

SUN Movement Executive Committee (ExCom) Meeting

11 March 2024, 15:00 - 17:00 CEST (virtual)

Summary note

Participation:

ExCom Participants: Connell Foley (Co-Chair), Patricia Ngoran (*West and Central Africa*), Eugenia Villalobos (*Latin America and Caribbean*), Mathews Mhuru (*Additional Country Regional Seat*), Abigail Perry (UNN) Christine Campeau (CSN), Neil Watkins (SDN), 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*), Mr. Aimé Garlas Kwizera (SBN interim representative)

Ex-Officio Members: Andrew Kirkwood (UNOPS), Afshan Khan (SUN Movement Coordinator)

Apologies: Gladys Mugambi (Co-Chair), George Baffour (*East and Central Africa*), George Kembo (*Southern Africa*)

Observers: *Alternates:* Helena Guarin (SDN), Ibis Ivy King-Harry (*Additional Country - Regional Seat*), El Hadi Momar Thiam (MEAL / Analytics), Venuste Muhamyankaka (*additional Country Regional Seat*), Nancy Aburto (FAO - UN-N); *Networks:* Alex Newlands (CSN), Sean Counihan (CSN), Ilaria Schibbia (WFP - UN-N), Ritta Shine (GAIN - SBN), Hannah Rowlands (WFP - SBN), Denise Cotinho (UN-N), Trudy Wijinoven (UNN), Ilaria Schibba (WFP - UN-N)

SUN Movement Secretariat (SMS): Marcy Vigoda, Maria Pizzini, Paul Mazza, Elena Gaino, Julia Klever, Michelle Link, Srikanth Eadara, Irina Zodrow, Eve Gossiaux, Francisca Cisterna-Gomez, Hiroko Nobusada

Decisions:

- The [SMS 2024 SMS Workplan](#) and [SMS 2022-2025 Revised Provisional Budget \(March 2024\)](#) are approved by the ExCom.
- The [proposed revisions to ExCom Rules of Procedure](#) and ExCom renewal approach are approved by the ExCom.
- No objections were raised by ExCom members in relation to the evolution of the FCDP operationalisation efforts and government arrangements and so considered it approved.

Follow-up Actions:

- The SMS will administer a brief survey in relation to changes, if any, required to the thematic composition of the three ExCom specialised expert seats, to be completed no later than Friday 15 March.
- ExCom members who are not eligible for or not interested in a second term are invited to contact the SUN Movement Secretariat as soon as possible if they wish to participate in the ExCom Full Renewal Committee.

Summary note

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

Connell Foley informed the Executive Committee (ExCom) that Co-Chair Gladys Mugambi was unable

to attend the meeting due to a family bereavement. The Co-Chair informed the ExCom that Dr. Kiran, SUN Government Focal Point for Central and South Asia and Augustin Flory, ExCom Finance Expert, have both taken on new positions which will no longer allow them to dedicate time to the ExCom. The Co-Chair also welcomed Mr. Aimé Garlas Kwizera (GAIN) as interim SBN representative on the ExCom and thanked the SMS for its prompt onboarding support.

The agenda was approved without further additions. The Co-Chair provided an **overview of the action points** from the previous ExCom meeting on 14 December (meeting summary [here](#)):

- The SDN and UN-N provided feedback on the draft 2024 SMS work plan and budget and Global Gathering planning to the SMS. This input was considered and integrated into the revised version of the 2024 SMS work plan and budget. which is tabled for approval at the meeting.
- Following the change of the Global Gathering timeline, an extended ExCom transition meeting is planned for 18 July at which the outgoing ExCom will handover to the newly nominated members.

2. SUN Country-Led Discussion

The Co-Chair passed the floor to the **SUN Country Regional Representative for West and Central Africa (Patricia N’Goran)**, for a debriefing from the recent AU Summit in Addis Ababa (17-18 February 2024) and the nutrition-related events that took place on the sidelines of the Summit.

She provided a concise summary of her participation and reflections on the following events.

- [Launch Event: Mobilizing Resources for the Seqota Declaration Expansion](#) (13 February)
- The SUN Country Finance Capacity Development Platform (FCDP) Partner Workshop (15 February)
- African Union Summit High-Level Nutrition Side Event: [Achieving Nutrition Goals in Africa Post-Malabo: Public and Private Sector Sustainable Nutrition Financing](#)
- [High-level Round Table on Addressing Malnutrition, Catalysing Africa’s Transformation through Enhanced Multi-sectoral Investments](#) (16 February)

Patricia discussed the **FCDP workshop**, where SUN countries (Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, and Côte d’Ivoire) participated with EU4SUN's support. The workshop focused on defining pathways for financing transformation in Africa, emphasizing governance, resource mobilization, funding sustainability, and budget management. Key takeaways from the workshop and events from the perspective of SUN countries included:

- **Funding** remains a challenge as countries struggle to **prioritize** and define **nutrition financing targets** amidst competing **priorities** and challenges.
- **Country-led resource mobilization** and domestic funding **goals** are essential.
- **Advocacy efforts** are needed to encourage **SUN countries** to prioritize nutrition and address financing challenges effectively.
- **Institutionalization** of nutrition **budgeting, planning** and resource mobilization requires more political attention, with a focus on proper **coordination mechanisms**.
- **Nutrition budgeting complexities** arise from partners' focus on **single activities**, leading to problematic investment allocation.
- **Budgeting approaches** vary among countries, necessitating tailored criteria for each.
- **Weak coordination** within the **UN system** results in **fragmentation** and implementation inefficiencies.
- **Strengthening country capacities** in resource organization, from human resources to budgetary planning, is crucial.
- The **AU** and **AfDB nutrition events** emphasized nutrition **funding** and partner mobilization,

with significant investments from the AfDB.

- **SUN countries** underscored the importance of **data** and **scientific evidence** for political and economic support, seeking additional technical support from the SMS.
- **Improved tracking mechanisms** are needed to monitor the progress and effectiveness of nutrition interventions, integrated across the entire **UN system**.

Discussion:

Aimé Kwizera, **interim SUN Business Network (SBN) representative**, highlighted the crucial role of SMEs in improving nutrition outcomes and the importance of the SBN, operating in about 21 SUN countries, in **supporting domestic and national financing** for nutrition efforts.

The **SUN Movement Coordinator**, Afshan Khan, welcomed the interventions and stressed the significance of the upcoming update of the **World Bank's Investment Framework for Nutrition**, as it will outline the **costs** and **implications** of **insufficient nutrition financing** and identify **additional needs**. Following the framework update, the SMS will provide **tailored messaging to each stakeholder group** of the SUN Movement, including the ExCom.

The SUN Movement Coordinator acknowledged that while there is **sufficient data** for **certain countries and interventions**, **improved data**, research, and evidence are **necessary for others**. **Domestic academia plays a crucial role** in providing information for government policy planning. The **regional hubs** are already contributing by **coordinating technical assistance** for the development and monitoring of national nutrition plans. **Collaborations** with organisations such as the **AfDB** and **AU-NEPAD** needed to be strengthened as **partnerships for nutrition investment** are now crucial.

In terms of political advocacy, the SUN Movement Coordinator stressed the importance of a cohesive approach within the SUN Movement encompassing her country visits as well as the engagement of different members of the Movement, including **SDN, SBN, CSN, and UN-N**. Additionally, Lead Group members can be very effective in articulating the substantial returns on investment when investing in nutrition during their visits to countries and public speaking opportunities and when engaging with governments.

Looking ahead to the upcoming African Union **nutrition financing targets**, there is an opportunity to align them with domestic sustainability goals as well as **N4G commitments** (facilitating tracking and progress evaluation).

Mary Mpereh (**SUN Country ExCom Representative for East and Central Africa, Alternate**) emphasized **the importance of prioritizing national ownership and sustainability in nutrition financing**, especially amidst declining aid and debt crises. She highlighted the necessity of understanding country systems to ensure meaningful participation in decision-making processes, the critical role of **budget tracking** in advising governments and the value of **technical assistance**, citing a recent peer-to-peer learning meeting in Zambia.

Additionally, Mary underscored the importance of conducting **diagnostic studies** to assess the **status of countries when it comes to nutrition financing** and provide tailored support for improving domestic nutrition financing. She emphasized the significance of **domestic matching** for external technical assistance to ensure sustainability. Patricia N'Goran suggested setting **realistic regional targets** for nutrition financing to enable better tracking and contribute to sustainable funding in the long term.

The Co-Chair summarized the discussion. He also proposed to **invite the ExCom Youth Representative to use the standing country-led segment of future ExCom calls** to ensure youth perspectives are more systematically included in ExCom discussions. The Co-Chair might request written feedback from the ExCom on this.

3. Review and approve 2024 SMS Workplan and Budget [FOR DECISION]

The **Director of the SUN Movement Secretariat (SMS)**, Marcy Vigoda, presented an overview of the

revised 2024 work plan and budget for the SMS. She also informed ExCom that the updated SMS logframe is undergoing updates and would be discussed with the SUN Donor Network on 12 March 2024 as it forms part of existing donor agreements and reporting obligations.

The Director highlighted that the SMS workplan and budget has also been shared with **network co-chairs and facilitators** to ensure that SMS priorities and activities reflect expectations and the potential for collaboration across networks.

The SMS Director emphasized that in the updated 2024 work plan, all activities were aligned with the **SUN 3.0 strategic objectives**, with **outputs and outcomes** reflecting the SMS results and deliverables. The central focus of the work plan is to **strengthen political attention and financial support for nutrition** globally, regionally, and nationally, recognizing the interconnections with **sustainable food systems, health, education, social protection, water, and climate**. Efforts have been made to enhance **gender mainstreaming** throughout the work plan, and support for **fragile and conflict-affected** settings has been pulled from SO4 and is now more prominently incorporated across the work plan, highlighting the need for **adaptability** in such contexts to sustain the nutrition focus.

The work plan demonstrates the **key role** of regional hubs to consistently **engage with, support and advise** SUN Focal Points, MSPs and SUN Movement network members (including regional CSN advisors) and to play a **convening, coordinating and brokering role**, as well as to engage with regional bodies to promote the **nutrition agenda**.

The SMS Director further explained that the **financial requirements** for each outcome (and not only for each strategic objectives) have now been defined and an additional **outcome** (number 5.1) was included representing cross-cutting functions and activities related to the **management** of the SMS and its resources.

With regard to the [SMS 2022-2025 Revised Provisional Budget \(March 2024\)](#) the Director noted that the SMS budget for the 2022-2025 period estimated at **\$40.5 million** was approved by the SUN Movement ExCom in March 2023. The revised budget stays within the approved \$40.5 million financial envelope.

Upon presenting the **revised provisional budget** for the SMS, the Director elaborated on the **funding gap** currently facing the SMS for 2025. The SMS is operating under the following assumptions:

- If all **outstanding pledged funding** is received, the current funding gap through 2025 is \$1.6 million.
- If total pledged funding fails to materialize into **signed agreements**, the total funding gap for the SMS Budget is \$3.8 million.
- If no additional funding is secured, **liquidity issues** are anticipated around May 2025.

The SMS Director outlined the possible need to implement **cost reductions** of approximately **40%** in **HR and operational expenses in 2025 should the funding situation not improve**. In the coming months, the SMS will focus on **fundraising efforts** and reevaluating **resource allocation**, especially considering **2025** as a **transitional year** towards the **final phase** of the **Movement**. With support from **UNOPS**, an internal analysis of the **organizational structure** of **Geneva-based staff** will be conducted, excluding assessment of **regional hubs** due to ongoing **regionalization efforts**. Completion of this review is anticipated before **September**. Meanwhile, **personnel contracts** due for renewal are being extended until **December 31, 2024**.

The Director also **highlighted the funding gaps** faced by the **CSN and SBN secretariats**. SBN funding only runs until June 2024 and CSN has gaps through 2025 (specifics are noted in the [GSS 2022-23 stocktake document](#)).

Discussion

The **Civil Society Network (CSN) ExCom representative**, Christine Campeau noted that the CSN secretariat received the 2024 SMS work plan and budget at the same time as the ExCom. She emphasized the value of future **consultation**, highlighting CSN's **collaborative role** in many activities.

Additionally, she recommended reconsidering joint **GSS fundraising efforts** led by the SMS, particularly to support **regionalization, especially joint advocacy on nutrition.**

The **SUN Donor Network (SDN) ExCom representative**, Neil Watkins, commended the SMS for the robust work plan and budget, noting the incorporation of SDN comments. Highlighting the **ambitious** nature of the plans, he suggested **prioritizing critical activities.**

The **UN Network for Nutrition (UN-N) representative**, Abi Perry urged the SMS to **prioritize supporting governments** in identifying the areas and types of support needed around nutrition, especially as the **SUN Global Gathering and the N4G Summit approached.**

The **SBN interim representative** also **emphasised the need for better alignment** of SMS and network **fundraising** and that the GSS should work closely together to define the **value proposition of the GSS for the next phase.**

The ExCom **Humanitarian Expert**, Caroline Wilkinson, welcomed revisions supporting fragile and conflict-affected states (FCAS) in the work plan, emphasizing the importance of leveraging these activities effectively. She also encouraged prioritisation.

The SMS Director thanked the ExCom for feedback, reiterated the **work plan's dynamic nature** and commitment to **reviews and adjustments.** She highlighted deepening coordination with CSN Senior Regional Advisors and noted **efforts to support and potentially channel funding to networks.**

With no objections to the proposed revised 2024 SMS work plan and budget, the Co-Chair concluded the item.

Decision: The [SMS 2024 SMS Workplan](#) and [SMS 2022-2025 Revised Provisional Budget \(March 2024\)](#) Budget are approved by the ExCom.

4. [Proposed revisions to ExCom Rules of Procedure and ExCom renewal](#) [FOR DISCUSSION AND INPUT] [[slides](#)]

The **Governance Advisor** of the SMS, Maria Pizzini, gave an **overview of the proposed revisions** to the ExCom Rules of Procedure (RoP) and ExCom renewal (see [slides](#)). She reminded the ExCom that the changes proposed are intended to help simplify and/or clarify the current rules as well as to enhance the ways in which the ExCom can strengthen country-leadership and increase the regional presence of the SUN Movement as prioritized in the SUN Movement Strategy for 2021-2025. She summarised the key changes as the relate to:

- ExCom **composition** (SUN country seat distribution, network nomination convening and decision-making authority, thematic focus of specialized experts);
- Procedure related to **alternate** appointment, **participation**, ExCom member **change of status** and;
- Procedure to guide the ExCom **selection process** in the case of a 'full renewal scenario', including a proposed Terms of Reference for a Full Renewal Committee (FRC).

Discussion

It was clarified that the five regional seats were proposed to be designated for SUN focal points exclusively, while the additional three country/regional seats were open to any stakeholder group. Active engagement by ExCom members of the FRC in shaping the criteria and guidelines for the call for nominations is anticipated. ExCom members were also prompted to reach out to their respective networks to **encourage pivotal players for nutrition to join the ExCom, especially strategically relevant regional institutions and actors.**

With regards to the specialized expert seats, the SDN representative suggested that climate expertise may be a higher strategic priority for the ExCom than MEAL and analytics expertise. The **UN-N representative** recommended that the ExCom maintains a humanitarian expert seat given the complexity many SUN countries are currently facing. She suggested that a clearer articulation of **the**

actual role and expected contribution of these specialised seats would help ensure that there is **more effective use of their time and expertise**.

Overall the proposed revisions to ExCom rules of procedure and renewal approach were endorsed. In the interest of time, it was agreed that the SMS would administer a brief survey to collect views in relation to changes, if any, required to the thematic composition of the three specialized expert seats. The results of the survey will be communicated to the ExCom and reflected in the reviewed RoP proposal package to be shared with the Lead Group for approval.

The Co-Chair closed the item by requesting ExCom members to be mindful of the tight timeline for the renewal and asked those ExCom members who were not planning to re-apply for ExCom membership to volunteer their time to the Full Renewal Committee.

Decision:

- The ExCom approved the *proposed revisions to ExCom Rules of Procedure and ExCom renewal approach*.

Follow up action:

- The SMS will administer a brief survey in relation to changes, if any, required to the thematic focus of the three specialised expert seats to be completed no later than Friday 15 March.
- ExCom members who are not eligible for or not interested in a second term are invited to contact the SUN Movement Secretariat as soon as possible if they wish to participate in the ExCom Full Renewal Committee.

5. Other business: Q&A as needed on written submission written [SMS update](#) [FOR DISCUSSION AND INPUT]

a. 2024 SUN Global Gathering Planning Update

The Co-Chair reminded the ExCom that new dates were set for the Global Gathering, which is now set to take place on **25-28 November 2024 in Kigali** and that the Global Gathering Program Advisory Group held its first meeting.

The SMS Director clarified that country delegations for the 2024 SUN Global Gathering are expected to include up to seven participants. While virtual participation to some sessions will be possible, the Global Gathering will mainly be an in-person event.

Countries are encouraged to identify resources for the participation of their delegations within their country (including from donors). The SMS will cover the participation of up to 100 people, and CSN has also made provisions for civil society and youth members who may not otherwise be able to secure funding.

The UN-Nutrition representative flagged that there will be a food systems thematic day towards the end of COP29 which might affect the availability of some high-level attendees.

The SMS Director explained that the Program Advisory Group aimed to complement the ExCom's advice and included representation from all constituencies within the Movement, including the UN, civil society, business, and donors. She mentioned that thematic working groups are also being established and networks will be invited to put forth representatives in these groups.

b. SUN Movement Evaluation Update

The Evaluation Reference Group (ToR with membership [here](#)) convened its first meeting in January 2024 to discuss the vision and expectations for the evaluation and to prepare for an inception meeting with the selected evaluation team, the Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI), which took place on February 29th.

c. SUN Finance Capacity Development Platform (FCDP) progress update

The Co-Chair made an intervention on procedure here, pointing out that the new governance arrangements proposed were a departure from those already agreed by the ExCom and related to the function and TOR of the Finance Task Team. He suggested that the importance of finance and resource mobilisation has been reiterated time and again and coordinating support for this was critical. The new proposal was a light-touch and practical arrangement that supported alignment with other parts of the Movement, especially the SMS Regional Hubs. He also pointed out the provision of a review after 12 months.

He wanted ExCom members to be clear that this was a departure from what was previously agreed by ExCom and that their approval is founded on such an understanding. The Co-Chair noted that no objections were raised by ExCom members in relation to the evolution of the FCDP operationalisation efforts and government arrangements and so considered it approved.

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

The Co-Chair closed the meeting by acknowledging the valuable contributions of Patricia N'Goran and Mary Mpereh, particularly regarding nutrition financing. The need to strengthen engagement with regional and continental organizations like the AU, ALN and ECOWAS, and the critical role SBN and SMEs have to play, have clearly emerged. The Co-Chair reaffirmed that the SMS work plan and budget had been formally approved and highlighted existing funding gaps, including at CSN and SBN which require stronger fundraising coordination going forward.

The Co-Chair reminded the ExCom that the changes to the Rules of Procedures and the renewal of the ExCom had been approved and that a survey will be conducted to define the thematic composition of specialist seats. He also noted the ExCom's satisfaction with Global Gathering preparations and the operationalisation, including the establishment of light-touch governance arrangements of the FCDP.