

Mr. Alok Ranjan
Chief Secretary,
Government of Uttar Pradesh
India

Geneva, 24th May 2016

Dear Mr. Alok Ranjan,

On behalf of the Chair of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Lead Group, Anthony Lake, I write to thank you for your letter number 89 dated 12 May 2016, indicating the intention of the Government of Uttar Pradesh to join the SUN Movement. Along with the 57 countries from Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Indian State of Maharashtra currently driving the SUN Movement, we warmly welcome the Indian State of Uttar Pradesh as its newest member.

We have followed with great interest the setting up of a Nutrition Mission in the State of Uttar Pradesh, which serves as an advocacy and coordinating body working to bring multi-sectoral convergence for scaling up nutrition for women and children. We had the opportunity of meeting and learning from the Nutrition Mission's team when they visited Bangkok in April 2016 for the *Workshop on Public Finance for Nutrition in Asia*. We are also impressed by the Government's high level political commitment, the active support provided by international organisations, the strong collaboration between the Government and development partners, and the engagement with different stakeholders for developing a comprehensive multi-sectoral nutrition action plan. I am also interested to read of the Uttar Pradesh Vision document and the government's focus on prioritising the delivery of services to populations that are economically, geographically and socially the most vulnerable.

We will do all we can to ensure that the State's membership in the SUN Movement helps enhance the impact of these ongoing efforts to improve nutrition for all people in the State of Uttar Pradesh. In turn – given the specific nutritional, demographic, socio-economic and institutional conditions in the State, the Government of Uttar Pradesh's engagement in the SUN Movement will be of great value for other SUN countries and organisations active in the Movement, who seek to learn different ways to scale up nutrition.

The Governments of SUN Countries engaged in the SUN Movement have committed to acting in ways that will enable their people to enjoy better nutrition. They are supported by networks of donors, United Nations Agencies, civil society groups and private enterprises. Members of the networks are active within countries (at the state or provincial level as well as nationally), within regions and globally. To deliver on their nutritional objectives, local and national governments that are engaged in the Movement are defining their requirements in terms of political leadership, institutional transformations, programme development and implementation, and mobilisation of human and financial resources.

Many SUN Countries have formed a national Multi-stakeholder Platform, comprised of key actors they feel are best positioned to take the actions needed in their national contexts. You have outlined Uttar Pradesh's efforts to accelerate engagement and dialogue with different stakeholders for nutrition. This existing momentum for collaboration is encouraging and I suggest you consider how best to convene these partners in a platform to strengthen alignment and support behind national priorities.

To help coordinate these stakeholders and to sustain a strong agenda for nutrition, I encourage you to consider nominating a SUN Government Focal Point. Many SUN Countries have SUN Government Focal Points who are the leaders in challenging cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder environments. They are often at the forefront of elevating nutrition up the national agenda. In the Movement's experience, SUN Government Focal Points who occupy senior positions in coordinating offices are well placed to convene the actors which are crucial for improving nutrition. I encourage your Government to consider nominating an individual who is best placed to unite the nutrition community.

Our experience has shown that coordinating the efforts of bilateral donor agencies, foundations, as well as funds and programmes of UN Agencies, is best supported if there is a leading donor partner. I encourage the Government to work with in-country development partners to nominate a donor organisation as the SUN Donor Convenor that can bring these important actors together.

The Government Focal Points from all SUN Countries come together in the SUN Movement's Country Network. It is a forum for sharing country experiences and informing the Movement's different networks about country needs. The Country Network meets by teleconference every twelve weeks. Given that the State of Uttar Pradesh is now a member of the SUN Movement, we will warmly welcome the nominated SUN Government Focal Point and colleagues in joining these teleconferences.

I would be delighted if we can arrange a discussion, at a date of your team's convenience, to enter into further details and to ensure that the State of Uttar Pradesh can benefit from the collective knowledge and experience of the SUN Movement.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Arnold". Below the signature is a horizontal line.

Tom Arnold
SUN Movement Coordinator, *a.i*