Good nutrition is a basic need for everyone, everywhere. Imagine a world where all women and children have the nutrition they need to live healthy, productive lives, nurturing our families and communities and putting the world on a path toward greater economic prosperity. Nutrition fuels our ambitions – for children to go to school ready to learn, stay in school, and go on to better jobs. Nutrition fuels our health – providing the foundation for our well-being and that of future generations. Nutrition fuels our progress – investing in our collective brainpower means a more productive workforce and thriving economies. Nutrition fuels the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – averting malnutrition will help achieve at least 12 of the 17 SDGs and help create a healthy, prosperous, and stable world in which no one is left behind. Investing in nutrition is also one of the best buys in global health and development: for every $1 invested in nutrition, $16 is returned to the local economy.

The Tokyo Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit, to be held in December 2020 under the auspices of the Government of Japan and preceded by a nutrition “springboard” event, called the N4G Goalkeepers Kick-Off Event, on the eve of the opening ceremony of the Olympics, provides a historic opportunity to transform the way the world tackles the global challenge of malnutrition. The Summit continues the N4G legacy and signals the beginning of a new race toward a healthier, better-nourished future—a race toward ending malnutrition in all its forms in all countries. This requires ensuring that all people, including the most vulnerable, have access to safe, affordable and nutritious food by 2030, as called for by the SDGs.

Growing Progress: Maintaining Momentum in the Final Decade of the SDGs

Over the last decade, world leaders and the global community have recognized the power of better nutrition:

- In 2012, at the World Health Assembly, 194 countries agreed to the first-ever set of global nutrition targets.
- In 2013, at the first N4G summit in London, 110 stakeholders agreed to prevent at least 20 million children from being stunted and save at least 1.7 million lives by 2020. Donors secured new commitments of over $4 billion to tackle undernutrition, and $19 billion in complementary nutrition-sensitive investments between 2013 and 2020.
- In 2015, world leaders committed to end “all forms of malnutrition” by 2030 as part of the SDGs.
- In 2016, at the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, the Decade of Action on Nutrition was launched as a tool for all actors to set, track, and achieve commitments to end all forms of malnutrition.
  In addition, the Government of Brazil hosted a follow-on event to mark the second N4G moment.
- In 2017, at the Global Nutrition Summit in Milan, governments, civil society organizations, private philanthropies, and the private sector made financial and policy commitments totalling $3.4 billion.
- Today, 61 countries lead the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement to end malnutrition in all its forms.

The progress we've made over the past decade reflects commitments we must keep—and momentum that must be maintained—as we enter the final decade of the SDGs.

Growing Urgency: Delivering on an Unfinished Agenda and Preparing for New Challenges

While significant progress has been made, there is an urgent need to accelerate action. Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing all regions today and has complex interlinkages with both obesity and undernutrition. Diets are changing, while the food system continues to be the contributor to greenhouse gases. The connection between nutrition, the global food system, and climate change cannot be ignored by the international community.
With growing demands on our food system and on our planet, the world is off track to reach the 2025 World Health Assembly nutrition targets and the target set by the SDGs to end malnutrition in all its forms by 2030. As the 2025 deadline approaches, nearly half of all child deaths are still due to malnutrition. Hunger is now on the rise and healthy diets are still out of reach for far too many. Poor diet is now the leading risk factor for death worldwide, responsible for one in every five deaths globally – more than tobacco, high blood pressure, or any other health risk.

One in three people around the world struggle with at least one form of malnutrition—undernutrition, obesity, overweight, or micronutrient deficiencies—and current trends project that one in two people will be malnourished by 2025. Malnutrition costs the global economy $3.5 trillion annually in lost productivity and health care costs - and most of these losses are preventable.

As the financial commitments made in London in 2013 are set to expire in 2020, a new influx of resources and bold actions are urgently needed to change the course of malnutrition and build human capital to energize economic growth. Investing in nutrition now will have an immediate payoff in terms of lives saved and stunting and wasting averted – as well as significant long-term impacts on health and economic development.

**Growing Partnership: Harmonizing Sectors and Stakeholders to Deliver Impact**

The Summit in Tokyo in 2020 comes at a critical time, with only five years left to achieve the World Health Assembly targets on maternal, infant, and young child nutrition, and 10 years to reach the SDGs. Reaching these targets will require a massive scale up in global investment in nutrition, and countries, donors, the private sector, and civil society are stepping up to find innovative ways to drive progress.

Winning the race toward ending malnutrition in all its forms by 2030 requires a transformation of health, food, and social protection systems to deliver better health, nutrition, and diets for the most vulnerable. A targeted focus on tackling undernutrition, as well as action to reverse the global epidemics of obesity and diet-related disease, are urgently needed since both fuel human capital. Above all, winning the race requires that the world prioritize the nutritional needs of the most vulnerable.

The road to the Summit will kick off with a pledging event on July 23, 2020, on the eve of the opening ceremony of the Olympics in Tokyo, Japan, called the N4G Goalkeepers Kick-Off Event, to spur action towards the December Summit. The outcomes of the December Summit will be enshrined in a 2020 Compact designed to accelerate the achievement of the objectives of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and the SDGs.

The commitments to be made at the Summit will focus on three core areas (described in further detail on page 3):

1. **Health: Making nutrition integral to Universal Health Coverage** because we know that investing in nutrition services in health systems can lead to greater well-being and more equitable development.

2. **Food: Building food systems that promote healthy diets and nutrition**, ensure livelihoods of producers, and are climate-smart because we know that the food the world produces and consumes impacts both people and planet.

3. **Resilience: Addressing malnutrition effectively in fragile and conflict-affected contexts** because we know that people impacted by violence and instability are especially vulnerable to malnutrition and young children in these settings need special attention.

**Promoting data-driven accountability and securing new investment and driving innovation in nutrition financing** cut across the above core areas.
Good nutrition lies at the heart of economic and social development and is the key to reducing inequality and eliminating poverty, for everyone, everywhere. The Summit is our opportunity to drive greater action toward a collective vision for 2030 in which no woman or child is held back from reaching their full potential because they did not have access to a healthy diet. Together we can save lives, change lives, unlock human potential, and create a lasting and transformational legacy for this generation and many more to come.

**Securing Meaningful Commitments: Priority Areas**

Considering the broad nature of the nutrition agenda, the Government of Japan would like to focus in on key areas where there is scope to create a lasting and transformational legacy in support of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and the SDGs, and where the Government of Japan can provide global leadership. Global experts have been brought together to identify SMART commitments across priority areas in five Working Groups which will conclude by the end of October 2019. Members span implementing agencies, UN agencies, donors, philanthropies, multilaterals, businesses, research networks and civil society alliances, providing technical, policy and advocacy proficiency. Broad recommendations from each of the five Working Groups have been outlined on the next page:
Figure 1: Commitment areas.

Five priority areas for security meaningful commitments at the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2020

1. Health: Making nutrition integral to Universal Health Coverage for sustainable development. Commitments could be framed around the six pillars of the health system: health service delivery, health workforce, health financing, health information systems, access to essential medicines, and leadership and governance. Commitments could, for example, ensure that nutrition-related health services and products are affordable, accessible, and properly administered through the health systems, or increase/maintain public health expenditure towards an appropriate % of GDP.

2. Food: Building food systems that promote safe, healthy diets and nutrition, ensure livelihoods of producers, and are climate-smart. Coherent government food systems strategies and policies are urgently needed to integrate nutrition, climate and economic objectives. 2020 commitments could include pledges by businesses, donors, civil society, the UN and governments on priority actions which will tackle malnutrition in all its forms. This work will be aligned with Nutrition for Growth principles for engagement which are under development. Appropriate targets include promoting greater availability and affordability of micronutrient-rich foods, fortified complementary foods and expanded information to foster better consumer choice.

3. Resilience: Addressing malnutrition effectively in fragile and conflict affected contexts. In countries affected by conflict and fragility, there is a critical need for multi-year nutrition policies and plans with targets, particularly in relation to resilience building and preparedness. 2020 commitments could focus on ending malnutrition in all its forms, including wasting, through adequate and flexible financing and social protection programs that enable communities to build resilience against shocks and stresses, bridge the humanitarian/development divide, and ensure greater coordination across government departments, development and humanitarian actors.

4. Promoting data-driven accountability. Across all constituency groups, better data, measurement and accountability is essential to facilitate more effective financing for nutrition and to drive equitable progress to ensure we leave no one behind. Several mechanisms exist to store commitments and report on progress, including the Global Nutrition Report, the Access to Nutrition Index, SUN Joint Annual Assessments and the reporting mechanisms of the UN Decade of Action for Nutrition. In advance of the Tokyo N4G Summit 2020, it will be important to consider how these mechanisms can monitor commitments in a streamlined way. A guide on SMART commitments will be produced to support commitment-makers, alongside ‘principles for engagement’ for all stakeholders.

5. Securing new investment and driving innovation in nutrition financing. Significant increases in domestic financing and other financing are central to the 2020 N4G Compact, specifically considering the global investment framework that has been established since 2015. 2020 commitments could also involve innovative financing mechanisms and catalytic funds, and an increased focus on nutrition-sensitive financing. At the same time, a strong focus on improving data and efficiency of spending for nutrition will be critical to maximizing impact.
Governance

An Advisory Group to the Government of Japan will serve as the primary forum for consultation and communication within the nutrition and development communities ahead of the summit. Advisory Group membership will include representatives of key constituency groups: donors, civil society, governments, academia and business. Each constituency will have two representatives. The Advisory Group will also comprise current co-chairs of the five thematic Working Groups and build on the recommendations made by them. Advisory Group members will have the role of cascading information into their constituencies and compiling input to support the commitment-making process, as well as advising the Government of Japan at key decision points.

Alongside the Advisory Group, engagement with governments will take many forms and leverage existing political processes for consultations, for example the mid-term review of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and SUN country processes. Business action on nutrition will be encouraged through nutrition champions, business coalitions and industry alliances. International moments, such as the World Economic Forum, will be used to position the Summit as a historic moment for businesses to commit to nutrition and to the future sustainability and prosperity of the planet.

The Road Ahead

Numerous milestones will build momentum toward the Summit 2020 and beyond:

- In September, the UN High-level meeting on Universal Health Coverage provides an opportunity to ensure nutrition is clearly articulated within Universal Health Coverage roadmaps.
- By the end of October, a good pledge guide will be produced that provides guidance for stakeholders who are considering commitments at the Summit.
- In November 2019, one year ahead of the Summit, the SUN Global Gathering takes place in Nepal. This moment offers the opportunity to collectively commit to making the 2020 Summit a success.
- The World Economic Forum meeting in Davos in January 2020 provides an occasion to put nutrition on business and global leaders’ agendas, as do the Consumer Goods Forum in June and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development’s evaluation of their Action 2020 Roadmap.
- The World Bank and IMF Spring and Fall Meetings are salient for Heads of State and Finance Ministers.
- 2020 is the year for the mid-term review of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, marks the mid-point on the World Health Assembly’s Targets for 2025, and the 10-year anniversary of the SUN. With global attention on nutritional outcomes for women and children, it is a chance to match global and country level needs against effort.
- Regional meetings, such as the African Union Heads of State Summit in January 2020, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West Africa Health (WAHO) Nutrition Meetings offer further opportunity to galvanize action for nutrition.
- With every Olympic Games, the Nutrition for Growth legacy grows: on 23 July 2020, the Government of Japan and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will host an ‘SDG Goalkeepers’ event and the N4G Goalkeepers Kick-Off Event to spur action towards the Summit.

The moments outlined in the timeline will be central to clearly communicating the vision and ambition for 2020; inviting a diverse set of actors to play their part in the summit’s success; and ultimately to securing strong policy and financing commitments.