

ASABE SHEHU YAR'ADUA FOUNDATION

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN STATEMENTS TO THE FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

THEME:

"POPULATION, FOOD SECURITY, NUTRITION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"

PREAMBLE

The **Commission on Population and Development (CPD)** is one of the ten Functional Commissions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. At its establishment by ECOSOC in October 1946, the Commission's name was "*Population Commission*" and in December 1994, was changed to "*Commission on Population and Development*".

The goal of the Commission on Population and Development is the follow-up to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The Commission would monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action at the regional, national and international levels and advise the Economic and Social Council on issues such as population's issues and trends, integrating population and development strategies, and on population and related development policies and programmes. It would also provide advice and assistance to the United Nations System, governments and other organizations on population and development related efforts.

The Commission is composed of 47 Member States (for 2006) elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of four years on the basis of geographic distribution. Representatives are enjoined to have a relevant background in population and development. It met typically every two or three years until 1994, after which it has met once a year.

The United Nations Population Division is the main Secretariat unit assisting the Commission, compiles and analyzes data on populations aging.

The United Nations coordinated an International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, Egypt, on 5–13 September 1994. Its resulting Programme of Action is the steering document for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Some 20,000 delegates from various governments, UN agencies, NGOs, and the media gathered for a discussion of a variety of population issues, including immigration, infant mortality, birth control, family planning, the education of women, and protection for women from unsafe abortion services.

The conference received considerable media attention due to disputes regarding the assertion of reproductive rights.

According to the official ICPD release, the conference delegates achieved consensus on the following four qualitative and quantitative goals:

1. Universal education: Universal primary education in all countries by 2015. Urge countries to provide wider access to women for secondary and higher level education as well as vocational and technical training.

2. Reduction of infant and child mortality: Countries should strive to reduce infant and under-5 child mortality rates by one-third or to 50–70 deaths per 1000 by the year 2000. By 2015 all countries should aim to achieve a rate below 35 per 1,000 live births and under-five mortality rate below 45 per 1,000.

3. Reduction of maternal mortality: A reduction by 1/2 the 1990 levels by 2000 and 1/2 of that by 2015. Disparities in maternal mortality within countries and between geographical regions, socio-economic and ethnic groups should be narrowed.

4. Access to reproductive and sexual health services including family planning: Family-planning counseling, pre-natal care, safe delivery and post-natal care, prevention and appropriate treatment of infertility, prevention of abortion and the management of the consequences of abortion, treatment of reproductive tract infections, sexually transmitted diseases and other reproductive health conditions; and education, counseling, as appropriate, on human sexuality, reproductive health and responsible parenthood. Services regarding HIV/AIDS, breast cancer, infertility, and delivery should be made available. Active discouragement of female genital mutilation (FGM).

During and after the ICPD, some interested parties attempted to interpret the term 'reproductive health' in the sense that it implies abortion as a means of family planning or, indeed, a right to abortion. These interpretations, however, do not reflect the consensus reached at the Conference. For the European Union, where legislation on abortion is less restrictive than elsewhere, the Council Presidency has clearly stated that the Council's commitment to promote 'reproductive health' did not include the promotion of abortion. Likewise, the European Commission, in response to a question from a Member of the European Parliament, clarified: "The term 'reproductive health' was defined by the United Nations (UN) in 1994 at the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development. All Member States of the Union endorsed the Programme of Action adopted at Cairo. The Union has never adopted an alternative definition of 'reproductive health' to that given in the Programme of Action, which makes no reference to abortion.

Commission on Population and Development: Its Contribution to the review of the 2030 Agenda Contribution to the review of the 2030 Agenda and development and its distribution to the follow-up and review of 2030 Agenda is the center of the debate on the 52nd session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) which was to held from 1-3, April 2019 .

The event is to emphasize on the world's population and plan for its constant increase in size and to manage the dramatic shift in age distribution and place of residence as it relates to countries' master plan in developmental projects since the first session of the CPD 70 years ago. When the Economic and Social Council created this Commission in 1946, the world's population looked very different from what we know today. People today are living longer and healthier lives than ever before — among the greatest of humanity's achievements.

TOWARDS EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF 2030 AGENDA

It is worthy of note that, the major shifts in population age structures are signs of success reflecting higher rates of survival from childhood to adulthood and longer life spans, and the greater ability of couples to choose the number and timing of any children they desire. This was backed up in 2016, during one of the meetings of the UN DESA's Population Division highlighted the policies Member States are already implementing to adapt to these changing demographic circumstances. In ageing societies, social protection mechanisms, pension systems and health care programmes are being adjusted and strengthened.

Women's participation in the workforce should be supported more than ever before, so that it could slowly push countries up the age of retirement. At the same time, there should be an increase in recognition for international migration which can help to rejuvenate populations and slow the rate of population ageing.

It is necessary to further add that there is the necessity of investing in the human capital of populations, especially the youth through policies and programmes to improve youth's access to education, health, and employment.

Furthermore, attention should be given to the reproductive health needs of youth, as well as to the prevention of adolescent pregnancy, child and early marriage, violence against youth and gender-based violence.

At the same time, countries should detail their policies and programmes to address the health, welfare and inclusion of their rapidly growing older populations.

Consequently, there is also the need for attention of Member States to be drawn to issue of migration and refugee movements which present a unique challenge relating to the changing population age distributions, the introduction of new cultural practices, and to labour markets.

Finally, Countries should further stress the importance of improving data and statistics for monitoring demographic trends and development, and capacity development in this regard.

TO IDENTIFY AND ADDRESS KNOWLEDGE AND CAPACITY GAPS IN FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY PROGRAMMING AROUND THE WORLD

Food is any nourishable substances that humans and animals eat to maintain life and growth that consists of any of essential protein, carbohydrate, and fat. **Nutrition** is the intake of food, considered in relation to the body's dietary needs. **Good nutrition** is an adequate, well balanced diet combined with regular physical activity that is a corner stone of good health. **Poor nutrition** can either be over nutrition or under nutrition which is termed as **Malnutrition** and is the process of an individual or animal eating over or less amount of food in an unbalanced way. In general **Nutrition** is the science that interprets the interaction of nutrients and other

substances in food in relation to maintenance, growth, reproduction, health and disease of an organism; it includes food intake, absorption, assimilation, biosynthesis, catabolism and excretion.

Nutrition is the bedrock of human well-being. In a child's first 1000 days from conception to the second birthday, good nutrition enables optimal brain and immune system development and functioning, which, in turn, averts death and equips a child to grow, thrive, and reach his or her full potential. Throughout the entire life cycle, good nutrition results in greater cognitive, motor, and social development, educational attainment, productivity, and lifetime earnings.

In this dispensation of sustainable development globally in which we can no longer ignore the impact of human activity on the environment and climate; these disruptions have enormous ramifications on health, nutrition, and well-being. This year major decisions will focus on the **IDEAL's** strategic objective of promoting systems-level approaches to improving the design, implementation and overall effectiveness of emergency and development for **food** and **nutrition** security activities; there will be new risks but also opportunities

Food and **nutrition** at scale cannot be met if it is not accompanied by investments in the capacities of people, organizations, and institutions to support emerging targets, programs, and agendas, this challenge is amplified by a number of drivers, including climate change, population growth, urbanization, extreme poverty, energy-intensive dietary patterns, water scarcity, land degradation, and intense social conflicts and divisions. Nearly all countries in the world today are burdened with malnutrition, manifesting as under nutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and/or overweight and obesity. Despite some progress, efforts to alleviate malnutrition are hampered by a shortage in number, skills, and geographic coverage, of a workforce for nutrition.

Capacity development is referred as the process through which individuals, organizations, and societies obtain, strengthen, and maintain the skills and capabilities to set and achieve their own development objectives over time. Inherent in this definition is the understanding that capacity development must occur consistently at 3 interrelated and interdependent levels: individual, organizational, and systemic. It focuses on the strategies to develop individual capacities, but there are considerations and implications for the institutions and organizations responsible for and affected by individual capacity development issues in nutrition-relevant actions and services.

Due to **food** and **nutritional** capacity gaps, the field today lacks strong, sustained human and institutional capacity to address major policy and operational issues. How are international economic adjustments and malnutrition linked? How can these policies adapt to short-term fiscal austerity while protecting nutritional status in the disadvantaged? What are the cost structures and impact of nutrition delivery systems? How can these public systems be improved through better matching of individual incentives with overall program objectives? How should limited nutritional resources be targeted to prevent severe, moderate, and mild cases? Is nutrition behavior rational from the health vantage point, and what is the role of nutrition education? These questions need to be answered according to specific people, times, and places. The problems and solutions are likely to differ between regions. Thus, filling these capacity gaps requires investments in building human and institutional capacities in developing countries.

Food and **nutrition** capacity requires the continued ability to do efficacy and effectiveness research but also training on better implementation, which includes monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of capacity development outcomes, more and improved capacity to deliver successful interventions, operationalize nutrition policies and strategies, and ensure leadership; in order for food and nutrition to be central to development we need to have strong

alliances, take timely and decisive action, and create, and be subject to, robust accountability. Nutrition is not alone in this struggle; the failure to adapt capacity to the local context is also apparent in the broader health and food systems.

In order to fill this capacity gaps on **food** and **nutrition**, Governments, civil society, international organizations, donors, and the private sector all play important roles in developing capacity across a range of sectors (including health, education, agriculture, social protection, water, and sanitation) at individual, organizational, and systemic levels. Long-term investment is needed to fuel the creation of enabling environments in which laws, systems, and policies are supportive of food and nutrition goals. Yet discourse about capacity development is often limited or poorly supported because it is rarely prioritized by funding organizations and is often undervalued compared with the stated, official purposes of grants and contracts. Nutritionally vulnerable populations require access to effective nutrition services, which in turn requires a well-qualified and supported workforce. Examples from the broader health workforce have helped identify several factors that are likely to contribute to increased quality of services, including balanced workload, appropriate supervision, adequate supplies and equipment, continuous training, fair remuneration, and respect from the community. There must also be a focus on achieving the optimal geographic distribution of health workers, as several regions, especially poor rural areas, experience the greatest effects of inadequate or no access to care. The evaluations of several initiatives to bring nutrition services to scale have elucidated several key gaps and bottlenecks in capacity. First, there is a dearth of high-quality training for front-line nutrition workers; the regions with insufficient service delivery are those that lack appropriate academic curricula and high-quality training programs. Large parts of these regions, Africa and Southern Asia in particular, have outdated training and assessment materials; a lack of practical, hands-on training; and inadequate academic focus on public health nutrition. There is no authoritative source of information that pertains to the education of the workforce globally, and, in many institutions that offer nutrition programs, what is being taught is often poorly or narrowly focused and outdated. Second, there is a lack of effective leadership and advocacy skills training their capacity. Third, the nutrition workforce requires not only specific skills but also the development of broader skills that enable individuals to work as part of multisectoral, multistakeholder, or multidisciplinary teams. This need is underscored the lack of multisectoral collaborations stems, at least in part, from poor training of the nutrition workforce to work as part of a multidisciplinary team. Underlying this fact may be the lack of attention to teaching nutrition as a multidisciplinary subject within academic institutions.

Food and nutrition security programming around the world are measures to cope capacity gaps for food and nutrition globally which they are:

Amsterdam Initiative against Malnutrition (AIM)

The Amsterdam Initiative against Malnutrition (AIM) is a joint public-private-partnership founded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Netherlands, GAIN, Unilever, DSM, AkzoNobel, Wageningen University, and ICCO in 2009. Over the past few years, several other organizations from different continents have joined the initiative as well. AIM's goal is to eliminate malnutrition for 100 million people in Africa and Asia by 2015. Through AIM an opportunity was created to combine the know-how of major players in the food and nutrition industry worldwide to come to interventions in Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Bangladesh, and Indonesia.

CGIAR – Research programme on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health

The starting point for this research program is that agricultural practices, interventions, and policies can be better adapted and redesigned to maximize health and nutrition benefits and

to reduce health risks. The primary focus will be on improving human nutrition and health by bringing together research and development professionals across the agriculture, nutrition, and health (ANH) sectors to jointly tackle key challenges and design joint solutions.

Consumers International

A network of consumers organizations, supporting and representing over 240 consumers organizations all over the world. Its work in the area of food focuses amongst others on consumer's information about food products, salt reduction, food prices. Consumers International is involved in a range of partnership agreements with different other stakeholders. Consumer organizations also represent the consumer's interests in national or international platforms such as the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

Flour Fortification Initiative (FFI)

The Flour Fortification Initiative is an international partnership working to improve health by advocating for fortification in industrial mills. It collaborates with public, private, and civic partners to encourage the addition of vitamins and minerals to wheat flour, maize products, and rice. Among the partners are millers, scientists, government ministries, and non-governmental organizations.

Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), Nutrition division

The nutrition division aims to create sustainable improvements in nutrition, especially among nutritionally vulnerable households and population groups; to provide information, assessments and analysis to combat hunger and reduce all forms of malnutrition; and to assist countries in identifying people who are food insecure and vulnerable to nutritional problems. FAO is co-organizing the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) in November 2014

Food Security and Nutrition Network

FSN Network is an open community of food security and nutrition implementers seeking to create opportunities to share information, shape agendas, understand and influence donor priorities, build consensus on promising practices, and widely diffuse technical knowledge. It is resourced and managed by the Technical and Operational Performance Support (TOPS) Program, a USAID/Food For Peace (FFP)-funded program seeking to build the capacity of FFP grantees and other food security and nutrition implementers.

Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)

GAIN's mission is to reduce malnutrition through sustainable strategies aimed at improving the health and nutrition of populations at risk. The goal of GAIN's Nutrition Program is to develop and deliver high quality population-based and targeted programs that will contribute to GAIN's target of reaching one billion people by 2015 with nutritious foods.

Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition

The purpose of the Panel is to provide global research and policy leadership to maximize the contribution of agriculture and food systems to improve nutrition and health outcomes, particularly of women and children. The Global Panel is jointly funded by the UK government and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. For agriculture and food systems to make their essential and substantial contribution to improving nutrition, there is a need to understand "what works" and how it can be more widely implemented.

HarvestPlus

HarvestPlus is part of the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH) and is coordinated by two of these centers, the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). With diverse partners in more than 40 countries, it is committed to bridge the divide between disciplines and sectors in search of robust solutions to hidden hunger. Relevant: Spring 2014, a global consultation upcoming: Getting Nutritious Foods to People

Hellen Keller International (HKI)

Hellen Keller International's mission is to save the sight and lives of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged. The organization combats the causes and consequences of blindness and malnutrition by establishing programs based on evidence and research in vision, health and nutrition. To accomplish this, HKI builds the capacity of local governmental, civil society and private sector systems and infrastructure, and promotes the development of sustained, large scale programs that deliver effective preventative and curative eye health and nutrition services. These services are integrated into ongoing programs and initiatives, and are delivered in cost-effective and practical ways that take into account actual community health needs and local realities. Their design is firmly rooted in scientific evidence.

Institute of Development Studies (IDS) UK

As a follow up to the Nutrition for Growth Summit international stakeholders will compile a Global Nutrition Report, to maintain momentum in nutrition efforts and further build support and commitment. A Stakeholder Group has now been established to guide the process of producing such a Report, co-chaired by the Governments of the UK and Malawi. This Group is now establishing an Independent Expert Group (IEG). It will be held accountable for the independence and quality of the Report and will vouch for the quality of the data, will develop the narrative around the data, and be held accountable for the quality of the report and the process that produces it.

Micronutrient Initiative

In view of a world free of hidden hunger, the Micronutrient Initiative's purpose is to ensure that the world's most vulnerable – especially women and children – in developing countries get the vitamins and minerals they need to survive and thrive. It wants to be a global leader in advancing integrated, innovative and sustainable solutions to reduce vitamin and mineral deficiencies through advocacy, technical and programmatic support, in collaboration with others.

Netherlands Working Group on Nutrition

This network of organizations with an interest in nutrition functions as a Dutch platform for knowledge sharing on nutrition, while also delivering specific expert advice on nutrition (e.g. to Dutch embassies) or hosting expert meetings. Members: DSM, GAIN, ICCO, Micronutrient Initiative, Plan NL, Royal Institute for the Tropics / KIT, Save the Children NL, UNICEF-NL, Unilever, WFP, WUR.

People's Health Movement (PHM)

The People's Health Movement has its roots deep in the grassroots people's movement and owes its genesis to many health networks and activists who have been concerned by the growing inequities in health over the last 25 years. PHM calls for a revitalization of the principles of the Alma-Ata Declaration which promised Health for All by the year 2000 and a revision of international and domestic policies that have shown to impact negatively on health status and systems. Food and nutrition is one of the areas of interest.

Plan International

Plan strives to prevent and manage malnutrition and food crisis – saving lives and building resilience among children and communities. It takes action before, during and after disasters by supporting programmes such as malnutrition prevention and management; food distribution; school feeding; agricultural activities; cash and voucher-based support. Plan also builds the capacity of communities to address malnutrition, and use analysis and advocacy to influence policies and bring about lasting improvements.

Renewed Efforts against Child Hunger and Undernutrition (REACH)

REACH is a country-led approach to scale-up proven and effective interventions addressing child undernutrition through the partnership and coordinated action of UN agencies, civil society, donors, and the private sector, under the leadership of national governments. REACH co-facilitates the UN network for SUN, together with the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition. It was established in 2008 by FAO, UNICEF, WFP and WHO to assist governments of countries with a high burden of child and maternal undernutrition to accelerate the scale-up of food and nutrition actions.

Save the Children

Save the Children works to improve health and nutrition of mothers, newborn babies and children, with special attention to poor and vulnerable communities. This international non-governmental organization works in hard-to-reach and impoverished communities, as well as with families hard hit by natural disasters and conflict. Focus of efforts in six areas: Maternal and Reproductive Health; Newborn Health; Child Survival; Nutrition; Emergency Health and Nutrition; Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health.

Scaling Up Nutrition

The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement is a renewed effort to eliminate all forms of malnutrition, based on the principle that everyone has a right to food and good nutrition. The Movement is unique by bringing different groups of people together – governments, civil society, the United Nations, donors, businesses and scientists – in a collective action to improve nutrition. It is not a fund, an institution or an agency, rather the Movement is strengthening political commitments and accountability for those commitments. It is transforming the way in which people work together by empowering people to put in place effective systems and to increase investments. The SUN Movement is working to achieve sustainable and equitable reductions in malnutrition and nutrition justice for all. You can find a quick overview of the Scaling Up Nutrition movement including the list of 47 countries working to scale up nutrition

Secure Nutrition Platform

Secure Nutrition is one of six of the World Bank's Knowledge Platforms, all of which aim to contribute to the shift toward open development: open data, open knowledge and open solutions. Secure Nutrition is working to bridge the operational knowledge gap between agriculture, food security, and nutrition. It recognizes that important knowledge gaps remain on how best to identify, design, implement, monitor and evaluate agriculture and food security interventions; the Secure Nutrition Knowledge Platform would like to help global actors work together to fill in these gaps. It acknowledges the need to think critically and to carefully plan sustainable solutions that address the challenges of macro- and micronutrient sufficiency and adequacy.

UNICEF

UNICEF is a key partner in the major global initiative called the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement. In addition, UNICEF is committed both to working in and convening partnership across all sectors of society with governments, UN organizations, the private sector and civil society. UNICEF is committed to scaling up and sustaining coverage of its current high-impact nutrition interventions in the programme areas of: (1) Infant and Young Child Feeding; (2) Micronutrients; (3) Nutrition Security in Emergencies; and (4) Nutrition and HIV/AIDS. UNICEF is committed to a life-cycle approach, to using partnerships and to creating and enhancing integrated interventions to maximize effectiveness.

United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN)

The food and nutrition policy harmonization forum of the UN. It is a forum where UN agencies, bilateral partners and NGOs/CSOs come together to exchange information and discuss nutrition related issues. The UNSCN is not another agency but a mechanism for facilitating joint work. It aims to ensure that the system-wide response is indeed greater than the sum of the individual efforts.

World Food Programme

WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. Its interventions include cash and vouchers programmes, school meals, and many others. In 2011, the WFP created a Centre of Excellence against Hunger, in partnership with the Government of Brazil, to enable capacity development of national governments in the areas of school feeding, nutrition, and food security. The Centre of Excellence will have an initial focus on school feeding.

World Health Organization, Nutrition division

The WHO is a key network of expertise on nutrition, with its collaboration centres for nutrition primarily based in OECD countries (e.g. RIVM, The Netherlands, as well as with its regional offices in all parts of the world.

At WHO level, a range of actions takes place in the field of nutrition: standard setting, policy making, advisory work, as well as the development of databases to support this work (e.g. a global database on the implementation of nutrition action, A key agency is the Nutrition Guidance Expert Advisory Group (NUGAG). WHO is co-organizing the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) in November 2014.

Wageningen University

WUR's Food & Nutrition Security programme supports its partners to enhance food security and reduce hunger amidst global challenges to achieve sustainable and healthy food for all. They do this through capacity development and training, supporting policy processes and enabling dialogue.

This concept of conserving resources for future generations is one of the major features that distinguish sustainable development policy from traditional environmental policy, which also seeks to internalize the externalities of environmental degradation. The overall goal of sustainable development (SD) is the long-term stability of the economy and environment; this is only achievable through the integration and acknowledgement of economic, environmental, and social concerns throughout the decision making process.

The precautionary principle establishes that “where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost effective measure to prevent environmental degradation” (United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, 1992). Therefore, the proponent of an activity bears the burden of proving that this action will not cause significant harm. Explicitly stated in the Rio Declaration, the notion of common but differentiated responsibilities recognizes that each nation must play their part on the issue of sustainable development. This principle also acknowledges the different contributions to environmental degradation by developed and developing nations, while appreciating the future development needs of these less developed countries

Developed nations, therefore, bear greater responsibility in light of the resources they require and the pressures they exert on the environment. The key principle of sustainable development underlying all others is the integration of environmental, social, and economic concerns into all aspects of decision making. All other principles in the SD framework have integrated decision making at their core. It is this deeply fixed concept of integration that distinguishes sustainability from other forms of policy. Institutionally, government organizations are typically organized into sectoral ministries and departments. This works fairly well until the system encounters something very comprehensive and highly integrated in nature, such as sustainable development. In practice, sustainable development requires the integration of economic, environmental, and social objectives across sectors, territories, and generations. Therefore, sustainable development requires the elimination of fragmentation; that is, environmental, social, and economic concerns must be integrated throughout decision making processes in order to move towards development that is truly sustainable.