



Republic of Zambia

**CONSENSUS STATEMENT OF THE
NATIONAL FOOD AND NUTRITION SUMMIT 2018,
LUSAKA, ZAMBIA**

MAY, 2018



Secretariat

National Food and Nutrition Commission

The National Food and Nutrition Summit, was held from 24-26 April 2018 at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre in Lusaka under the theme “***Investing in Food and Nutrition for Accelerated National Development – Walk the Talk for Nutrition.***” The overall Summit objective was *translating the demonstrated increase in political and multi-stakeholder will and commitment to food and nutrition security priorities into tangible measurable multi-sectoral actions for accelerated national development.*

Structurally, the National Food and Nutrition Summit 2018 focused on five thematic areas:

- Food and Nutrition governance and coordination
- Increased access to and utilization of integrated nutrition services
- Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Nexus
- Social Protection linkages with Food and Nutrition Security
- Water, sanitation, and hygiene for improved nutrition outcomes

Over 500 participants were in attendance, including representatives from the Government at various levels, Traditional Leadership, United Nations, Cooperating Partners, Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society, Research Institutions, and the Business Community.

Reflecting on oral presentations and interactive discussions of the Summit across the above thematic areas and considering the government’s mandate of providing strong leadership, ownership, and commitment for nutrition action, we the participants state our consensus as follows:

- 1) Uphold that adequate nutrition across the lifecycle is a basic human right.

- 2) Recognize that there is a need to accelerate reduction of malnutrition to meet national and global targets.
- 3) Affirm that young children, adolescents and women (with particular focus on the first 1000 days) should be the highest priority for nutrition programmes and interventions, but the addressing malnutrition in all its forms and for all persons across the lifecycle should not be neglected.
- 4) Agree that Human nutrition is an enabler, marker of development and closely related to each of the 17 SDGs, and therefore, should be mainstreamed into all relevant national legislation and policies, and prioritized within each Cluster Advisory Group agenda, in line with the 7th National Development Plan
- 5) Applaud Government for initiating the process to strengthen the regulations on the Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes, including complementary foods.
- 6) Recognize Government efforts, in consultation with other stakeholders, to explore options for Maternity Protection for working mothers but we urge for accelerated progress.
- 7) Applaud Government's commitment to invest in nutrition particularly in young children's nutritional well-being, through explicit and progressive significant increment of budgetary allocations and expenditures for nutrition-related interventions of line ministries.
- 8) Recognize that Cooperating Partners & Donors have been supporting Government with both technical and financial resources but we urge them to meet their stated commitments and provide predictable resources in a

coordinated manner and in line with national nutrition priorities, in particular, the National Food and Nutrition Sector Plan and other key strategic documents as guided by the 7th National Development Plan.

- 9) Affirm that citizen engagement, social accountability, and women's empowerment are critical to ensure that nutrition is prioritised by all sectors and other actors in Zambia. Community engagement and participation using Social Behaviour Change Communication approaches including through the guidance of the Traditional Leadership are key to sustainability of service provision and progress.
- 10) Whereas Government has created an enabling policy and regulatory environment there is need for regular reviews to ensure effective collaborative partnerships with the private sector and for the private sector to be nutrition-sensitive and adopt responsible manufacturing & marketing practices that contribute to good nutrition and health.
- 11) Re-affirm our support to Government to strengthen and scale up a nutrition-sensitive Social Cash Transfer programme aligned to nutrition needs for all beneficiaries, and empower women so as to effectively discharge their role as primary caregivers and food producers.
- 12) Whereas we recognize Government's commitment towards increasing human resources in different areas, we urge all stakeholders to support this so that the country has an adequate workforce with appropriate competencies in all food, WASH and nutrition related sectors for enhanced service delivery in the context of the multisectoral approach to nutrition.
- 13) Whereas the Government has introduced the farmer inputs support programme and food security pack, we call for all stakeholders to accelerate

promotion of agricultural diversification not only as a means of household income generation, but with a focus on sustainable consumption of age-appropriate diverse diets linked to nutritious crops, fish and livestock to support the nutrition and health of the population.

- 14) Affirm the Government's call to all stakeholders for the prioritized nutrition interventions, including Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) interventions & home-grown school meals programme, in the context of multisectoral approach also focusing on households as key drivers of attaining optimal nutrition and health outcomes.
- 15) Acknowledge the existence of sector-specific monitoring and evaluation systems but in line with the 7th NDP, we urge Government to rally all stakeholders around a National Nutrition Common Results Framework for timely provision of nutrition-related information and reporting for effective decision making, increased accountability and tracking of progress.
- 16) Whereas we recognize Government's effort to strengthen evidence generation, we call upon all stakeholders to provide resources to support applied research and development in all food, WASH and nutrition related sectors for enhanced service delivery in the context the multi-sectoral approach.
- 17) Urge the National Food and Nutrition Commission to follow up this Consensus Statement with the development of a roadmap aimed at actualising the provisions of this Statement.