

KATHMANDU, SEPTEMBER 2012



DECLARATION OF COMMITMENTS

FOR AN ACCELERATED IMPROVEMENT IN MATERNAL AND CHILD NUTRITION IN NEPAL

We, the Government of Nepal, UN agencies, development partners, members of civil society and the private sector, meeting today, the 17 September 2012, to achieve a national consensus on the scaling up of the multi-sector action plan for the reduction of chronic malnutrition in Nepal,

Recognizing that chronic malnutrition is the main problem affecting the nutrition of Nepali children especially during the first 1,000 days of life (from conception up to two year of age) and that its resolution requires a multi-sector approach,

Concerned that malnutrition is responsible for more than a third of child mortality, and for derailing the socio-economic development of the affected families, communities, and ultimately the country, and impacting negatively on achievement of the all the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling and reaffirming the commitment during the World Food Summit, held in Rome in 1996, to reduce the number of undernourished people by 50 per cent by the year 2015,

Recognizing that poverty reduction is a Government priority and that there is a strong link between poverty reduction, food insecurity and nutrition and chronic malnutrition,

Taking into account the opportunities that present themselves, notably: the national political engagement, cost-effective interventions based on scientific evidence, global initiatives on Scaling Up of Nutrition (SUN) and Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Under-nutrition (REACH), with Nepal having made commitment to be an 'early riser' SUN country under the leadership of His Excellency the Prime Minister of Nepal as a member of the SUN Lead Group, and to introduce REACH in the country with the involvement of national and international partners,

Recognizing that the right to adequate food and nutrition is a fundamental human right,

We commit ourselves and strive to:

- Contribute to the implementation of actions defined in the Multi-sector Nutrition Plan for the improvement of maternal and child nutrition and the reduction of chronic malnutrition;
- Develop advocacy, communication, and social mobilization actions to raise awareness of the various sectors and the general public, about the significant problem of chronic malnutrition and actions needed to improve maternal and child nutrition, accessible to everyone, especially during the first 1,000 days of life, ensuring equity, and facilitating access to information, to promoting behaviour change, with a focus on reaching the most marginalized, poorest segments of the population, and taking into account gender related factors;



- Strengthen the institutional, organization and human resource capacity for the implementation of the Plan at all levels and in different sectors linked to nutrition;
- Support the inter-sector coordination body at all the key levels (national, district, and VDC) in all its dimension so that, through functional coordination mechanisms, effective action to improve the nutritional status of women and children are implemented, ensuring complementarity and strengthening synergies between the different actors;
- Enhance the multi-sector nutrition information, knowledge management, surveillance systems, monitoring and evaluation of progress with links to existing early warning systems; and
- Mobilize support nationally and internationally to ensure the large-scale implementation of interventions and nutrition programs to address both the immediate, underlying and basic social and economic determinants of maternal and under-nutrition.

We, the Government of Nepal, UN agencies, development partners and members of civil society and the private sector, by this signing, approve the contents of this "Declaration of Commitment for an Accelerated Improvement in Maternal and Child Nutrition in Nepal."

Kathmandu, September 2012

Mr. Deependra Bahadur Kshetry
Hon. Vice Chair, National Planning
Commission

Prof. Dr. Shiba Kumar Rai
Hon. Member, National Planning Commission,
(Country SUN Focal Point - Nepal)

for

Mr. Krishna Hari Baskota
Secretary, Ministry of Finance

for

Dr. Ganesh Raj Joshi
Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture Development

for

Mr. Balananda Paudel
Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children, &
Social Welfare

for

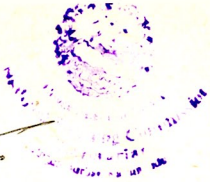
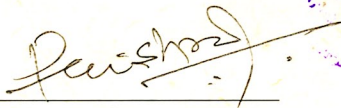
Mr. Kishore Thapa
Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development

for

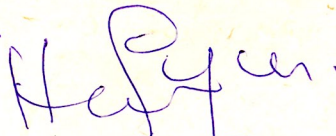
Mr. Suresh Man Shrestha
Secretary, Ministry of Education

for

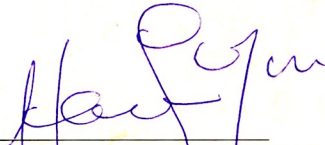
Mr. Sheetal Babu Regmi
Secretary, Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local
Development



Dr. Praveen Mishra
Secretary, Ministry of Health and
Population



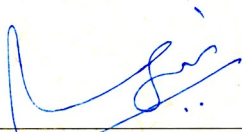
Mr. Robert Piper / A-Robert Piper
United Nations Resident and Humanitarian
Coordinator for Nepal



Ms. Hanaa Singer, Representative UNICEF
On Behalf of UN REACH Partners
(FAO, UNICEF, WFP, WHO)



Dr. Lin Aung, WHO Representative
Chair, External Development Partners-
Health

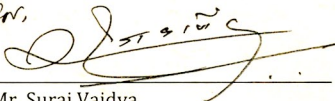


Dr. C.B. Kamal Raj, Head of the Mission,
Action Contre La Faim- ACF, Nepal,
Chair, Nepal Nutrition Group (NNG)



Mr. Deepak Raj Sapkota, Country Director,
Karuna Foundation,
As a Chair, Association of International NGOs in
Nepal

For,



Mr. Suraj Vaidya
Chair, Federation of Nepalese Chambers of
Commerce and Industries (FNCCI)