

SUN Movement Executive Committee (ExCom) Meeting

14 December 2023, 15:00 - 17:00 CEST (virtual)

Summary note

Participation

ExCom Participants: Gladys Mugambi and Connell Foley (Co-Chairs), Patricia Ngoran (*West and Central Africa*), Eugenia Villalobos (Latin America and Caribbean), George Kembo (*Southern Africa*), Mathews Mhuru (Additional Country Regional Seat), Christine Campeau (CSN), Neil Watkins (SDN), Augustin Flory (Finance) Caroline Wilkinson (Humanitarian), Richmond Aryeetey (MEAL/analytics), Mike Khunga (Youth), Mary Mpereh (East and Central Africa Alternate), Azucena Dayanghirang (*Southeast Asia*), Karima Al-Hada'a (Additional Country Regional Seat), **Ex-Officio Members:** Andrew Kirkwood (UNOPS), Afshan Khan (SUN Movement Coordinator)

Apologies: Abigail Perry (UNN), George Baffour (East and Central Africa), Kiran Rupakhetee (Central and South Asia)

Observers: Mr. Aimé Garlas Kwizera (SBN interim representative nominee); *Alternates:* Helena Guarín (SDN), Ibisó Ivy King-Harry (Additional Country Regional), Said Shamsul Islam Shams (Humanitarian), Florence Sibomana (Youth), Venuste Muhamyankaka (additional Country Regional); *Networks:* Alex Newlands (CSN), Sean Counihan (CSN), Ilaria Schibbia (WFP - UNN)

Others: Teresa Fasig (EC - INTPA)

SUN Movement Secretariat (SMS): Marcy Vigoda, Maria Pizzini, Paul Mazza, Elena Gaino, Kevin Savage, Michelle Link, Srikanth Eadara, Irina Zodrow, Eve Gossiaux, Francisca Cisterna-Gomez, Emily Heneghan, Tendai Gunda, Marco Anariva, Grace Tenda, Marco Araniva, Tetteh Ogun

Decisions:

- The ExCom **validated the SUN Movement Secretariat's new partnership with the Rockefeller Foundation** as a new donor after the completion of a comprehensive due diligence process carried out by UNOPS.
- **Mr. Aimé Garlas Kwizera will join the ExCom as the interim ExCom representative for the SUN Business Network (SBN)** until June 2024 on the condition that **no objections** are expressed by ExCom members by 20 December 2023.
- **A virtual extended session of the ExCom will take place in early March 2024.**

Follow-up Actions:

- ExCom members to provide additional comments on: the Global Gathering, 2024 SMS Workplan and Budget, written SMS Update and Youth Roadmap Implementation Update in writing by 31.12.2023.
- The SMS will present its finalised 2024 workplan and budget proposed to the ExCom in early March 2024 for approval.
- The SMS will contact ExCom members with proposed dates for the extended virtual session in March 2024.

Summary note

1. Opening of meeting / agenda approval / past action points

The Co-Chair, Connell Foley, opened the meeting and the agenda was approved without further additions. **Mr. Aimé Garlas Kwizera was introduced as nominee for SBN interim representation** on the Executive Committee (ExCom) and welcomed as an observer to the 14 December session. ExCom members were reminded to **share any objections to Aimé's nomination by 20 December 2023 with the Co-Chairs**. If no objections are received, the nomination will be considered accepted and effectively immediately thereafter until June 2024.

The Co-Chair gave an **overview of action points from the last ExCom meeting on 28 September Meeting** (meeting summary [here](#)) highlighting:

- The SMS circulated the summary note of the Lead Group September 2023 discussion, key messaging developed on nutrition financing and the summary of the 28 September ExCom meeting on 7 November 2023.
- The Co-Chair proposed that SUN Country representatives feed their views on the topics of nutrition financing into the discussions regarding the Global Gathering preparations and the SMS 2024 Draft work plan summary (agenda item 4 and 5).

2. SUN Country-Led Discussion

Eugenia Villalobos (Regional Representative for Latin America) gave an overview of the **Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Region's 2023 Progress and 2024 Challenges** (see slides [here](#)). She **summarised the activities conducted by the region in 2023 including welcoming Panama officially as the 66th SUN Country member in September and encouraging signals that Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Uruguay, and various Caribbean countries may follow**. Eugenia highlighted the importance of the SUN LAC Hub in Panama as it is actively engaged with countries, instilling confidence and motivation among all focal points involved in SUN regionally. The six LAC focal points met nine times during 2023 to discuss progress, challenges, political issues and strategies to advance nutrition outcomes.

Eugenia then gave an **update on the initiation phase of the EU Support to the Implementation of SUN 3.0 (EU4SUN)** in Latin America. EU4SUN has been **collaborating with the LAC hub and conducted visits to seven LAC countries**. These visits aimed to identify priorities for support and understand how the SUN Movement operates in the region, ultimately **defining the scope and priorities for technical assistance**. Eugenia **underscored the significance of the JAA** in setting priorities, including support, and convening stakeholders. She welcomed how the **EU4SUN support was entirely demand-driven**, aligning **with the Strategic Objectives of SUN 3.0** and concentrating on instigating systemic change at the country level.

In September, a **high-level visit by the SUN Movement Coordinator, Afshan Khan, to El Salvador took place**, garnering appreciation from the SUN Government Focal Point, the SUN Platform, and the First Lady of El Salvador. In October, **Costa Rica hosted a delegation from Nepal's Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration for a peer exchange visit**, aiming to glean insights from Costa Rica's experiences in combating malnutrition.

With regards to challenges and opportunities ahead for 2024, Eugenia highlighted the importance of the technical assistance to reinforce the sharing of nutrition good practices among countries and the ongoing support of EU4SUN as crucial, especially for potential additional requests stemming from the next Joint Annual Assessment. **Strengthening the capacity of SUN Networks at the regional level is imperative to intensify efforts** and scale up the delivery of nutrition outcomes.

Securing additional funding through **innovative alternatives**, including tapping into the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) for nutrition-sensitive interventions and climate change will be key in 2024.

The Coordinator expressed appreciation for the LAC presentation **and the focus on regional integration, emphasizing how bringing stakeholders together**, particularly at the regional level, **enhances the power of the Movement** and helps facilitate collaboration with other initiatives. The Coordinator **gave the example of the African Leaders for Nutrition's (ALN) success in integrating nutrition financing into the climate change framework** by establishing a link between nutrition and climate at the country level by shaping national nutrition plans and NDCs, while also securing broader political support at the regional level.¹

The floor was given to **Dr. Patricia N'Goran**. She reminded the ExCom that the SUN Movement had made commitments to address all forms of malnutrition, and **suggested that indicators should be defined on overnutrition/obesity**, taking into account the wider SDGs, and proposed to use the Global Gathering (GG) as the space to discuss these indicators. She also proposed to make the GG a place for recruiting new countries to the SUN Movement and have new countries join the GG as observers.

Dr. N'Goran highlighted that Cote d'Ivoire had completed its multisectoral nutrition plan with the implementation of a new concept i.e. SDGs for nutrition. Dr. N'Goran further **updated the ExCom** about the ongoing establishment of the "**Alassane OUATTARA's Prize for the Promotion of Nutrition and Food Security on the African Continent**" (see concept note [here](#)) and invited SUN countries to join. Patricia also shared plans for a regional workshop in April 2024 in Abidjan on Nutrition Good Practices organised by the Centre of Excellence for Hunger and Malnutrition ([CERFAM](#)).

3. Coordinator's readout [for information]

The SUN Movement Coordinator, Ms. Afshan Khan, expressed appreciation for the support received from the ExCom members and all the SUN country focal points she has had the privilege of meeting over the last months. She highlighted how the visits to Tanzania and El Salvador were great opportunities to learn what the SUN Movement means from a country perspective.

She highlighted her involvement in a number of global events, giving her the opportunity to advocate for the integration and prioritisation of nutrition i.e. the UN Food Systems Summit Stocktaking; the African Food Systems Summit; the World Health Summit; the Global Micronutrient Forum; the School Meals Summit; the UK Food Security Summit; COP28 and, most recently, the Global Refugee Forum in Geneva.

COP28 in particular gave SUN the unique opportunity to look at the transformation of food and agriculture and health systems, their impact on nutrition, and the link with climate. While there's still a significant implementation gap and a very production-focused discourse in food and agriculture, the **Coordinator emphasised that there were opportunities for SUN to engage with governments to strengthen the nexus between nutrition, food systems health and climate**. Good initial discussions took place in this regard with SUN countries (i.e. Zambia, Central African Republic, Sierra Leone, Cambodia). The Coordinator recognized how the SUN Movement played a role in shaping this discussion, highlighting [an event that SUN hosted with GAIN and the United Arab Emirates at COP28](#) on the opportunities to better link climate action and nutrition. Overall, there is much follow-up work to better connect nutrition and climate.

The Coordinator emphasised how the **need for more and better financing, partnerships, knowledge exchange and tangible multisectoral alignment around national plans** has emerged as a clear priority at COP28. Countries will need to revise their NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions) as well as their NAPs (National Action Plans) on climate which gives an **opportunity for SUN to insert nutrition far more strongly** into the NDCs.

¹ Note: a policy paper was launched by ALN [at COP28](#)

The Coordinator highlighted the need to strengthen the power of the Movement at the country level through reinvigorated networks and the need to improve operationality of the SUN Business Network to operate at the country level to support SMEs to produce quality, nutritious food. The Civil Society Network and its strength in bringing youth and gender dimensions into the power of the network were significant opportunities to be built on. Through their country presence, the SUN Donor Network could better leverage its ability to support national plans and more clearly empower SUN Focal Points/Country Coordinators and align relevant donor agendas around the multisectoral plans and priorities.

The SUN Movement Coordinator further emphasised areas that require more focus: better engagement with the regional bodies (both the EU and the African Union have raised this) and **more effective leveraging of country capacities to influence the regional bodies** around their nutrition agenda.

With regard to the financing agenda, the Coordinator highlighted how, after successful Lead Group advocacy, the focus now has to **shift to practical country level actions**. **With EU4SUN and C4N as well as R4D with the nascent Finance Capacity Development Platform (FCDP), the SUN Movement now has a set of tools to work alongside countries to better cost national nutrition plans** (only about half of these are costed) and more clearly articulate pathways for domestic resource mobilisation and ODA (where applicable) to increase the envelope for nutrition financing.

The Coordinator actively engaged in **productive discussions with multiple new philanthropic organisations on innovative financing methods**, such as blended finance and matching grants which offer significant potential for SUN Countries. Additionally, there are **numerous vertical funds** offering opportunities which could involve designing interventions around micronutrient supplementation, (MMS) or other direct health interventions that positively influence nutrition outcomes.

The Coordinator identified the following three key priorities to advance the nutrition financing agenda:

- 1. Continued country engagement to expand the power of the Movement:** continue engaging with countries to strengthen SUN influence and position nutrition at the core of national development plans. This involves mobilising political support from high levels of government and parliaments.
- 2. Enhanced focus on country-level levers of change:** heightened emphasis on supporting country-level mechanisms for change. This includes active engagement with civil society, leveraging business influence, and fostering broader collaboration within countries across various sectoral line ministries as well as effective use of donor networks and expertise in nutrition.
- 3. Explore engagement with new philanthropies as a priority:** this may necessitate adapting existing approaches at both the country level and within internal procedures to enhance agility and facilitate funding reception.

Looking at **2024**, the Coordinator noted **three key moments and markers for SUN: 1) the revision of the WHA targets for nutrition and related political processes to make sure that the success that's been achieved is clearly marked; 2) The new investment strategy being developed by the World Bank around accelerated action plans for nutrition**. SUN has to tie in the MDBs much more strongly on financing, broadening the tent and working more with IFAD and some of the other multilateral development banks in terms of their direct support to countries; **3) The Global Gathering and the N4G Summit in France in early 2025** provide a clear road map of where SUN needs to have some bench strength and well articulated advocacy. It is imperative to start developing some practical high impact interventions and innovative solutions from the country level that can be presented as bankable projects.

The Coordinator closed by **highlighting the strong political momentum and opportunities for nutrition and** how the Movement has to expand its engagement with new communities and partners, including climate actors, parliamentarians, young people and women in order to get stronger demands for additional nutrition financing and investments, including concessional financing.

Discussion

The need for political advocacy around the adoption of a multisectoral approach in the setting of technical targets such as the WHA targets was highlighted as an opportunity. This led to a discussion around the ways in which Member States could strengthen the potential for better intersectoral collaboration around nutrition, including by establishing nutrition targets in primary healthcare (PHC) plans, and in nutrition sensitive domains. A primary healthcare resolution set to be tabled in January at the WHO Executive Board poses a unique moment to place five key nutrition interventions into the primary healthcare package at the country level (nutrient supplementation, promotion of breastfeeding, dietary diversification, treatment for acute malnutrition, and counselling). This would standardise a package of interventions for under fives in a more systematic way for countries.

4. FOR DISCUSSION AND INPUT: [Update on 2024 Global Gathering Planning](#)

The Coordinator welcomed the opportunity to present the concept note of the Global Gathering(GG) and the Terms of Reference of the GG Advisory Group to the ExCom for feedback. She emphasised that **these documents would only be shared externally after receiving guidance from the ExCom.**

The Coordinator highlighted that all interlocutors, including SUN Focal Points, had stressed the importance of **achieving broader political buy-in for the nutrition agenda** as the **key objective of the GG**. The proposed ambition of the upcoming GG is twofold: 1) **High-level engagements** with Heads of State or Ministers and 2) **Inclusion of influential players not yet part of the SUN Movement** but with significant impact on the global nutrition landscape, such as India (due to their recent G20 leadership and national nutrition agenda) and Brazil (forthcoming G20 presidency, issuing a paper in Feb 2024 focusing on nutrition, eradication of poverty, and social protection).

The Coordinator invited the ExCom to share ideas on specific areas for the GG's focus, pointing out that ***nutrition and food systems transformation, climate and nutrition, innovation and nutrition, nutrition financing*** (collaboration with MDBs and philanthropies), and renewed focus on ***gender*** are envisaged as key areas.

Additionally, the Coordinator stressed the **importance of country leadership** at the GG and the need for a clear roadmap for country engagement and preparation through webinars and other means, drawing parallels with the Micronutrient Forum's approach in the run-up to its global conference in October 2023.

Regarding operational matters, the Coordinator informed the ExCom about the recruitment of additional programme development support staff (Emily Heneghan) and the ongoing process of contracting an events management firm and master of ceremonies.

The Coordinator announced plans to **visit Kigali in early February** to initiate senior-level dialogue and generate interest in convening ministers and Heads of State at the GG. She also noted that due to the recent announcement of elections in Rwanda immediately following the GG, there may be a need to reconfirm with the Rwandan authorities levels of leadership engagement and proposed dates.

An official communication to the President of Rwanda was sent to initiate the invitations to Heads of States as protocol requires that his office issues those invitations. In case no traction is gained, the GG will not be promoted as a Heads of State event.

Emphasising the importance of convening a GG Programme Advisory Group, the Coordinator would like for work on the program to commence in January with a small group of six to eight persons and smaller subgroups around thematic areas, ideally with ExCom representation.

Concerning **private sector/business engagement** at the GG, the Coordinator noted ongoing exploration of ways to profile SMEs' work and that of Lead Group members. She also highlighted the need for new thinking at the GG in relation to the Movement's engagement with the **humanitarian and development nexus**, particularly in deepening understanding and response to the specialised support required in fragile contexts.

Discussion

A number of ExCom members emphasised the importance of **giving space for regional dialogues**, exchanging on **lessons** learned as well as acknowledging the **progress** made as key historical aspects of the GG.

The role of the Global Gathering as a catalyst for the **N4G Summit in 2025 was emphasised**. The GG should serve as a launching pad for countries to renew their commitments, with a specific focus on addressing challenges faced by those struggling to meet their obligations. Collective efforts should be dedicated to supporting these countries and identifying effective solutions.

It was proposed to utilise the **Global Gathering as a platform for discussions on progress toward the SDG** nutrition indicators and accountability.

More thought and consideration should be given toward including and **elevating voices from local communities**, as hearing from the people we serve is important in understanding the impact of programmes, as well as how to more effectively design and implement them to better meet the needs of the most vulnerable.

Learning from past GG editions, the importance of **creating a connection between the programme advisory group and the organising committee in Rwanda** was highlighted as crucial for the success of the GG.

While the importance of advocating for better country data and **scientific evidence around nutrition interventions** was emphasised, it was also noted that the GG might be best suited as a space to share successes and failures of **public nutrition policy implementation**, i.e. what has proven **to work**, what has not and **why**. More technical nutritional science-related discussions might be better covered at specialised conferences.

A suggestion was made that **presentations at the GG should represent the collective voice of all constituents as possible, encapsulating the unique essence of SUN**, i.e. presentations should resemble an MSP performance, showcasing how we've successfully implemented initiatives.

It was further highlighted that learning from networks and MSPs was important and **that sufficient time should be allocated for networks to organise sessions** to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive representation of the diverse contributions and achievements of each network.

Concerns over the funding of participants were raised. The Civil Society Network (CSN) is seeking support for the participation of 20 National Youth Conveners and individuals from the CSAs. Country representatives also asked UN colleagues to support mobilising funds in the country and asked whether larger delegations can be accommodated in case funds are raised.

The Coordinator then provided responses and clarifications including:

- With regards to funding gaps and budgetary constraints, **a note has been prepared to identify the financing gap for the Global Gathering, considering the scope of engagement**. The budget would determine the number of participants and size of delegations.
- **Provided the host country is in agreement, it is feasible to deliver the GG in the next six months with the engagement of the ExCom and GSS**. An initial mission to Kigali has already

taken place, involving discussions with various entities on the ground, including the government and UN agencies.

- Considering the high costs of organising a traditional **marketplace** (a quarter of a million dollars), efforts are underway to consider a more cost effective, modernised approach which would allow the funds to be used to broaden participation instead.
- **Regional meetings** and opportunities for exchange will be incorporated into the plan, emphasising the importance of celebrating the successes of the movement.

The SMS Director further acknowledged comments on:

- the importance of a special focus on **Fragile and Conflict Affected Situations**;
- the need to work with a broader array of stakeholders and **community voices**, including **youth voices**;
- ensuring that there is equitable gender representation.

The Coordinator closed the agenda item by acknowledging the [written comments](#), welcoming any further comments by 31.12.2023 and that the concept note would be updated to reflect the input of the ExCom.

5. FOR DISCUSSION AND INPUT: [Discussion of draft 2024 SMS Workplan and Budget](#)

The Director of the SMS presented the draft 2024 SMS Workplan and Budget and gave an overview of the SMS 2023 stocktake. **The SMS budget was presented to seek inputs from the ExCom and to ensure that the SMS was fulfilling its role. Both documents will be further revised following inputs from ExCom as well as the four SUN networks to ensure it can support the Movement as a whole.** The Director of the SMS further clarified that the 2023 stocktake document did not replace the comprehensive annual SMS report for 2023, which will be delivered at the end of June 2024.

The SMS Director pointed out that the SMS defined **three key focus areas for 2024**: 1) **Strengthening focus on financing for nutrition**; 2) **Better integration of gender, youth and climate**; and 3) **Optimising the added-value of SMS regional hubs which includes strengthened engagement with regional bodies.**

In addition, the SMS had **identified clear pathways to strengthen delivery and results: leveraging the convening power of the SUN Coordinator; supporting effective engagement of SUN Networks; amplifying efforts to position nutrition across food systems and climate change agendas as well as maximising outcomes of the 2024 Global Gathering.**

In terms of the SMS budget, the Director highlighted how, following the discussions of the SMS 2024 draft work plan, further adjustments have been made to the budget with the development of two scenarios: one that works fully within the approved budget of \$40.5 million (**SMS Budget Priority 1 - \$40.5 million**) and one that includes activities that could be added if more resources were available (**SMS Budget Priority 2 - \$43 million**). The Priority 2 increase includes an additional 7 positions² in the hubs, additional strategic advisory services, and increases for travel and operational expenses.

The Director further **mentioned that pending the finalisation of the 2024 work plan and its priorities, the budget may be further revised to align to the defined areas of prioritisation.** In terms of SMS funding gaps for Budget Priority 1 (\$40.5 m), she pointed out that if all pledged funding is confirmed, there is a **gap from 2025 of just over \$2 million** and that **discussions with a few donors are ongoing to look at opportunities to cover the funding gap.** However, if the total pledged funding

² Asia Hub (Bangkok): One Financing Specialist and one MEAL&KM Specialist

Latina America (Panama): One Country Action Specialist

Anglo-Africa Hub (Nairobi): One MEAL&KM Specialist and one Advocacy & Comms Specialist

Convergence Hub (Addis Ababa): One MEAL&KM Specialist and one Advocacy & Comms Specialist

is not translated into signed agreements and additional funding doesn't materialise, the total funding gap for the SMS Budget Priority 1 from 2025 is **\$4,521,863**.

The Director closed by highlighting that the revised 2024 workplan and budget will be shared for review and approval by the ExCom in early 2024, including the expected collective results and financial requirements of each part of the GSS.

The Director also shared that the SMS was about to finalise a grant in the coming days with the **Rockefeller Foundation** (\$400k) in support of SMS work on financing for nutrition. In line with the SMS Joint Hosting Agreement with UNOPS, the Director **raised this new partnership opportunity with the ExCom and requested validation to proceed**. UNOPS has completed the due diligence review, with no red flags identified.

Discussion:

In response to the SUN Donor Network Representative's request to see the 2024 work plan complemented with a log frame focused on outcomes with measurable indicators, the SMS Director clarified that work plan was aligned to the **four strategic objectives of SUN 3.0** and that the SMS will **ensure that outputs are linked to measurable results**. The SMS will be coming back to the donors (to the SMS) with a refreshed log frame at the beginning of 2024 to ensure it reflects SMS accountabilities.

More information about the envisaged strategic advisory services was requested.

Concerns were raised by country representatives with regards to a perceived **reduction of budget to the decentralised approach of the SMS**. The limited **participation of SUN Movement nutrition champions**, including ExCom members, in **regional and global events** was highlighted and **budgetary support** to this end encouraged. The SMS Director clarified that the SMS was not reducing focus on regions. Budget option 2 increases staffing in the regions. Since September 2023, four new Country Action Specialists were added across the hubs. The reduction in budget was merely a reflection of how actual post occupancy costs in the hubs have been lower than originally anticipated.

In terms of the stocktake, a focus on outcomes was suggested, specifically in relation to the work on MSPs as it was one of the key priorities for 2023. The SMS Director noted that the SMS had pilots ongoing, but that much more importantly, networks needed to be reinvigorated in support of MSPs to ensure that there is a broad multi stakeholder platform working with the Focal Points. The recent recruitment of regional advisors within the CSN is an encouraging example of this.

Appreciation was expressed with regards **to the increased priority given to financing nutrition**, including by the Lead Group, the ExCom's Finance Task Team, the operationalization of the FCDP, the piloting of the Finance Framework and the recruitment of a Senior Finance Advisor. **To ensure effective coordination, a plan should be articulated linking and coordinating the different efforts** and how the different parts serve the SUN Movement are expected to deliver results.

The SUN Donor Network representative asked **how the various financial initiatives align in a coherent manner** in support of the pilots, the FCDP and EU4SUN to ensure maximised collective impact for countries.

The Coordinator emphasised how reliance on both the Lead Group and the ExCom was essential in advancing the finance agenda. Recognizing the breadth of the financing agenda, countries have made it clear that no single entity, organisation or platform can implement it alone. Thus, the focus is on **broadening participation by including partners** such as the World Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, the ADB, the ALN, the African Development Bank, African Union, Power of Nutrition, Green Climate Fund, SMS, FCDP, EU4SUN, and C4N. Regarding regional hubs and collaboration with SUN networks, they serve as the locus to ensure dedicated capacity is provided to countries on demand.

The FCDP is viewed as a significant component within the broader framework of financing. Collaboration with IFAD and other partners is evident, aligning with national governments' demands

for broader integration with multilateral banks. Emphasising a country-driven approach, the demands of individual countries will serve as the primary source to determine how adequate support can be provided.

The Coordinator highlighted that discussions with R4D are scheduled for next week [18–19 December 2024] in Geneva. The FCDP will be incorporated within the overall governance structure of the Movement as a project-specific endeavour. Initial discussions and document exchanges have occurred with the support of UNOPS, addressing various legal and governance aspects and an update to the ExCom can be given early next year.

Politically, the Coordinator highlighted, it was crucial to have bankable projects prepared for the Global Gathering, serving as a space for peer review and discussion. N4G, tentatively set for the first few months of 2025, will be the next milestone.

It was emphasised that while the budget outlined a prioritised integration of gender, youth, and climate, the work plan **lacked mention of climate-related action**. The Director noted that these dimensions were well integrated in the work plan and log frame and will be given more visibility in the next iteration of the work plan.

It was suggested that a focus on food systems thinking/approach be integrated into the nutrition and climate priorities. The SMS Director informed ExCom that a Food Systems Advisor supported by Switzerland (SDC), will join the team in January bringing relevant expertise and connections.

There was a strong emphasis on the **need for nutrition to be a top priority within each sector individually**, rather than being perceived solely as a pathway, as currently reflected in the work plan. It was also **stressed that additional attention should be directed towards decision-makers and change agents** who are not currently in the nutrition tent to successfully secure increased financing.

The Co-Chair closed the item highlighting that the **SMS will take on board the inputs provided by the ExCom to the extent possible and present a final work plan and budget in Q1 of 2024**. He invited colleagues to provide additional comments, if any, in writing by 31 December 2023.

Finally, as no objection was raised, the **new SMS partnership with the Rockefeller Foundation was validated**.

6. Other business

a. Q&A as needed on written submissions

i. [From SMS](#)

1. SUN Movement External Evaluation (SMS)
2. Internal Review of SMS Regionalization (SMS)
3. Finance Framework Pilots (SMS)

In response to queries, the SMS Director highlighted that the internal review of SMS regionalization provided an opportune moment for the SMS to assess the progress and effectiveness of the regionalization process and that it **will be shared with the external evaluation team as background**. She further informed the ExCom that the SMS was in the process of assessing the bids received and a document seeking comments and inputs from the Evaluation Reference Group will soon be shared. The **first meeting of the Evaluation Reference Group**, representing all constituencies within the movement, will be scheduled for the **latter part of January**.

ii. [From Youth Representative](#)

The Co-Chair reminded the ExCom that the **SUN Movement Youth Roadmap was a shared effort by all parts of the Movement** and that the update presented by the ExCom Youth Representative

focused mainly on the progress so far with the CSN network's Youth Leaders for Nutrition program, the SBN, and the formation of national youth networks across some countries.

Encouraging developments were observed in **CSN's implementation of the Youth Leaders for Nutrition**, focusing on youth coordinators, and **SBN's introduction of the youth and women's strategy**. There was an interest in seeing a youth framework from SDN, aligning activities for youth projects. Further, the SMS was asked to serve as a convenor, bringing networks together. ExCom members were invited to provide comments in writing, if any, by **31 December 2023**.

The last AoB item was an **update on the allocation of the UNOPS excess reserves** (see [14 September 2023 summary](#)). UNOPS Geneva Director Andrew Kirkwood informed the ExCom that UNOPS has successfully followed up with all nine donors to the Pooled Fund. Three donors—Norway, Germany, and the EU—requested the refund of their contributions, while the remaining six donors agreed to proceed as proposed. Consequently, \$132,000 was refunded to Norway, \$98,000 to Germany, and \$96,000 to the EU. Additionally, \$135,000 was credited to the SMS for the purposes agreed upon by the ExCom on September 14th, 2023. Furthermore, \$158,000 has been transferred to Save the Children as the host of the CSN this afternoon. In addition, the UNOPS Executive Board granted UNOPS until the end of this year to fully address the \$123 million. UNOPS has successfully closed out 75% of that amount of which a substantial portion remains with the US government, and recent indications suggest that the US government will utilise USAID's contributions for the original purposes initially appropriated by Congress. For SUN, this implies that an additional amount of \$33,000 might be reprogrammed back to the SMS.

7. Co-Chairs' summary, agreed actions and concluding remarks (5 minutes)

The Co-Chairs thanked everyone for their contributions and inputs, with special acknowledgment to Eugenia and Patricia for their insights into country and regional-level developments.

The Co-Chairs encouraged ExCom members to actively engage in the GG and external evaluation processes, ensuring sufficient time for support and participation in reference groups as needed.

As there will be plenty of opportunity for in-person interactions at the Global Gathering, there are no plans for an in-person ExCom retreat in 2024. However, a **virtual extended session of the ExCom is proposed for early March 2024**. The SMS will be in touch with dates.

We will continue as planned to look to **streamline the ExCom Rules of Procedure of the ExCom** to take on lessons learned during the past two years, improve efficiency and enhance the strategic orientation of the ExCom. **A revised version of the Rules of Procedure will be shared with the ExCom in the first quarter of 2024** and further validated with **ExCom Transition Committee (ETC) of the Lead Group** (Cherrie Atilano, Martin Chungong, Sophie Healy-Thow and Inger Ashing)

The aim is to **launch a Call for Nominations for the Executive Committee in April/May 2024**.

This will allow space for the new ExCom to be agreed and ready to begin their engagement at the Global Gathering in Rwanda.

The Co-Chairs acknowledged **Stineke Oenema's** last day with the UN Nutrition Secretariat. They thanked her for her contribution to the SUN Movement in recent years and wished her all the best in her next chapter.

Annex 1: Chat comments with regard to Item 4. Update on the 2024 Global Gathering

Mary Mpereh (East and Central Africa Alternate):

1. Interconnectedness with other sectors: how will this interconnectedness be put into practice during the GG.
2. Participation> does the proposed budget of 1.8M provide a provision to support the participation of the 7 member delegation that countries were asked to nominate?
3. If countries can mobilise their own additional funds, can they increase the size of their delegations beyond 3/7 mentioned to embrace the spirit of multi sectoriality where some countries have as many as 7/8 networks and would like to have several government stakeholders participate?
4. The Global village/market place would still be there?
5. What concrete mechanisms will be used to ensure active participation and commitment of high level decision makers, including heads of states and Ministers during the event?
6. Event format and outcomes: the proposal provides a general outline of the event format and expected outcomes, however lacks detailed information on the structure of sessions and how they will promote peer to peer learning, collaboration and addressing challenges in nutrition.
7. Sustainability: Proposal commitment to minimising carbon footprint is commendable, however, it could provide more specific measures for achieving this, such as strategies for reducing participants travel emissions and promotion of sustainable transportation
8. Financing: Proposal outlines need for greater financing for nutrition and provides estimated costs for supporting participation of various representatives, However, it could provide more details on how the funding would be utilised and how sponsors will be recognised during the event?
9. Contingency plans: Given ongoing uncertainties related to COVID pandemic, proposals could benefit from including contingency plans for virtual or hybrid event options.
10. Preparation time: The proposal could provide a more detailed timeline for finalising the concept note and other preparations for the Global Gathering
11. With barely 6 months to the GG, are we confident that we have sufficient time to execute this plan effectively?

Said Shamsul (alternate Humanitarian representative)

1. If we want to make this event different to the other ones. We should invite community representatives from the places it is possible to attend this event. They are the ones who we serve and the voices that matter.

Niel Watkins (SDN representative)

1. Wanted to underscore the importance of making this a flagship event - not just a gathering of the SUN community, but relevant politically at a high level in the region.
2. Encourage team to consider encouraging participants to use the platform to provide updates on progress of N4G commitments
3. Update on fundraising efforts and gap to date on the GG

Caroline Wilkinson (Humanitarian representative)

1. Some sessions could also address the issue of special nutrition concerns in fragile and conflict affected situations. It would be a good opportunity to highlight specific needs of these populations at country and global level.

Agustin Flory (Finance Expert)

1. Agreed that objectives should also be to celebrate success and foster exchanges, this has been to all SUN GGS since the start of key value propositions: celebrating, galvanising and exchanging.
2. Support the three objectives here. Repositioning nutrition at the heart of SDGs, suggest adding explicit emphasis on elevating the priority of nutrition at the Global, Regional, and national level. We are not going to get the necessary increase in financing and uptake from the different sectors without much higher prioritisation. What higher prioritisation means and how we get there should be key.
3. For finance: Agustin or the FTT have not been consulted to this point so do not know what has been discussed but are available to support/ humanitarian development nexus is important. MNF showed this was a key priority, disproportionate burden of malnutrition in fragile or conflict affected states.
4. If the GG is a green event: why not facilitate online participation as well?
5. Financing priority: Great to see the Coordinator prioritising financing; and the Lead Group dedicating its last meeting to it. Good to see also in the SMS update that a new senior officer will be hired for the SMS in 2024.
 - Advise that the Movement needs to articulate much more clearly a plan to advance this priority, with the role of the different parts of the movement - with question about what is the continuing role, value and ideal composition of the FTT now that the FCDP has been incubated and is being launched; will need to come back to the ExCom for this.
6. Better integration of gender, youth and climate: document only talks about gender and youth; what is the plan for climate, arguably the most important priority given it is attracting most of the attention at the moment? And what about food systems, which remain a key global priority and are closely linked with climate and nutrition? The SMS update indicates that there will be new.
7. Would argue that raising the priority of nutrition overall, in connection with the SDGs and within each sector should be top priority, not just a pathway, with a focus on change agents that are not in the nutrition room, to complement GG objectives and prepare for N4G; should be the first priority, financing will depend on this as mentioned earlier.

Christine Campeau (Civil Society Network)

1. Important themes to have:
 - Civils space/ SMP functionality
 - Youth engagement
 - Budget analysis and accountability
 - Gender/Nutrition gap
 - Accountability linked to the N4G and other nutrition commitments.