

176th Session of the FAO Council

Item 5: Progress Report on the Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition and Follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)

The United Nations (UN) Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025), also referred to as the Nutrition Decade, was proclaimed in April 2016 by the United Nations General Assembly under the normative framework of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), which was held in November 2014 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The ICN2 adopted the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and its companion Framework for Action.

The Nutrition Decade was proclaimed to sustain high political momentum to scale up global nutrition action and foster an acceleration of the implementation of the ICN2 commitments, as agreed through the Rome Declaration on Nutrition.

The companion Framework for Action outlined 60 recommendations to guide the effective implementation of these commitments.

Governments were encouraged to turn the global commitments made at ICN2 into concrete national commitments for nutrition action that could be implemented through support provided by the recommendations of the Framework for Action – recommendations that remain very relevant today.

Today no country is spared from malnutrition. Despite progress, there is much to do to achieve the various nutrition-related goals and targets.

As stressed by *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024 – Financing to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms*, many countries are off-track to meet the global nutrition targets.

The Nutrition Decade's vision was to build a world where all countries, organizations and others working on nutrition coordinate action and strengthen collaboration so that all people, at all times and at all stages of life, have access to affordable, healthy diets.

In 2022, however, approximately 2.8 billion people worldwide – or 35.4 percent – were unable to afford a healthy diet.

We all know that affordable solutions exist to reduce the various forms of malnutrition, but they require greater global ambition and action than is being displayed at present.

It will be essential, therefore, to identify opportunities to ensure nutrition is kept high on the global and national political agendas after the end of the Nutrition Decade.

The joint FAO/WHO Secretariat of the Nutrition Decade will use the year 2025 to convene informal dialogues with various stakeholders to reflect on global progress achieved and challenges encountered.

Besides informal dialogues with the representations to the Rome-based Agencies of the UN in Rome, to WHO in Geneva and to the UN in New York, high-level events in 2025 will be considered as platforms for these dialogues with the aim to review the implementation of the Nutrition Decade's Work Programme.

The Council is invited to provide guidance on how to maintain momentum and political commitment for nutrition at the global level and spur to more nutrition actions towards 2030 and beyond.

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