

Standing Committee on Nutrition

Report of the Standing Committee on Nutrition at its Thirty-Second Session

*Hosted by the Government of Brazil in Brasilia
14-18 March 2005*

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A. Introduction

1. SCN Chair Ms Catherine Bertini welcomed participants to the 32nd SCN Session and to the Symposium on *Realizing the Right to Adequate Food to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals*, hosted by the Government of Brazil. Opening presentations were made by the Brazilian Minister of Health Humberto Silva, the Minister of Social Development Patrus Ananias, the President of the Brazilian National Food and Nutrition Security Council (CONSEA) Francisco Menezes, the Bolivian Minister of Health Dr Rosario Quiroga on behalf of the other Case Study Countries (Angola and Mozambique) and the Representative of the NGO/Civil Society Group to the SCN Steering Committee Flavio Valente.
2. Ms Bertini thanked the Brazilian Government for their hospitality, and noted how fitting it was for the SCN to hold its 32nd Session in Brazil considering the global leadership of President Lula in his efforts to mobilize concern and resources for the eradication of hunger. Trends for the reduction of hunger and malnutrition were not at all promising, and pointed to the need for urgent action to try to resolve the problems; otherwise it is unlikely that many of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will be met. For this reason the focus of the Symposium on the four Country Case Studies (Angola, Bolivia, Brazil and Mozambique) which examine how to strengthen the food and nutrition aspects of national development plans in order to achieve the MDGs was particularly important.
3. This was the largest SCN Session ever, with some 200 international participants and 850 national participants. All plenary and international sessions had simultaneous translation into English, Spanish and Portuguese and images were web cast globally on the internet. Reflecting its tripartite constituency, registered participants included bilateral partners, and NGO/Civil Society members, in addition to representatives of 12 UN agencies. For the first time the SCN Session was organized in two parts, with national and international sessions being held in parallel.

B. Symposium on *Realizing the Right to Adequate Food to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals*

4. The late morning session of the Symposium, chaired by Flavio Valente, NGO/CSO representative to the Steering Committee, included five presentations relating experience gained in developing the Country Case Study Exercise. The studies, carried out in Brazil, Angola, Bolivia and Mozambique from August to November 2004 in preparation for the 32nd Session, looked at how to strengthen national food and nutrition plans to achieve the MDGs in the context of realizing the right to adequate food. SCN Secretary Roger Shrimpton outlined the methodological aspects common to each country case study process, the constraints and challenges that were encountered as well as a synthesis of the lessons learnt by the SCN consultant team in carrying out the exercise. The case studies revealed that development actors from the sectors related to poverty, food and nutrition in all four countries have a lack of common understanding around concepts and definitions of hunger and malnutrition. The importance of promoting both food and nutrition security in order to improve programme effectiveness as well as to reduce the risks of increasing the double burden of disease was emphasized, as both overweight and underweight are now affecting even the poorest of nations such as Mozambique. Although the institutional and legal frameworks for realizing the right to adequate food are best developed in Brazil, there is still a lack of clear definition and understanding of the content of the right at the national level, and clear justiciable provisions on the right to adequate food at the district and community level are still a long way from reality. A food and nutrition policy framework was proposed to help organize and define the food and nutrition substantive area, considered as an essential first step for any future attempts to realize the right to adequate food.
5. Further presentations by Dr Adelaide de Carvalho from Angola, Dr Rosario Quiroga from Bolivia, Dr Maria de Fatima Carvalho from Brazil, and Dr Marcella Libombo from Mozambique, emphasized the constraints encountered in each country for strengthening the food and nutrition aspects of national poverty reduction plans and realizing the right to adequate food, as well as the future plans to try to overcome these constraints and the expectations with regard to continuing the Country Case Study process. During the questions from the floor, the various shortcomings found by the case studies, and the recommendations for action were largely welcomed, and the need for urgent system wide efforts to harmonize concepts and indicators was supported.
6. The early afternoon session was chaired by UNICEF Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, Nils Kastberg, and included two presentations. Aliro Omara, Uganda's Human Rights Commissioner, presented *Voluntary Guidelines for progressive realization of the right to adequate food, an important tool*

for MDG achievement, Dr Omara explained how the Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food had been elaborated under the guidance of the Inter-Governmental Working Group established by the FAO Executive Council. Using examples from Uganda, Dr Omara illustrated how the Voluntary Guidelines could be used to help achieve the MDGs. The second presentation, Dr Cutberto Garza, Director of the Food and Nutrition Programme of the United Nations University, and Director of the Nutrition Division at Cornell University, entitled *The MDGs and the new growth reference for children*, explained how the WHO/UNU multi-centre growth reference study had been carried out over the last decade, and what the major findings were. The new growth reference could indeed become a standard, because it shows that when infants from India, Brazil, USA, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East are fed according to WHO/UNICEF recommendations, and their mothers are well nourished, there is little or no difference in their growth from birth to two years of age. In addition, children exclusively breastfed from birth to four months and further breastfed with adequate complementary feeding from six months to at least eleven months are taller and thinner than the existing NCHS international growth reference currently recommended by WHO. The implications of these findings for malnutrition prevalence data was discussed, as was the need to switch from underweight to stunting as the principle evaluative indicator of the poverty and hunger MDG.

7. The late afternoon session was chaired by Arne Oshaug, Bilateral Partners representative to the Steering Committee. Kaia Engesveen, University of Oslo, and 2005 winner of the Abraham Horwitz Lecture competition, presented the 9th Lecture on *Strategies for Realizing Human Rights to Food, Health and Care for Infants and Young Children in Support of MDGs—Role and capacity analysis of responsible actors in relation to breastfeeding in the Maldives*.

C. Working Group meetings: summary reports

8. Seven Working Group meetings were held during the 32nd Session. The Working Group on the Nutrition of School Age Children, and the Working Group on Micronutrients elected not to meet during the 32nd Session. Full reports of each Working Group meeting, with work plans for the year to come can be found on the SCN webpage

http://www.unsystem.org/scn/Publications/AnnualMeeting/working_groups.htm

C.1 WORKING GROUP ON NUTRITION, ETHICS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

9. The Working Group on Nutrition, Ethics and Human Rights, co-chaired by Wenche Barth Eide and Uwe Kracht, concentrated its deliberations on the development of human resources for nutrition and human rights. Several examples of ongoing or emerging efforts were reviewed and a discussion was also held on how the Group could link with the Working Group on Capacity Development in Food and Nutrition in particular, in order to provide support to human resource building at various levels. Two broad recommendations were made: firstly that SCN should promote a common vision regarding the realization of the right to adequate food and nutritional health for all as a means of reaching the Millennium Development Goals; secondly that as part of its concern with the application of the Voluntary Guidelines, the SCN should stimulate assessments and analysis of the impact on their application caused by developments in the global food market, with special attention to the role and the activities of food corporations and the evolution in the retail chains. The work programme proposed includes the creation of four task forces: 1) to elaborate modalities for competence building for the application of the Voluntary Guidelines; 2) to support competence building in specific countries, including the four SCN case study countries; 3) to promote the attention to Voluntary Guidelines in the Action 2 programme for capacity strengthening of UN country groups; 4) to liaise with other Working Groups to identify how to integrate human rights principles.

C.2 WORKING GROUP ON BREASTFEEDING AND COMPLEMENTARY FEEDING

10. The Working Group on Breastfeeding and Complementary Feeding, Chaired by Miriam Labbok, UNICEF, with Co-Chairs Chessa Lutter, PAHO, and Lida Lhotska, IBFAN/GIFA, split the meeting into two parts: first on updates on activities in the Group's work plan, followed by recommendations for SCN and for the Working Group's work plan. Updates included a report from the MDG task force on recommendations made to strengthen the Hunger Task Force Report, as well as either reports on activities related to the Global Strategy on Infant and Young Child Feeding. These included agency updates; progress in breastfeeding in Brazil; efforts to assess infant and young child feeding actions in the Indian Ocean Crisis; and a report of a meeting on HIV/Infant feeding in Tanzania. Ten specific suggestions were raised; however,

there was no time for discussion of the recommendations. Therefore, the first recommendation is to increase the time allotted for working groups at future Sessions, in order to allow sufficient time for the work of the Working Groups. Based on the suggestions arising from the discussions a work plan was proposed which includes a proposal to rotate the Chairs, and the formation of at least three new Task Forces. One will be on Breastfeeding, Complimentary Feeding and Human Rights. Another will be on Complementary Feeding: local and food based or manufactured. The third will be on the balance of Risks in HIV and Infant Feeding. Each of the Task Forces will submit objectives for Chairs and SCN consideration by mid-June. In planning for the next SCN Session, the Working Group will try to address fewer topics and to retain the majority of the allotted time for discussion and forward planning.

C.3 WORKING GROUP ON NUTRITION AND HIV/AIDS

11. The Working Group on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS, chaired by Andrew Tomkins, heard four presentations including experiences from Brazil where a comprehensive HIV/AIDS programme reaches HIV infected individuals throughout the country; an overview of some of the recent findings around nutrients and HIV outcomes including findings of the positive effects of some micronutrient and multimicronutrient interventions with respect to disease progression, pregnancy outcomes, and possibly survival; a review of the food security and livelihood aspects of the disease including the implications for policy and programmes; and the food and nutrition responses to HIV/AIDS in Africa with special emphasis on the support provided to implementers through the US President's Emergency Response to HIV/AIDS relief. An announcement was made describing the new SCN webpage supported by the Working Group, which hosts a section devoted to HIV and Nutrition related materials and relevant links. The newly established page will be a source of materials for researchers, policy makers, practitioners and others interested in this rapidly changing subject area. Two important meetings were announced that would be happening the week of April 10 in Durban South Africa: WHO in collaboration with the NIH in the US and other groups, is hosting a meeting on nutrition and HIV AIDS which will present current evidence for the nutritional requirements for the HIV infected; following the WHO meeting, IFPRI will host an international meeting on HIV/AIDS and food and nutrition security. A joint statement is expected from the two meetings on next steps. The Working Group's work plan will be prepared after these meetings.

C.4 WORKING GROUP ON CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN FOOD AND NUTRITION

12. The Working Group on Capacity Development in Food and Nutrition, with Co- Chairs Cutberto Garza, David Sanders and Hans Schoeneberger, heard reports from the capacity strengthening working groups from the Middle East, Latin America, and South Africa, as well as updates from the other groups in Asia, East Africa, West and Central Africa, and Eastern Europe. The reports showed that the groups are generally well organized and active although at different levels. The intensive networking of training and research institutions is regarded as a very productive mode of functioning. The Group will collaborate more closely with the Working Group on Nutrition, Ethics and Human Rights, with the objective of mainstreaming the human rights approach in nutrition training, research and capacity building activities. The regional groupings were encouraged to invite local NGOs to participate in their meetings. The regional networks were encouraged to put more emphasis on action oriented research and training, to put more emphasis on links between nutrition and education, nutrition and agriculture and productivity, rather than just health outcomes. The annual SCN Working Group meeting in future will have a side meeting of chairs and leaders of regional capacity building groups in order to discuss common subjects, progress, obstacle and actions.

C.5 WORKING GROUP ON NUTRITION IN EMERGENCIES

13. The Working Group on Nutrition in Emergencies, Co-Chaired by Fathia Abdullah and Caroline Wilkinson, began with the summary of the outcomes from the full day meeting held in Brasilia on the 13 March which discussed Infant Feeding in Emergencies, Home based therapeutic care-the continuum of care between centre and home based care, HIV/AIDS and nutrition cross cutting issues in the above two themes, and the standardization of survey methodologies and response in emergency situation. Presentations were made on: the Right to Adequate Food in Emergencies; Infant Feeding in Emergencies-Step Forward; Standardization of Survey Methodologies and Response in Emergencies (SMART); Update on Washington DC Meeting on Community Therapeutic Care: Step Forward; and the Micronutrients Question: Local Food Fortification (Zambia, Angola). 18 recommendations were made in eight thematic areas, including

HIV/AIDS, adult malnutrition, infant and young child feeding in emergencies, micronutrients, care practices, assessment, community therapeutic care, and other general matters—for each of these areas work plans are being finalized for the year to come.

C.6 WORKING GROUP ON HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY

14. The Working Group on Household Food Security was Co-Chaired by Florence Egal and Shakuntala Thilsted. The meeting had reports on the progress of the hunger task force; a report with the main conclusions of the pre-SCN Consultation on Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition promoted by IPGRI; a presentation on dietary diversity: linking traditional foods and plant genetic resources to rural and urban health in Kenya; lessons from a multisectoral leadership strategy: the Agriculture-Nutrition Advantage project; and initiatives to emphasize nutrition in the DANIDA agriculture sector programme. Follow up activities included the following recommendations: To link biodiversity, culture, food and nutrition with World Food Day; to contribute to the follow up of the Country Case Study at the country level, though linkages with household food security related projects in country; Further linkages with MDG processes where possible in selected countries; to step up advocacy/raise awareness on the relation between nutrition and agriculture.

C.7 WORKING GROUP ON NUTRITION THROUGHOUT THE LIFE CYCLE

15. The Working Group on Nutrition throughout the Life Cycle was Co-Chaired by Ricardo Uauy, and Ted Greiner. The Group divided its work into three parts: firstly it considered the country case studies focus with a focus on Brazil. This was the only group that had this focus, as had been requested of all Working Groups by the Secretariat. A structured discussion of the Nutrition and Food Challenges Facing Brazil from a lifecycle perspective, and a critical review of present nutrition and food actions and potential new actions to guarantee achieving the MDGs and the human right to adequate food with a lifecycle perspective were carried out. This was followed by UN agency updates, with WHO reporting on progress and activities planned for 2005 on maternal nutrition and optimal fetal growth, selected aspects of implementation of MGRS, new growth standards, and a planned meeting for 2005 on Prevention and Control of Childhood Obesity. FAO gave an update on the new report of FAO/WHO/UNU on Human Energy requirements and Recommendations, and on the new publications on 'Family Nutrition Guide'.

D. State-of-the-Art Plenary Lectures

16. State-of-the-Art plenary lectures were organized by working groups for the first time at the 32nd Session: the first on *Anaemia and Iron Deficiencies* was given by Sean Lynch, of Eastern Virginia Medical School and was organized by the Working Group on Micronutrients; the second session involved several plenary presentations addressing the issues associated with the *double burden of disease in developing countries*, which was chaired by Ricardo Uauy Chair of the Working Group on nutrition through the life cycle. Talks were given by Juan Rivera on the situation in Mexico, by Carlos Monteiro on the situation in Brazil, by Fernando Vio on the situation in Chile, by Denise Coitinho on the WHO global strategy on diet, physical activity and health, and by Kraissid Tontisirin on globalization of food systems in developing countries: impact on food security and nutrition.

E. Report from the Bilateral Partners

17. Arne Oshaug (Norway), Bilateral Representative on the Steering Committee, chaired the meeting. Shakuntala Thilsted (Denmark) and Liv Elin Torheim (Norway) were rapporteurs. Arne Oshaug was re-elected as chair and Barbara MacDonald (Canada) and Shakuntala Thilsted were re-elected as co-chairs.

18. The Bilateral Partners welcomed Dr Roger Shrimpton as the new SCN Secretary and expressed appreciation of the important contribution he had made in the short time since his appointment, particularly with regard to the four country case studies. The Bilateral Partners also noted their appreciation of the lead role SCN Chair Ms Catherine Bertini had taken in revitalizing and directing the new SCN.

Matters related to UN's international development agenda

19. Most Bilateral Partners consider the MDGs as priority issues in their development policies. In this context, the Bilateral Partners emphasized the original mandate of the SCN to promote harmonized food and nutrition policies and strategies throughout the UN System, and expressed their concern regarding the inconsistent use of technical terminologies (e.g. hunger, malnutrition, malnourishment, undernutrition,

undernourishment, stunting, and food and nutrition security). The Bilateral Partners recommended that the SCN develop a glossary of key terms that would lead towards a common understanding of these terms.

20. The Bilateral Partners noted that key UN publications on the global food and nutrition situation do not send consistent messages regarding progress in achieving the food and nutrition related MDGs, which means that policy and decision makers are therefore not receiving clear messages. The Bilateral Partners urge the SCN to develop UN System-wide communications strategy.

21. The Bilateral Partners discussed the Hunger Task Force report and agreed that it had improved considerably from the first draft, the final version incorporated more nutrition issues as well as the human right to adequate food. However, the report did not adequately emphasize the importance of good governance or the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food. Furthermore, the final summary report of the MDG Task Forces did not reflect the importance of nutrition in achieving the MDGs. The Bilateral Partners suggested that there was a role for the SCN Secretariat to inform the SCN constituencies of the need to improve the content of such reports in the future.

22. The Bilateral Partners requested the SCN Secretariat to track relevant information on international processes, meetings and seminars on food and nutrition, and make this available on the SCN homepage. Such information would encourage actors at country level to intervene in important global processes, the various activities leading up to the MDG summit in September 2005 are an example.

23. The Bilateral Partners expressed their concern that UNDP, the lead UN agency at the country level for promoting coordination, harmonization and action towards the MDGs, is not active in and does not contribute to the financing of the SCN. It was suggested that the SCN make an effort to encourage UNDP to take an active role in the SCN and at the country level, to coordinate with other UN partners, Bilaterals and Civil Society in work related to food, nutrition and health.

24. The Bilateral Partners discussed the WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health and agreed on its global importance. Diet, physical activity and chronic diseases are being increasingly profiled in the media, within ministries, parliaments and civil society and SCN should build on such initiatives.

25. The Bilateral Partners noted their concern regarding the lack of emphasis on the relationship between good governance, capacity deficit and nutrition in the promotion of food and nutrition security, as well as adequate food as a human right. The Bilateral Partners appreciated the focus on the Voluntary Guidelines at this meeting. The Voluntary Guidelines show the clear relationship between many essential development issues and underline that food and nutrition security is a prerequisite to eliminate hunger and poverty.

Matters related to the SCN

26. It was agreed that the four country case studies had initiated important processes, which will provide useful lessons to other countries for including food and nutrition issues in their development policies and plans. The methodology and process highlighted the cross-sectoral nature of food and nutrition policies and programmes and that the involvement of several ministries as well as civil society was crucial. Representatives from the four case countries highlighted the fact that the human right to food approach made it possible to put food and nutrition within a legal framework, thereby holding governments accountable, and furthermore making people aware of their rights and responsibilities; they also asked for support to continue the processes. The Bilateral Partners sought clarification regarding follow-up to the case studies, both in the four countries and beyond. One possible outcome might be to disseminate the methodology for use in other countries.

27. The Bilateral Partners had discussed the working groups and underlined that they are critically important to the SCN. It was agreed that the quality of the working group meetings this year was better than in the last few years. The working groups should continue to address substantive themes, and should not be replaced with groups representing the proposed cross-cutting themes; nevertheless these themes are important functions for the SCN and should be considered by the working groups whenever appropriate. However, the Bilateral Partners recognized there is much variation in the function and format of the existing groups and therefore recommended that clear criteria be developed in an open and transparent manner, for the establishment of working groups, tasks, expected results, and evaluation. Information about the various working groups, including an invitation to join, should be posted on the SCN website.

28. The Bilateral Partners discussed the Draft SCN Action Plan 2005-2010 developed by the SCN Secretariat. In general it was felt that more work was needed on the document to make it more concise and clear. In particular, the vision and mandate, and principles, elements, and activities lack a logical flow. Specifically:

- a. Vision and Mandate: The SCN should include elements of the original mandate: to 'promote harmonized nutrition policies and strategies throughout the UN System' but should also reflect the

evolution over the past few years to include bilateral partners and civil society. The document should not be limited to the MDGs since these goals do not include some important nutrition-related challenges such as chronic diseases.

b. The document needs to reflect that the SCN also promotes the harmonization of nutrition in humanitarian crises, not just in development settings.

c. For assessment, monitoring and evaluation, it is important that the SCN does not duplicate the work of its member UN agencies. The SCN should compile and analyze existing data, promote dissemination, and advocate the importance of nutrition in development.

d. The Bilateral Partners support the suggested establishment of a 'senior board on food and nutrition' in order to secure high level support and funding for nutrition within the SCN constituencies.

e. The Bilateral Partners discussed the establishment of a communications and advocacy position within the Secretariat. It was recognized that such a function would be important to increase the visibility of the SCN, to help communicate messages on the importance of nutrition and to attract additional funding.

f. The Bilateral Partners did not agree to the suggestions made regarding funding: the Bilaterals already fund the UN agencies and contribute substantially to the SCN programme budget. They urged the SCN to use the proposed senior board to ensure that UN agencies fund the core budget. Furthermore, the Bilateral Partners do not think that funding should be linked to SCN membership.

29. The Bilateral Partners welcomed the SCN Private Sector Engagement Report because it raises a number of important issues. However, public interest must remain at the centre, and several elements require clarification, including engagement criteria. The Bilateral Partners therefore urge the SCN Secretariat to continue to develop the document, and welcome further discussion.

F. Report from the Nongovernmental/Civil Society Organizations

30. The meeting was chaired by Flavio Luiz Schieck Valente, Brazilian Forum on Food and Nutritional Security/ABRANDH/APAN, with David Sanders, PHM, University of the Western Cape, South Africa and Elisabeth Sterken, Nutritionist, INFACT Canada/IBFAN North America as co-chairs. Close to 55 representatives from various sectors of civil society, comprising academics, large and small non-governmental organizations, consultants, industry, and from a variety of countries—Bolivia, Brazil, Malaysia, USA, Switzerland, South Africa, Nigeria, UK, France, Canada, Uruguay, Netherlands, Australia, Singapore participated in the NGO/CSO meeting. Over half of the representatives were first time participants at the SCN.

31. To facilitate the discussion on the various NGO/CSO agenda items, a working group was struck to develop recommendations for further discussion and adoption by the full group. Eight participants volunteered and met over two days and developed positions on key agenda items (Chair: Elisabeth Sterken, INFACT Canada/IBFAN North America; Catherine Geissler, King's College, London, UK; David Sanders, University of the Western Cape, South Africa; Geoffrey Cannon, WHPF, Brazil; Harriet Kuhnlein, Mc Gill University, Canada; Kathleen Kurz, International Centre on Research on Women, USA; Lida Lhotska, IBFAN Geneva, Switzerland; Susan Siew, World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action, Malaysia). Each working group participant facilitated a discussion item which was then presented to the entire group for discussion and adoption.

32. The NGO/CSO agenda covered two broad areas: Matters related to the UN's International Development Goals, namely the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and Matters related to the SCN.

Relationship between the UN SCN and the UN MDGs

33. *NGO/CSO position on the role of the MDGs:* The civil society group concluded that the SCN has a unique role in coordinating and developing knowledge, policies and programmes on food and nutrition. For this reason it views the SCN mandate to alleviate hunger and malnutrition in the broadest possible context. The mandate should therefore not limit or subject itself exclusively to the MDGs, which are but one means to the reducing poverty and deprivation.

34. *NGO/CSO position on the proposal for a high level Advisory Board:* It was felt that there is insufficient information regarding this proposal regarding a number of important aspects and therefore it could not be adequately be discussed. However, at this stage the civil society community cannot accept the idea of a 'high level Advisory Board' as suggested in the UN SCN Action Plan. Such a board would create an increasingly hierarchal structure that in practice could diminish the full capacity for democratic decision making. Civil

society is concerned that this could lead to a top down approach rather than the SCN membership as the source for decision making and planning.

Matters related to the SCN

35. *NGO/CSO position on engagement with the private sector:* Acceptance of funding from the private sector has too great a potential for conflict of interest¹, both real and perceived, for it to be an option for the UN SCN if it wants to preserve its scientific credibility and a reputation for independence and impartiality. It was felt that under any circumstance it would be inappropriate for the private sector to be involved in any management and decision-making structures or activities. However the NGO group is agreeable to the idea that the Steering Committee may invite the private sector on an *ad hoc*, individual basis, any such invitation to an individual within the private sector being justified because of special expertise that person would bring to the SCN, and not as an 'industry' representative.

36. *NGO/CSO position on membership and funding:* The civil society community is opposed to the idea that its continuing involvement in the SCN's functioning and management be contingent on a funding contribution; this would set a new and unfortunate precedent within the UN system and effectively exclude the key contribution of poorer civil society actors, particularly those from the south. NGO/CSOs contribute fees in addition to their existing financial and other material support to the UN SCN: they make sizeable contributions to the work of the SCN by means of—salary, travel and related expenses, expertise, contributions to the Working Groups. Conservatively, the group estimates this to be approximately \$500,000 annually.

37. *NGO/CSO position on the SCN Working Groups:* The group recommend that all SCN Working Groups be appointed on the basis of agreements between the SCN Steering Committee and the candidate Working Group which includes: (a) terms of reference; (b) specification of work; (c) strategic plan to include specified products and outcomes; (d) annual review. The present focus areas of the Working Groups should be retained and only changed when they are no longer active or command interest. However, the group recommend that all Working Groups incorporate a comprehensive approach in their analyses, in the sense of addressing environmental and societal as well as biological issues; and that they also be required to focus on application by considering issues of human rights, capacity building and communication and advocacy; and that one of each of the Working Group chairs be from the NGO/CSO constituency.

38. *The SCN Action Plan:* The NGO/CSO group does not understand why a draft document which had not been fully discussed within the full Steering Committee was presented as an executive document. The document contains a number of passages that are mistaken and somewhat vague: these and other passages on important issues do not have the sanction of the NGO/CSO group.

39. *NGO/CSO Position on the 6th Report on the World Nutrition Situation:* The group recommend the theme of the 6th Report on the World Nutrition Situation should be the Double Burden of Diseases Related to Food and Nutrition. Special themes/emphasis of the report should include:

- a. the coexistence in the same populations and communities of diseases caused by diets of deteriorating quality, which either contain too much energy or not enough energy and which are inadequate in many nutrients
- b. the very rapid emergence and increase of obesity in childhood, diabetes in early life, and other chronic diseases, in middle and low-income countries
- c. evidence that all types of disease related to food and nutrition are or tend to be diseases of poverty and deprivation
- d. the causal correlations between fetal deprivation/low birthweight followed by inadequate breastfeeding and/or high energy-dense diets, and disease
- e. interactions between insufficiently nourishing diets and infection; the extent to which infections of infancy and childhood can be prevented by healthy diets
- f. the implications of the new growth standards (due for publication in early 2006) and control and prevention of all food and nutrition-related diseases
- g. all relevant dimensions of nutrition including social and environmental aspects (such as resources, ecology, tradition, culture, economics, politics)

¹ Conflict of interest: 'a situation that can compromise the judgments or loyalty of an actor to the party to which they have a defined or ethical obligation to serve' (Rodwin, 1993).

- h. the vital importance of preserving and maintaining traditional and indigenous and other local food systems
 - i. the impact of external underlying and basic causes of disease such as healthy environments, food trade policies, economic globalization, wars and other disruption
 - j. the need to identify and advocate the right to adequate food and nutrition at local, national and global levels
 - k. the need to ensure adequate health services both curative and preventive.
40. *NGO/CSO position on UN SCN work at regional and national levels:* The group supports and encourages the development of the SCN's work at the regional and national level, while maintaining and developing its work at the global level.

41. *NGO/CSO representation to the SCN Steering Committee and its internal structure:* The group discussed criteria and structure for its representation of elected members to the SCN Steering Committee and the structure needed to facilitate its work. It was decided to extend the terms of the representatives to four years from the current three, while the responsibility for chairing would normally be for two years. The group elected three representatives. In addition, the group elected two additional members on an informal basis for one year subject to formal elections next year: Flavio Valente, re-elected to remain as chair and representative for one additional year; David Sanders re-elected to stay on for one additional year; Susan Siew from Malaysia and Tola Atinmo from Nigeria were elected informally for a period of one year. Elisabeth Sterken remains as an elected Steering Committee member.

G. UN Agencies Report

42. Twelve agencies participated in most productive meetings held on Tuesday 15 and Thursday 17 March. Discussion was extremely collegial and constructive, and concentrated on the Draft Action Plan and Budget.

43. The *Vision and Mandate* two page section of the Action Plan was discussed at length, and a revised wording was drawn up.

Governance

44. The agencies thought the SCN could benefit from more senior involvement. It would be useful to recruit some specific Bilateral Partners with representation on UN governing bodies, for example Brazil, to help raise awareness of the SCN, its vision and mandate, and to advocate to get nutrition onto the various agency agendas. There was no final decision, but it was agreed that the Steering Committee should further explore options for the creation of a High Level Board.

45. The agencies recognized they need to be more proactive and to take advantage of the various executive and governing body meetings to move the nutrition agenda forward, and reaffirmed their commitment to brief their respective superiors and agency heads on the work of the SCN and the nutrition agenda in general. The SCN should request that nutrition working groups be tabled as part of the IASC and UNDG.

46. *Chief Executives Board (CEB):* The agencies agreed to send a brief report to the CEB on the recommendations/call for action that emerge from the 32nd Session. The CEB will meet in Geneva in early April.

47. *ECOSOC:* The agencies will organize a three hour high level (minister/agency head level) panel session at the 7 June preparatory meeting for the September MDG Summit to clearly show how nutrition is vital to all the MDGs.

Working Groups

48. The agencies thought that two of the proposed cross cutting Working Groups: Monitoring and Evaluation; Advocacy, Mobilization and Partnership Building should be established as Task Forces and placed under the umbrella of the Steering Committee.

49. The agencies agreed there was a need to continue with the current nine Working Groups, each of which cover relevant topics, and are the main reason people come to the SCN Session. The Groups all report they need more time (at least 2 hours) and that they do not want parallel meetings, one way to achieve this would be for half of them to meet on alternate years. It was noted that the Terms of Reference for the Working Groups provided in Annex A of the 2000 *Strategic Plan* are still valid, they require each group to produce a work plan, and to operate with a chair and rapporteurs. In practice most groups have a chair and two co-chairs, drawn from the three constituencies. The agencies would like annual session Working Group agendas

and reports to henceforth include items on the cross cutting theme (Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation; Advocacy, Communication and Partnership Building).

50. The 2006 annual session should have a strong component or link to the area of Advocacy and Mobilization.

Membership

51. The agencies recognize it is essential to differentiate between membership and participation. Membership involves privilege and responsibility: a member joins one of the tripartite groups, and should register and actively participate with at least one Working Group. All are free to participate in the open SCN activities. The majority felt that UN agencies, Bilateral Partners (those representing national governments) and registered NGOs were members, and that membership was by organization, not on an individual basis. However, the SCN has no system of registering NGOs. The Chair was asked to discuss with the NGO group methods to better delineate membership. Only members could serve on the Steering Committee, and among UN agencies only those who contribute may serve.

52. The principal of baseline contributions was agreed with two tiered levels for small and large agencies. The SCN Chair would explore this further at the agency head level. To this end, the Secretariat should prepare a technical policy brief which clearly shows the value added of the SCN. This could also be used for advocacy issues with the General Assembly and other key UN groups. Participation of UNDP would be actively pursued, since their cooperation at the country level is key. The agencies want to encourage their participation in the SCN at the technical and policy level.

53. *Private Sector Interaction:* The agencies agreed that the SCN session is an open meeting, and that all are welcome to participate in the open meetings. In principle, the agencies welcome private sector involvement. It was agreed that the private sector should not form a separate entity. It was decided that the level of participation should be further explored by a Steering Committee Task Force, based on UN best practice (WHO/UNICEF), which would lead eventually to more active participation in the SCN, including private sector speakers, and contributions.

Budget

54. *Core Budget:* The agencies authorized the \$771,250 no growth budget for 2006/07 core budget, and approved in principle the expanded budget of \$1,531,250 subject to funds being raised. The Secretariat was given the mandate to raise these additional funds, the Chair would authorize how these additional funds would be spent, in consultation with the Steering Committee.

55. *Programme Budget:* Two corrections to Table 3 were noted (under Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation the figure against Interagency Nutrition Initiative coordinator should be \$375,000 giving a subtotal of \$2,445,000; under Development of Integrated Approaches the figure against Support to Development of National Food and Nutrition Plans coordinator should be \$375,000 giving a subtotal of \$1,195,000). The overall programme budget presented in Table 3 was illustrative, largely based on the January 2004 Tivoli recommendations and the January 2005 New York meeting discussions. The lines of work were agreed in principle, but there was no decision on the budget. The agencies delegated their authority to the Steering Committee to review the specific budget proposals, set priorities within it, and to raise funds.

56. *Vice Chair for UN group and Steering Committee:* The group briefly discussed the election of a new vice chair, since Milla McLachlan had stepped down as World Bank Steering Committee member and Vice Chair. No decision was made, Ms Bertini would conduct further discussions and a decision would be made within the next few weeks.

Other items/meeting follow-up

57. *IUNS:* The SCN has been attributed a slot on the first day and now needs to decide what to present. A small group will discuss this with the Secretariat within the next week.

58. *World Food Prize:* This event will take place in Des Moines, Iowa, 13-14 October and this year has nutrition as its theme. Under the auspices of the Steering Committee, the SCN is organizing a panel at the event. The Steering Committee will meet in Des Moines the day before the event.

H. Plenary Session Discussion

59. Despite lack of time, plenary discussions were rich and varied. Key items discussed related to the *SCN Action Plan 2005-2010 and Budget of the SCN Secretariat 2006-2007*

60. *Vision and Mandate* The proposed rewording of the vision and mandate section of the *2000 Strategic Plan* had been discussed by the individual tripartite groups and by the Steering Committee and while there was a

fair amount of agreement, further discussion would take place informally, working towards a revised text which would be agreed upon by the Steering Committee.

61. *Governance* The collective SCN did not appear ready for the High Level Board put forward by the Steering Committee at its 2004 Tivoli Retreat. The Bilateral Partners agreed with the proposal, the UN agencies were unsure, and the NGOs/CSOs were not ready at the moment. The proposal would be reviewed at a later date.

62. *Working Groups* Participants agreed that the current Working Groups should continue to function, but with a thematic agenda. The desirability of each Group having a Chair and two Co-Chairs representing the tripartite was also agreed. Chairships would be discussed over the following weeks and recommendations should be sent to the SCN Chair as soon as possible. Time allocation for Working Groups was a continual problem, the possibility of holding parallel meetings, meetings over the first weekend, or alternate year meetings was discussed.

63. *Membership* The UN agencies requested that the Secretariat explore with the NGO Group methods to better delineate membership. The SCN membership is tripartite, and while there is no wish to exclude anyone, for the decision making process the SCN needs a description of what a member is. The Secretariat and Steering Committee NGO representatives would further explore this issue.

64. *Budget* The Steering Committee agreed that the Secretariat operate at the no growth core budget of \$771,250 for 2006-2007 and approved in principle an expanded budget of \$1,531,250 subject to funds being raised. The Steering Committee would further review the proposed programme budget.

65. *Funding* While the UN agencies had agreed in principle to the proposed two tier system, neither the Bilateral Partners nor the NGOs/CSOs agreed to the funding proposals. There was no obvious mechanism to increase funding sources. Furthermore, the NGOs/CSOs Group strongly resist seeking private sector funding.

66. *Private Sector* Participants agreed that the private sector might continue to participate in open meetings of SCN sessions but that no special group should be formed to accommodate them. It was decided that the level of participation should be further explored by a Steering Committee Task Force, based on UN best practice, which might eventually lead to more active private sector participation in the SCN.

6th Report on the World Nutrition Situation Preliminary discussions had been held early in 2005 between the Secretariat and some *5th Report* Task Force members. The 32nd Session agreed that wide consultation was needed and that the Steering Committee would establish a Task Force with representatives from Agencies, Bilateral Partners and NGOs/CSOs. The Secretariat would play a central role, with the Working Groups being asked to provide input. The initial suggestions are that the *6th Report* follow the style of the *5th Report* and feature the contributions of nutrition to the development process, and continue to link to the MDGs, although perhaps fewer of them. The NGOs/CSOs suggested that the overall focus of the *6th Report* would be *the double burden of disease related to food and nutrition*. The work would not duplicate that of UN agencies, however as in the past UN agencies would be asked to provide statistics, and funding would need to be raised.

I. Closure of the Session

67. During the closing ceremony the SCN Distinguished Nutrition Advocate Dom Mauro Morelli made an inspiring presentation on the importance of the work of the SCN. Maria de Fatima Carvalho from the General Coordination for Food and Nutrition Policy of the Ministry of Health paid a special tribute to the team that had helped organize the event.

68. Representatives of Angola, Bolivia, Brazil and Mozambique, signed a joint declaration in which they affirmed the importance of the Country Case Studies for analysing the food and nutrition security dimensions of their national development plans, and their agreement to work together to try to implement the Case Study recommendations. The areas of collaboration proposed include training of human resources in food and nutrition within the context of the human right to adequate food, and of defining communications strategies for mobilizing the participation of civil society in order to realize the human right to adequate food. These proposed areas of collaboration should become the subject of detailed plans of action and of mutual collaboration of the countries within the near future. In order to accomplish the objectives of the joint declaration the signatories requested that the SCN and the agencies involved at the county level, provide all necessary support. (The joint declaration can be found attached in Annex 2).

69. SCN Chair Ms Catherine Bertini thanked all those responsible for making the 32nd Session such a memorable event, and closed the meeting.

List of Participants

SCN 32 SESSION

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chair: Catherine Bertini, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Management

Secretary: Roger Shrimpton

Special Guests: Humberto Silva, Minister of Health, Brazil

Patrus Aaianas, Minister of Social Development, Brazil

Francisco Menezes, President CONSEA, Brazil

Rosario Quiroga, Minister of Health, Bolivia

Martinho Dgedge, Deputy Health Director, Mozambique

Adelaide de Carvalho, National Director of Public Health, Angola

Aliro Omara, Uganda Human Rights Commission

SCN Distinguished Nutrition Advisor: Bishop Dom Mauro Morelli, Brazil

9th Abraham Horwitz Lecturer: Kaia Engesveen, University of Oslo

UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

—*FSAU, Nairobi*

International Atomic Energy Agency

International Fund for Agricultural Development

United Nations

United Nations Children's Fund

—*Angola*

—*Bolivia*

—*Brazil*

Kraisid Tontisirin

Florence Egal

Noreen Prendiville

Lena Davidson

Sean Kennedy

Catherine Bertini

Ian Darnton-Hill

Miriam Labbok

Adelaide de Carvalho

Magaly Yale

Marie Pierre Poirier

Manuel Buvinich

Fábio Moraes

Marcelo Mazzoli

Patrício Fuentes Ruy Pavan

Maria José Medeiros

Francisca Maria Andrade

Jane Santos

Vilma Cabral

Mario Volpi

Rachel Mello

Helena Oliveira

Alison Sutton

Andrea Vidal

Silvio Kaloostian

Halim Antonio Girade

Aline Regina Fernandes

Nils Kastberg

Oswaldo Legon

Maria Cecilia Severi Traversa

Fathia Abdalla

Cutberto Garza

Ricardo Uauy

Azza Gohar

—*Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean*

United Nations Development Programme—*Uruguay*

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

United Nations University

World Bank
World Food Programme

—*Brazil*

World Health Organization

—*PAHO, USA*

—*Regional Office for the Western Pacific, Philippines*

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

International Food Policy Research Institute
International Plant Genetic Resources Institute

BILATERAL PARTNERS

Angola

Bolivia

Brazil

Canada

Denmark

The Gambia

Germany

Ghana

Japan

Mozambique

Norway

United States of America

United States Agency for International Development

—*Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance Project*

Zimbabwe

Meera Shakar
Patrick Webb
Rita Bhatia
Marcelo Spina-Hering
Denise Coitinho
Chizuru Nishida
Zita Weise Prinzo
Chessa Lutter
Tomasso Cavalli-Sforza

Corinna Hawkes
Pablo Eyzaguirre
Timothy Johns
Francisca Smith

Adelaide de Carvalho
Paulina Semedo
Rosario Quiroga
Jaqueline Reyes
Andreina Soria
Patrus Ananias
Humberto Silva
Francisco Menezes
Jorge Solla
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Barbara Macdonald
Jorgen G Jensen
Shakuntala Thilsted

Martin Nissen
Ines Reinhard
Hans Schoeneberger
Rosana Agble
Toru Rikimaru
Martinho Dgedge
Sonia Khan
Paula Santos
Armanda Gani
Marcella Libombo
Arne Oshaug (*Chair Bilateral Partners*)
Arnhild Haga Rimestad
Liv Elin Torheim

Thomas Marchione
Caroline Abla
Bruce Cogill
Julia Tagwireyi

***NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs) AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (INGOs)***

Ação Brasileira Pela Nutrição e Direitos Humanos (ABRANDH)

Action Contre la Faim, France

AIPE, Bolivia

APAN (Uruguay)

CARE Canada

CARE USA

FIAN International

HarvestPlus

Helen Keller International

IBFAN Africa

INFACT Canada/IBFAN

International Council for the Control of Iodine Deficiency
Disorders (ICCIDD)

International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)

International Union of Nutritional Sciences (IUNS)

Micronutrient Initiative

Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH)

Save the Children (US)

World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA)

World Alliance for Nutrition and Human Rights (WANAHR)

World Health Policy Forum

World Vision, Canada

ACADEMIA AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Brazil—University of Sao Paulo

Brazil—CONSEA-SP, CONSEA-MG, CNBB

Brazil—Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism

Brazil—ISDI

Brazil—

Cameroon—COASAD

Cameroon—COASAD

Canada—Centre for Indigenous Peoples Nutrition
and Environment (CINE)

China—Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Egypt—National Nutrition Institute

Guatemala—

Italy—University of Foggia

Malaysia—Universiti Putra Malaysia

Flavio Luiz Schieck Valente (*Chair
NGO/CSO*)

Caroline Wilkinson

Maria Olivia Freire

Aida Ruegenberg

Elisabetta Recine

Marlene Barber

Mary Lung'aho

Michael Windfuhr

Bonnie McClafferty

Martin Bloem

Regina Moench-Pfanner

Pauline Kisanga

Elisabeth Sterken

Eduardo Pretell

David Haxton

Kathy Kurz

Mark Wahlqvist

Osman Galal

Martin Carney

Ted Greiner

Hedwig Deconinck

Susan Siew

Wenche Barth Eide

Uwe Kracht

Geoffrey Cannon

Kendra Siekmans

Carlos Augusto Monteiro

Bishop Dom Mauro Morelli

Valeria Guimaraes

Pedro Simao Filho

Regina Shrimpton

Christine Andela

Christine Andela

Harriet Kuhnlein

Chen Chunming

Azza Gohar

Ana Lisette Padilla

Massimo Pettoello-Mantovani

Ida Giardino

Geok Lin Khor

Mexico—INSP
Mexico—National Institute of Public Health
Mozambique—SETSAN
Norway—University of Oslo
Norway—Norwegian Centre for Human Rights/IPFRD
Norway—
Peru—
South Africa—University of the Western Cape

Sudan—Ahfad University for Women

Uganda—Human Rights Commission
UK—Centre for International Child Health
UK—King's Collage, London
USA—Biomaterial Sciences International Inc
USA—Cornell University
USA—Eastern Virginia Medical School
USA—Latin American Network for the Promotion of Research in
Nutrition
USA—Tufts

SCN SECRETARIAT

Juan Angel Rivera- Dommarco
Lynette Neufeld
Gustavo Mahoque
Kaia Engesveen
Asbjorn Eide
Kjetil Boehmer
Clothide Herencia
David Sanders
Sibonile Khoza
Osama Salih
Hussein Mursal
Aliro Omara
Andrew Tomkins
Catherine Geissler
Venkatesh Iyengar
Michael Latham
Sean Lynch
Wilma Freire

Georgette Baghdady

Roger Shrimpton
Salvador Herencia (*on loan from
UNICEF*)
Patrizia Faustini(*on loan from
UNICEF*)
Claudine Prudhon
Jane Hedley

Joint Declaration

translation from Portuguese, original can be found at:

<http://www.unsystem.org/scn/Publications/AnnualMeeting/SCN32/joint%20declaration.pdf>

1. The Ministries of Health of Angola, Bolivia, and Brazil and the Technical Secretariat for Food and Nutrition Security of the Ministry of Agriculture of Mozambique;
2. Driven by their willingness to strengthen existing friendships and solidarity between these respective countries and peoples;
3. Determined to develop and deepen the relationships of cooperation; and reaffirming their commitment to the objectives and principles of the Founding Charter of the United Nations;

Declare:

4. The importance of the Case Studies presented at the 32nd Session of the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN), analyzing nutrition strategies in national development plans in the context of the realization of the Right to Adequate Food to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals;
5. Their agreement to prioritize actions to promote nutrition that ensure multisectoral interventions to address nutrition problems and illnesses related to food and nutrition, be it for lack of food or for excess or inadequate consumption;
6. The necessity to implement, based on the results of the Case Studies presented during the 32nd Session of the SCN, multisectoral proposals capable of guiding healthy food and nutrition actions, which have an integrated approach and take into consideration local realities in line with the public and social policies of the respective countries;
7. To mutually help each other in the training of human resources in food and nutrition within the context of the Human Right to Adequate Food and Nutrition; food and nutrition security and the promotion of healthy food practices, including nutrition through out the life-cycle, clinical nutrition and dietetics;
8. Begin efforts to encourage the exchange and continuing education of nutrition professionals (graduate and post-graduate) in public universities and present successful experiences carried-out by collaborators in food and nutrition and Non-Governmental Organizations;
9. To support the elaboration of strategies and methods to incorporate nutrition in programmes and actions directed towards the treatment of people living with HIV/AIDS;
10. Agree to the mutual exchange of related experiences and strategies to overcome hunger and poverty for population groups at risk of nutrition problems;
11. To support the promotion of defining communication strategies, the participation and mobilization of civil society in the context of the Human Right to the Adequate Food;
12. Begin efforts and begin to work with respective governments to ensure the continuity of this process; and

13. To propose, as soon as possible, the elaboration of respective plans of action (multi- and/or bilateral) for the execution, monitoring and evaluation of the proposed actions as part of the policies of each country.

To accomplish the objectives of this Joint Declaration, the Representatives of the Ministries of Health from Angola, Brazil and Bolivia and the Technical Secretariat for Food and Nutrition Security of the Ministry of Agriculture of Mozambique, request from the United Nations System SCN, and the agencies of the United Nations, in particular UNICEF and WHO, all the necessary support.

Brasilia, 18 March 2005

Adelaide de Carvalho
National Director of Public Health
Ministry of Health - Angola

Jackeline Reyes
Director of Health Services
Ministry of Health and Sports - Bolivia

Washington Luiz Hisses Couto
Secretary of Attention to Health
Ministry of Health - Brazil

Marcela Libombo
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Technician of Food and Nutrition Security
Ministry of Agriculture - Moçambique

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