



Nutrition Partners Kick-off Meeting Executive Summary

14th and 15th December 2010 in FAO HQ, Rome

Sponsors: The Governments of Germany and France

Context

Currently there is momentum for nutrition globally, with a clear increase in interest and attention to nutrition. In November 2009 the UNSCN and the EC convened a meeting in Brussels to put nutrition higher on the agenda of both high burden and donor countries, and to develop basic principles to guide country nutrition action. The Brussels meeting provided initial directions to the reform of the UNSCN. Since then, much progress has been seen in nutrition globally. Among others, the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Roadmap has been developed and a series of actions are continuously taking place to ensure its implementation, more countries have been adopting the REACH approach, and the reform of the UNSCN is coming to completion.

To respond to the momentum, the UNSCN would like to organize a Meeting of Nutrition Partners in its 36th Annual Session in 2011 to announce its reform and have key nutrition stakeholders agreeing on ways to work together within the reformed UNSCN to further harmonize and bringing coherence to global nutrition. It will also be an opportunity for partners take stock on progress in scaling up nutrition (SUN) and further identifying ways to support the development of country capacities. The UNSCN convened representatives of all key nutrition stakeholders in FAO, Rome, on 14 and 15 December 2010 to kick-off the process of organizing the 2011 Nutrition Partners' Meeting and to collect further insights from all stakeholders groups on the reform.

Objectives

- 1** - To report on progress on the UNSCN reform, one year after Brussels, and receive further insights from key nutrition stakeholders for its completion.
- 2** - To report on progress on SUN Roadmap implementation arrangements that assure SUN implementation and the UNSCN reform are mutually reinforcing.
- 3** - To agree on the Nutrition Partners Meeting taking place next year and on processes to be undertaken in advance.



Conclusions

1. There is a broad consensus on the need for a reformed UNSCN but that reform means showing a clear value added.
2. The reporting line to the ECOSOC needs to be re-established. Other reporting to intergovernmental processes need to be established or strengthened. The UNSCN should concentrate on global issues.
3. Progress has been made on linkages with intergovernmental processes, especially with the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). This work needs to continue.
4. NGOs, CSOs, research communities, international financial institutions, and the business sector should all have observer status in the reformed governance structure of the UNSCN.
5. The UN Agencies will work even closer together at a highest level in order to provide a strong and visible platform for nutrition action.
6. There is a clear need for networking and information sharing in the nutrition sector. The UNSCN annual meetings, based on very clearly defined participation, shall continue to exist in the form of a Forum of Nutrition Partners to enhance the dialogue among constituencies and nutrition stakeholders. The annual meetings should not be for decision-making on harmonized UN policies or for UN coordination.
7. SUN is an important new movement in nutrition that is building a strong momentum. The technical support provided by the UNSCN Secretariat was essential for developing the SUN Roadmap during summer 2010. This support will continue to be essential for the SUN Roadmap implementation. Resources will have to be mobilized so as the UNSCN Secretariat can (i) continue providing input to SUN and (ii) engage more players while ensuring transparency of the process.

Two open questions therefore remain:

8. Chairman/woman ship of the UNSCN: (a) from one of the 4 core UN Agencies on a rotational basis; or (b) transferred to the UNSG Special Representative for Food Security and Nutrition? We need more discussions on this.
9. The role of member countries in a reformed UNSCN Executive Group. There is no final conclusion on this. The Chair will continue discussing this matter with the Group of 4 towards a conclusion.

Alexander Müller's mandate is ending end of December 2010. He kindly agreed to continue his Chairmanship for about 6 more months to ensure that the first 7 points are implemented and the 2 open questions are answered so as the reform is successfully concluded. His availability was highly appreciated.