

## SUN Movement Executive Committee Call

28 June 2021, 15:30-17:30 CEST, Zoom

### Summary note

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#### Participation

**Participants:** Meera Shekar (Chair), Tumaini Mikindo (Vice-Chair), Nancy Aburto, Rob Bertram, Connell Foley, Cecilia Gamboa, Marjeta Jager, Jo Moir, Allison Oman, Felix Phiri, Kiran Rupakhetee, Fokko Wientjes, Shawn Baker (ex-officio), Moin Karim (ex-officio), Gerda Verburg (ex-officio)

**Apologies:** Azucena Dayanghirang, Lawrence Haddad, Abdoulaye Ka, Asma Lateef, Gladys Mugambi

**Observers:** Stineke Oenema (UN Nutrition), Emily Henegan (SBN), Rory Moylan (CSN), Sabine Kiefer (SDN), Anna Horner (WFP), Marie Durling (WFP), Helena Guarin (EC), Teresa Fasig (EC), Mike Reddaway (FCDO), Wahab Moez (UNOPS), SMS Strategic Management Team and SMS Country Liaison Team (CLT)

#### Agenda

- 1) Opening and welcome (Meera/Tumaini)
- 2) SUN Regional and Country Updates
- 3) Nutrition Year of Action (N4G and UN FSS)
- 4) SUN Movement 3.0 Strategy Updates
- 5) AOB and closing of the meeting

#### Decisions and follow up

- The SUN Movement Coordinator, ExCom Chair and ExCom members who can make themselves available will join a discussion with regional focal points in Southern Africa to provide support and guidance on the roll-out of SUN 3.0.
- SUN Country Focal Points declared that it would be helpful for the Executive Committee to support high level advocacy, continue to support resource mobilization and access to finance, technical assistance, to support the networks and to respond to countries' needs.
- SUN Country representatives are asked to please share information about relevant upcoming meetings and invites where they would like to involve Ex Com members.
- The SMS to share its living document on how nutrition is included in the country Food System Dialogues
- The ExCom aligned behind the Ops Group's proposal to keep the ExCom composition as laid out in the proposed TOR for the ExCom, but to explore network representation through the country and expert seats, without undermining the prioritization of country representation.
- The SMS will present a proposal to keep the SUN Pooled Fund operational to the OPS Finance Working Group
- ExCom members are reminded to share their suggestions for potential new Lead Group members by 16 July 2021.

## Summary note

### 1. Opening and welcome

The ExCom Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. She informed the Executive Committee (ExCom) that Jo Moir will be moving and thanked her for the collaboration and her efforts on the Ops group.

### 2. SUN Regional and Country Updates

#### Update by Cecilia Gamboa on the Latin American<sup>1</sup> Region

- A regional food systems dialogue in preparation of the UN Food Systems Summit (FSS) was led by the Costa Rico Pro-Tempore presidency at SICA in collaboration with the Foreign Ministry, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and Ministry of Health. All UN agencies and the SUN secretariat participated. Common priorities identified were healthy food in the region and resilience to climate change. It was emphasized that agriculture is in the hands of family farming and that resilience should not only be considered from a climate change perspective but also from social and economic perspectives. An outcome document will be developed and shared to guide inputs to the UN FSS.
- Most countries in the region are hosting their own national dialogues and several countries have launched SUN 3.0, there was also an exchange on budget and finance tracking. The importance of peer-to-peer learning during the Nutrition Year of Action was emphasized. Nutrition for Growth can be leveraged on this exchange of experiences, and the regional food systems dialogue is an opportunity to build back better.
- From SUN there is a need to continue with support in the Latin American region for **high level advocacy to build commitment for funding and implementation, increased exchange with other SUN countries, facilitation of innovative financing and the provision of technical assistance to support the demands of countries.**

#### Update by Felix Phiri on the Southern African<sup>2</sup> Region.

- A regional meeting on the operationalization and planning of SUN 3.0 recently took place. The meeting helped to share progress made in operationalizing SUN 3.0 and to bring together SUN Country government Focal Points with SUN MSP representatives to discuss and share experiences on how SUN 3.0 is aligned with national nutrition responses. Malawi shared its experience followed by short briefs by each country on progress made so far around SUN 3.0 launches, the UN Food System Summit and Nutrition for Growth preparations. Noting the SUN Movement's country-driven approach and recognizing that there is no 'one size fits all', there is currently a varied understanding and expectations of the roll-out of SUN 3.0. **It was requested to consider organizing a meeting with the SUN Movement Coordinator, ExCom Chair and available ExCom members to give guidance and clarity.**
- Malawi is working on a resource mobilisation strategy for achieving impact at the district level as well as strengthening the engagement of the private sector over the next two years. Malawi will launch the next phase of the SUN Movement on 2 September 2021 to gain political momentum for resource mobilization. The launch will be led by the President and an invitation will be issued to the SUN Movement Coordinator to speak alongside him. Other SUN Movement ExCom members are welcomed to attend in person.

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<sup>1</sup> Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru, Honduras

<sup>2</sup> Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

During the discussion, the SUN Country Focal Points declared that it **would be helpful for the Executive Committee to do high level advocacy, to continue to support resource mobilization and access to finance, technical assistance, to support the networks and to respond to countries need.** The SUN Movement Coordinator emphasized the importance of recognizing the diverse needs from each country, the importance of donor support, including to middle income countries given the huge problems created by COVID in these SUN member countries.

A SUN Country Focal point reminded the ExCom that many in this group of countries already have national nutrition policies, and that SUN 3.0 is an opportunity to conduct gap analysis to help ensure countries can ‘build back better’ in the next five years. This can help in building resource mobilization strategies in collaboration with all nutrition stakeholders.

The ExCom Chair welcomed the request to meet with SUN Country representatives to further discuss the roll-out of SUN 3.0 and invited all available ExCom members to also join. She asked **SUN Country representatives to please share information about relevant upcoming meetings and invites where they would like to involve Ex Com members.** The Chair also strongly backed the point that each SUN Country should have one plan for which financing is pursued rather than separate/competing plans for SUN and individual donors.

## **2. Nutrition Year of Action - Nutrition for Growth (N4G) and UN Food Systems Summit (FSS)**

The SUN Movement Coordinator provided an update on SMS continued support to SUN countries in their work to ‘build back better’ from the COVID-19 pandemic and in participating in the UN FSS and N4G Summits. SUN members are actively engaged in the UN FSS and some SUN Country Focal Points are convenors for national Food System Dialogues, helping to bring nutrition to the table. The SMS is preparing for the UN FSS pre-summit and will organise a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder side event focused on people and planet. The SMS is also working to facilitate a conversation with LG member David Nabarro on the importance of bridging game-changing solutions between FSS and N4G summits. **The SUN Movement Coordinator will share the SMS living document based on how nutrition is reflected in the Food System Dialogues to date.** Concerns were raised that not all countries are as able and willing to engage in the processes, particularly fragile and conflict affected states (FCAS).

Some ExCom members raised concern about the lack of leadership in countries. There were doubts expressed by some ExCom members that all countries will have meaningful financial commitments and that we should not go for the lowest common denominator. It was advocated to give a priority to countries who can make a commitment given their fiscal space. Others recognised the need to reach out to countries which struggle more. It was agreed that while countries should be encouraged to build upon FSS commitments, no blueprint can be provided as all countries have to build commitments based on their unique circumstances. A representative from one SUN country raised the concern that COVID is limiting the opportunity to mobilise resources and that sometimes only a political commitment might be possible. The SUN Movement Coordinator made a plea to double collective efforts to support the development of meaningful commitments from as many countries as possible and to leave no countries behind as it will determine their opportunities for nutrition in the years to come.

## **3. SUN Movement 3.0 Strategy Updates**

Update by Fokko Wientjes on behalf of the Task Team on hosting arrangements

Concerns were raised that a high number of people are leaving the SMS (four in June 2021) as funding uncertainty makes it impossible to offer new contracts to any staff members beyond December 2021.

The hosting arrangements with UNOPS are about to be finalized and in advance of the next meeting the final report will be shared. The SUN Movement Coordinator highlighted that there is a concern about the costs of the GSS and that donors are very likely unable to support the Secretariat structure as agreed in the functional review. The SUN Movement Coordinator is working on a proposal for an interim scenario if it is not possible to recruit the approved structure in its entirety.

Update by Jo Moir and Allison Oman on behalf of the Ops Group

Ops Group Co-Chairs reported highlights of the recent Lead Group meeting where their report was discussed. The Ops Group draft report contained 13 recommendations and several proposed ways forward. The Ops Group sought specific approval on a new ExCom Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure as well as a mandate for the Ops Group to continue until end of September 2021.

After an interactive discussion, the Lead Group Chair concluded that the recommendations were approved with one proviso to provide options in response to concerns about the reduction in the number of seats for civil society in the refreshed ExCom composition. The Ops Group presented three options to move forward regarding the composition of the ExCom: 1) to leave as proposed with one representative per network and pursue a ‘double-hatting’ approach to help ensure networks can be represented amongst the other 12 seats; 2) to add one seat for each network (4 additional seats), 3) to take a hybrid approach and only offer select networks additional seats. **The ExCom concluded that it is best to stick with option one and to explore representation of networks through the 8 proposed country seats and 4 proposed ‘expert’ seats which would allow the ExCom to remain agile and efficient. It was emphasized that country representation is priority.**

In addition, the Lead Group welcomed the focus on building financing capacity, including the proposed Task Team and called for more work on maternal nutrition, to be more gender transformative and to promote honest conversations about efforts that are not working. Requests were raised to be bolder on private sector engagement and to support small and medium enterprises to de-risk their investments in the production of nutrition foods. Lead Group members also called upon the ExCom to reach out when their support and guidance is required.

The SUN Movement Coordinator raised concerns about the foreseen discontinuation of the Pooled Fund, which will shut down if there is no concrete plan for its evaluation and continuation. Shutting down the pooled fund means that staff will have to be let go, institutional memory lost and would come with additional costs to start up again. **The Ops Group agreed that it could consider a proposal by the SMS to keep the pooled fund operational.**

In follow up to the meeting on 21 June, the SUN Movement Coordinator reshared her request for ExCom members to share their suggestions for new Lead Group members with the SMS by 16 July 2021. The ExCom Chair requested the Ops Group to consider a refresh of the Lead Group TOR, but the Ops Group flagged that this was not in their initial mandate nor requested by the Lead Group.

**5. AOB and closing of the meeting**

The ExCom Chair thanked all participants, expressed thanks to the staff who will be leaving the SMS and closed the meeting.