The Africa-EU Partnership, enshrined in the JAES, embodies a new forward-looking vision for relations between Europe and Africa as one single continent, and sets out the overarching political framework defining relations between both sides.

viii. NEPAD

The NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency informed the meeting that CAADP is a process intended to stimulate and accelerate agriculture development in Africa, particularly advocating for AU Member States to dedicate 10% of their national budgets to agriculture. The meeting was informed that nutrition security can be leveraged from various levels of the CAADP process, especially activities targeted at poverty alleviation, food security and resilience building. However, it was acknowledged that:

- more needs to be done to integrate nutrition in the CAADP process and national implementation/investment plans;
- gender needs to be clearly highlighted in the CAADP process and implementation plans; and
- NEPAD should do more to facilitate the regulation of trade in the interest of Africa.

10. Upcoming Nutrition Events;

The meeting was informed of some up-coming nutrition events that include the following:

- i. A government official from the United Republic of Tanzania informed the meeting that his country shall host a Summit on Food Fortification and he invited all stakeholders to participate in this important event. The event is being scheduled to take place between 9th and 15th September 2015.
- ii. An official from the AUC Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture informed the meeting that the annual Africa Food and Nutrition Security Day (AFNSD) is scheduled for 30th October 2015. The theme and venue shall be announced in due course.
- iii. There was also an announcement on a FANUS meeting (Theme: “Nutrition in Africa at a Turning Point”), Tanzania, May , 2015

11. Conclusions & Recommendations;

After deliberations, the following conclusions and recommendations were made:

a) Review of implementation of outcomes of the 6th ATFFND;

- Whilst the skills transfer on the COHA that is taking place in all countries under study is appreciated, there is need to scale it up to regional level;
- The ATFFND should be more proactive in identifying Nutrition Champions and Ambassadors and submit the names to the secretariat;
- The ATFFND should find a mechanism of harnessing the nutrition expertise on the continent that can be assessed through a database.

b) Proposed Implementation plan for 2015-2025 ARNS;

- The multisectoral nature of nutrition demands that there should be a deliberate involvement of other sectors in the ARNS implementation plan;
- The role of RECs in the implementation plan needs to be clearly highlighted;
- The implementation plan should lead to development of a resource mobilisation plan and advocacy strategy for the ARNS;
- The implementation plan should have a mechanism of accessing budgetary allocations from other sectors related to nutrition;
- The role of donors in the ARNS implementation plan should be clearly defined;
- There should be a secretariat established to implement the ARNS, by realigning roles and responsibility and not by necessarily recruiting staff and setting up physical structures;
- The reporting framework on the progress of ARNS implementation should be well defined and linked to existing ones such as that of the CAADP and it should not be a mere M&E plan;
- There should be a platform to measure progress of implementation of the ARNS.

c) The work of the AU Nutrition Champion;

- AU Nutrition champions should be selected using a combined criteria that includes regional rotation, availability and capability, and that the regional rotation criteria shall take precedence as usually employed in most AU processes;
- The principle criteria would be to rotate by regions as done in other AU processes (Central, East, North, South and West Africa, in alphabetical order), and then various criteria could be used to select the champion within that region.
- In the event that the eligible region could not produce a candidate when called upon, it was agreed that region should forfeit that opportunity to the next one in the series.
- In the unlikely event that there is no Champion selected, the incumbent Champion would be requested to continue until a suitable replacement is found;
- After noting that the new selection criteria makes West Africa the next eligible region for a Champion and also taking into account that only one name from

West Africa was submitted (HE The President of Cote D'Ivoire), the secretariat shall await more proposals before submission for consideration;

- There needs to be an advocacy strategy for the AU Nutrition Champion, with well-defined targets.

d) The Cost of Hunger Study (COHA) and the ARISE;

- The ARISE was described as a clear concept that needs to be embraced by all members states and RECs and as one of the best ways to utilise the COHA results and all stakeholders were called to come on board;
- The ARISE needs to have clear and benchmarked marked targets and should include sectors beyond nutrition;
- Roles and responsibilities in the ARISE need to be defined so as to assign roles to all stakeholders according to their mandate and capacity;
- The target group for the ARISE should be clearly defined;
- The issue of lack of capacity should not arise, as capacity lacks in every sector and in every organisation in Africa; instead, stakeholders should look at making use of the little that the continent currently has;
- The elements of the COHA need to be disaggregated so as to quantify how much each of the factors under study contributes to economic losses (quantification of each sectoral impact);
- There needs to be more skills transfer at both regional and country levels in the COHA;

e) Other;

- The ATFFND should embrace a viable mechanism of domesticating global declarations/resolutions and this should be done by close collaboration with the secretariat.
- An assembly of individual AU Member States at a global forum, does not automatically constitute an assembly of the AU;
- Following several requests such as the TORs of Nutrition Champions and the link between COHA and ARISE, the ATFFND was reminded that members who miss meetings, should acquaint themselves with the outcomes of the missed meetings in order to avoid dragging the meetings backwards to what has already been deliberated;
- The secretariat shall request, the current AU Nutrition Champion His Majesty King Letsie III to launch the 2015-2015 Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy at the Africa Fortification Summit in September 2015 in Tanzania.

12. Date and Venue of Next ATFFND Meeting;

The meeting was informed that all stakeholders were free to propose the date and venue of the 8th ATFFND, provided there was a clear justification and the proposal was feasible. Participants were given a period of one month to make their proposals to the secretariat. In the event that no date and venue is proposed, the secretariat shall be at liberty to take a decision. The Republic of Ghana was proposed as the next host, however the secretariat shall await a formal offer.

The meeting was advised to regularly hold the ATFFND meetings back to back with CAADP partnership platforms as it could be convenient for most participants who usually participate in both meetings.

13. Closing

In his concluding remarks, the AUC Head of Health, Nutrition and Population Division, Dr Mabvuto Kango encouraged the ATFFND to make use of the AUC's comparative advantages such as establishing common positions for the continent to foster the nutrition agenda. He informed the meeting that the AUC has previously mobilised AU Member States to adopt common positions at global fora to good effect, in the health and population sectors. He also called upon stakeholders to involve the AUC in their initiatives at the earliest opportunity so as to facilitate mainstreaming into the work of the ATFFND and the African Union.

The representative of the Government of the Republic of South Africa, Ms. L Moeng-Mahlangu called all stakeholders to support fortification, but stated that the implementation is done differently by taking into consideration lessons learned from the past. She further called for reduction of bureaucracy, overburdening implementers and rampant adoption of policies.

The AUC Nutrition Specialist, Dr Akoto Osei, thanked all participants for taking time off their busy schedules to participate in the meeting and also thanked the stakeholders who contributed both financially and technically to the convening of the 7th ATFFND.

Annexes:

1. Agenda of the 7th ATFFND meeting

DAY ONE		
SESSION 1: OPENING		
09:00 – 10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • Opening Remarks by; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Representatives of African Nutrition Associations; ➤ Representative of UN Agencies; ➤ Representative of RECs; ➤ Representative of AU Commission; ➤ Representative of Government of the Republic of South Africa 	Chair: AUC
10:00 – 10:15	GROUP PHOTO	
10:15 – 10:30	TEA/COFFEE BREAK	
SESSION 2: PROGRAM OF WORK		
10:30 – 11:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of meeting objectives; • Review of the status of Implementation of the Outcomes of the 6th ATFFND Meeting 	Presenter: AUC Chair: AUC
SESSION 3: NUTRITION POLICY & ADVOCACY		
11:15 – 12:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the implementation plan for the revised ARNS 	Presenter: AUC Chair: NEPAD
12:15-13:30	LUNCH	
SESSION 3: NUTRITION POLICY & ADVOCACY		
13:30 – 14:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates of 2014 AU Nutrition Champion activities • Consideration of the 2015 calendar of Events for the AU Nutrition Champion; • Criteria for selecting AU Nutrition Champion • Consideration of Nominations for the AU Nutrition Ambassadors 	Presenter: AUC Chair: WFP
SESSION 4: STAKEHOLDERS' INITIATIVES		
14:30 – 15:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on the Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) Study – status & way forward • Presentation on Africa's Renewed Initiative for Stunting Elimination (ARISE) – concept, status, challenges/opportunities & way-forward • Further discussion on ARISE – fine-tuning concept, define roles and responsibilities, funding & implementation plan 	Presenter: WFP & UNECA Chair: UNICEF
15:45 – 16:00	TEA/COFFEE BREAK	
SESSION 4: STAKEHOLDERS' INITIATIVES		
16:00 – 16:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on the Africa's Nutrition Security Partnership (ANSP) – status & way forward 	Presenter: UNICEF/AUC Chair: WHO
16:45 – 17:00	Wrap-UP (End of Day 1)	
DAY TWO		

SESSION 4: STAKEHOLDERS' INITIATIVES Contd.		
09:00 – 10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEPAD • WHO • FAO 	Presenter: Chair: MOH, Mali
10:00 – 10:15	TEA/COFFEE BREAK	
SESSION 4: STAKEHOLDERS' INITIATIVES Contd.		
10:15 – 12:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IAEA • UNICEF • GAIN • HKI • EU 	Presenter: Chair: MOH, Kenya
12:15-14:00	LUNCH	
SESSION 5: UPCOMING PROJECTS		
14:00 – 15:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continental Advocacy for Food Fortification • Upcoming Nutrition Events 	Presenter: AUC & Partner Agencies Chair: GAIN
15:45 – 16:00	TEA/COFFEE BREAK	
SESSION 6: CLOSING		
16:00-17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conclusions & Recommendations • Date, and Venue of Next ATFFND Meeting • Any Other Business • Closing Remarks-Last speaker (AUC & Govt. of South Africa) 	Chair: AUC

2. PROPOSED 2015 NUTRITION ACTIVITIES FOR THE AU NUTRITION CHAMPION

Date	Event	Venue/Country	Expected Role
June, 2015	Side-event during the AU Heads of States and Government Summit: on “Nutrition and Gender Empowerment in Africa”	South Africa	Host/Lead this side event
May 2015	Opening of Meeting of RECs on Food Fortification	Lesotho	Open the meeting
May/June 2015	Launch of Report from Lesotho Cost of Hunger Study	Lesotho	Preside over this side event
July 2015	Launch of the Regional Report on COHA during the International Conference on Financing for Development , Addis Ababa	Ethiopia	Speaker
November 2015	WFP Executive board meeting to talk about his work as the Nutrition Champion	??	Speaker
Sept	Continental Summit on Food Fortification in Africa	Tanzania	Speaker
Sept/Oct	Launch the ARNS 2015 - 2025	Tanzania/??	Preside over this event

3. PRESENTED CRITERIA FOR CONSIDERATION IN SELECTING NUTRITION CHAMPION

1. Rotation By Region;

There could be criteria where the selection of the champion rotates between the 5 AU regions:

- i. *Advantages of this option:*
 - This fits into the criteria used by AU, for example in electing bureaus.
 - It could create some kind of “peer pressure” among regions.
- ii. *Disadvantages of this option:*
 - There is a possibility that nobody in that region would be available for that assignment at the appointed time.
 - There could be a situation where there is someone more zealous from another region that is not eligible at that time and an opportunity to get that Champion would be missed.

2. Request for potential Champions to volunteer;

A notice could be made to all potential Champions, asking for someone who is willing to step-forward and take up the task.

- i. *Advantages of this option:*
 - This option has less restrictions than the first one, as anyone who willing and able can step forward and take up the assignment.
- ii. *Disadvantages of this option:*
 - This option is dependent on someone volunteering and if there is no volunteer then there would be no champion.
 - If more than one potential candidate volunteers, then it would pose a problem on which criteria to use to adopt one champion.

3. The Task force identifies someone;

The African Task Force on Food & Nutrition Development (ATFFND) could identify a suitable candidate and lobby him/her to become the Champion.

- i. *Advantages of this option:*
 - The ATFFND is the legitimate body to respond to the AU on matters of nutrition, so this could be procedurally correct;
 - It is easier to select a Champion by a small group such as the ATFFND that is conversant on who is better placed to do this work.
- ii. *Disadvantages of this option:*
 - From previous experience, the ATFFND hardly submits names when requested;
 - Once the meeting of the annual ATFFND is adjourned, it is always hard to re-convene everyone, before the next session in the following year;

4. What to do if there is no champion identified;

If no champion is identified when the term of office of the incumbent comes to an end, then the AUC shall recommend to the AU and the responsible government that the incumbent continues until a replacement is found.

List of Participants of the 7th ATFFND meeting

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