



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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**Office of the  
Secretary General**

To the Speakers of Parliament  
from the Member Countries of the  
SUN Movement

Geneva, 2 February 2017

Dear Madam Speaker,  
Dear Mr. Speaker,

Few challenges face the global community today which match the scale of malnutrition, a condition that directly affects one in three people worldwide.

Malnutrition and diet are by far the biggest risk factors for the global burden of disease: every country is facing a serious public health challenge from malnutrition. Malnutrition manifests itself in many different ways: poor child growth and development; individuals who are skin and bone or prone to infection; those who are carrying too much weight or who are at risk of chronic diseases because of excess intake of sugar, salt, or fat; or those who are deficient in important vitamins or minerals.

The economic consequences represent losses of 11 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) every year in Africa and Asia, whereas preventing malnutrition delivers \$16 in returns on investment for every \$1 spent. The global community has agreed on targets for nutrition, but despite some progress in recent years the world is off track to reach those targets. In order to scale up efforts, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have enshrined the objective of “ending all forms of malnutrition,” challenging the world to think and act differently on malnutrition—to focus on all its facets and work to end it, for all people, by 2030.

A world free from malnutrition in all its forms is the core objective of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement. Your government is a committed member of this movement. I commend the political leadership your country has displayed in dealing with malnutrition, and the extensive experience it has shared with other 57 member countries of the SUN Movement.

In September 2016 the UN Secretary General appointed me, along with 28 other global leaders, to the SUN Movement Lead Group. I am deeply committed to this cause and I believe that 2017 brings major opportunities to translate our joint commitments into action. Parliaments have a key role to play in this endeavour and I wish to invite you to convene a multistakeholder consultation within parliament in order to identify ways in which it can take action to support efforts to fight malnutrition and all its consequences. I am pleased to attach a concept note that may assist you in preparation of this event.

The SUN Movement stands ready to provide any information that can facilitate the parliamentary consultation. I look forward to hearing from you about the outcomes of these efforts.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Chungong  
Secretary General