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Agenda item 11

### Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

## UN-Nutrition

### Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to submit to the Economic and Social Council the report of UN-Nutrition,<sup>1</sup> pursuant to Council decision 2018/207.

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<sup>1</sup> UN-Nutrition is the entity that unites the former United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition and the United Nations Network for Scaling Up Nutrition. It is a strengthened mechanism for United Nations system-wide coordination for nutrition with global and country focus. The Economic and Social Council, through its decision 2020/207, took note of the merger of the two bodies and the assumption by UN-Nutrition of the Standing Committee's annual reporting obligations to the Council.



## Report of UN-Nutrition\*

[Original: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

### I. Background

1. Malnutrition, in all its forms, continues to impede the successful achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is the physical manifestation of repeated bouts of illnesses or disease and/or insufficient access to healthy diets. Good nutrition outcomes depend on the optimal functioning of interlinked food, health, education, trade and social protection systems, all of them directly affected by factors related to the economy, the environment, biodiversity, women's empowerment and more. When these are not functioning effectively, malnutrition results.

2. The year 2020 was historical and extremely challenging for humanity faced with COVID-19. On 30th January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General declared the novel coronavirus outbreak a public health emergency of international concern, WHO's highest level of alarm. On 11th March, deeply concerned both by the alarming levels of spread and severity, WHO characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic. Unimaginable and unprecedented health, social and economic consequences rapidly followed.

3. Tackling the complexity and magnitude of malnutrition in all its forms, can be daunting, especially in times of a major crisis. Success requires that comprehensive, quality and effective support is available to Member States, upon request, to implement holistic and comprehensive approaches that create firm linkages between nutrition and all other development challenges. Ensuring UN System-wide coherent and coordinated support is thus essential.

4. For decades, effective inter-agency coordination on nutrition has been continuously called for by Member States. In 1977, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) established the Administrative Committee on Coordination of the United Nations (ACC) Sub-Committee on Nutrition (SCN),<sup>1</sup> renamed the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN)<sup>2</sup> in 2001. UNSCN was restructured as UN-Nutrition in 2020<sup>3</sup> by its union with the UN Network for the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement (UNN4SUN).

5. UN-Nutrition is therefore the result of a unification of two UN bodies with nutrition mandates: UNSCN mainly working at global level to promote global policy and advocacy coherence and UNN4SUN, working at country level to bring greater coherence to national nutrition agendas, supporting country action and coordinating with all stakeholders in the SUN Movement.

\* The present report is being issued without formal editing.

<sup>1</sup> ECOSOC 63rd Session document E/5968 and ECOSOC decision 1977/2107.

<sup>2</sup> ECOSOC decision 2001/321. Available at: <https://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/docs/2001/decision%202001-321.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> UNSCN original mandate includes: to serve as a point of convergence for harmonizing the policies and activities of the United Nations agencies on nutrition; to provide initiative in the development and harmonization of concepts, policies, strategies and programmes of the United Nations System response to the nutritional needs of member countries; to keep under review the overall direction, scale, coherence and impact of the United Nations System response to the nutrition problems of the world; to appraise the United Nations System's experience and progress towards achievement of objectives, and to lay down guidelines for mutually supporting action at inter-agency and country levels.

6. UN-Nutrition's membership at the global level currently comprises thirteen United Nations System entities, one associate member and two observers,<sup>4</sup> with more UN agencies joining as partners in different countries. These numbers are expected to increase in 2021.

7. Terms of reference<sup>5</sup> for UN-Nutrition were articulated and approved by agencies' Principals on 29th February 2020 with the following four core functions.

- Ensure aligned advocacy and policy coherence for nutrition
- Identify and coordinate strategic issues around nutrition
- Identify emerging issues, promote and support knowledge management and innovation
- Translate global level guidance into country-level guidelines, action and impact.

8. In alignment with these core functions, UN-Nutrition shall continue to engage with the SUN Movement, coordinating and supporting joint UN action in countries.

9. The World Food Programme's (WFP) Deputy Executive Director, Amir Abdulla, was charged with acting as UN-Nutrition ad interim Chair during 2020. Naoko Yamamoto, WHO's Assistant Director-General for Universal Health Coverage/Healthier Populations, was nominated, in November 2020, the 1st UN-Nutrition Chair for a 2-year mandate, starting in January 2021.

10. On 4th December 2020, the UN Secretary-General informed all members of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board (CEB) of the establishment of UN-Nutrition and shared the UN-Nutrition Terms of Reference, recalling the importance of supporting countries and communities to end all forms of malnutrition by 2030, even more urgently in light of the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and counting on their support for the new coordination mechanism and for ending malnutrition in the next decade.<sup>6</sup>

11. By decision 2018/207, ECOSOC requested that UNSCN submit to the Council, through the Secretary-General, a report on its activities on an annual basis.<sup>7</sup> Pursuant to this decision, UN-Nutrition assumed UNSCN's annual reporting obligations to ECOSOC. The following report recounts the activities undertaken by UN-Nutrition in 2020.

## II. Update on UN-Nutrition's achievements in 2020

12. Throughout 2020, the UNSCN and UNN4SUN Secretariats harmonized their respective workplans in preparation for the transition to a single UN-Nutrition

<sup>4</sup> The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UN Environmental Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), the United Nations High-Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UN Women, the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Health Organization (WHO). CGIAR through the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT is an associate member. The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Secretariat and the Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC) are observers.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.unscn.org/uploads/web/file/Annex-UN-Nutrition-ToRs-Final1.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.unnnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2020-12-04-SG-letter-to-CEB-on-UN-Nutrition-EOSG-2020-065261.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> ECOSOC decision 2018/207. Available at: <https://www.unscn.org/en/about/our-rich-history>.

Secretariat in 2021. Meanwhile, both Secretariats continued to deliver specific activities, doing so under the overall supervision of the UN-Nutrition Steering Committee comprised, in 2020, of nutrition chiefs from FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. IAEA and UNEP will join the UN-Nutrition Steering Committee in 2021 as additional members.

13. For reporting purposes, specific activities undertaken during 2020 will be recounted as under the responsibility of the respective Secretariat.

## ***II.1. Strengthened nutrition actions in the COVID-19 response***

14. With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, UN-Nutrition was able to quickly adapt its focus and deliver a range of knowledge products which brought to light the devastating impacts of the pandemic on nutrition of vulnerable populations and to foster policy cohesion within the global COVID-19 response. Noteworthy is the *UNSG Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on Food Security and Nutrition*, launched in June 2020, estimating that some 49 million extra people may fall into extreme poverty due to the COVID-19 crisis and that every percentage point drop in global Gross Domestic Product means an additional 0.7 million stunted children.<sup>8</sup>

15. UN-Nutrition Members, within their individual mandates and capacities, substantially contributed to the food and nutrition-related COVID-19 response during 2020.

16. The UNSCN Secretariat developed and continually updated a comprehensive list of resources<sup>9</sup> on food systems and nutrition actions from UN agencies, to provide governments and other stakeholders a ‘one stop shop’ to access the rapid expansion of UN knowledge and initiatives related to nutrition in the COVID-19 response. This list will be continually updated and expanded throughout 2021 as more knowledge resources become available.

17. Key nutrition-related contributions from the five UN-Nutrition Members that form its Steering Committee and from the two additional future Steering Committee members, are summarized as follows:

18. **FAO:** supported countries in mitigating the risks of the pandemic on food security and nutrition by providing policy and programming advice and advocacy support to avoid action that would disrupt the food system and support responses that would ensure the availability, accessibility, and affordability of food for a healthy diet. FAO advocated to ensure that food related activities including transport and distribution were considered essential and permitted to continue throughout lockdown and periods of tighten restrictions on movement, FAO curated and shared policy guidance and tools, conducted rapid assessments on impact and response, and collected and shared food security, price, and affordability data with an emphasis on: (1) expanding and improving emergency food assistance, social protection programmes and provision of healthy meals to school children even in the event of closures to meet the needs of the most vulnerable; (2) providing immediate assistance to protect smallholder farmers’ food production; and (3) keeping global, regional, and national food trade corridors open to ensure functioning food markets and mitigate food price shocks.

<sup>8</sup> UNSG Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on Food Security and Nutrition.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.unscn.org/en/news-events/recent-news?idnews=2039>.

19. **IFAD:** enhanced its support to the poorest of the poor, to whom the nutritional impact of COVID-19 is expected to be pronounced, by launching a multi-donor COVID-19 Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF).<sup>10</sup> This initiative seeks to improve the resilience of rural livelihoods in the context of the crisis by ensuring timely access to inputs, information, markets and liquidity. All funds will be disbursed by 31 December 2021 as an immediate COVID-19 response.

20. **UNICEF:** supported 153 countries and territories with technical assistance, critical supplies and financial support, and in doing so, reached 261 million children with vital health, nutrition, education, child protection, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), gender-based violence and social protection services. In 2020, 118 countries received support from UNICEF to adapt and continue maternal and child nutrition programmes to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children's diets, dietary practices and services. Despite service disruptions, UNICEF reached nearly 244 million children with services for the prevention of stunting and other forms of malnutrition (a 23% drop from 2019), while 35.4 million adolescents benefitted from services for the prevention of anaemia and other forms of malnutrition. Nearly 5 million children in over 70 countries were reached with life-saving treatment and care for severe wasting (more than in 2019), and more than 88% recovered fully, exceeding global standards of care. Also, the UNICEF-WFP Partnership Framework on Child Wasting was finalized; moving forward, UNICEF will lead the roll-out of the Global Action Plan (GAP) on Child Wasting, working with governments and partners to develop roadmaps for action in 23 countries.

21. **WFP:** reached more than 18 million children and women with interventions to prevent and treat malnutrition. Given its strong field presence, WFP was able to scale up cash-based transfers to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, transferring US\$ 1.7 billion to vulnerable people and communities in 64 countries from January to October 2020. WFP also adapted school meal programmes, including take-home rations for seven million schoolchildren, increasing local purchases by 17% compared to 2019. WFP has supported some 50 governments with their social protection interventions in response to the COVID-19 crisis while also providing emergency assistance to ease the impact of lockdowns and movement restrictions on vulnerable groups, including institutional feeding programmes for people in quarantine. Another crucial support provided by WFP has been to air travel, enabling transport of UN staff as well as essential supplies to areas in need (e.g., personal protective equipment (PPE), ventilators, emergency health kits, stretchers, thermometers, and water purification supplies).

22. **WHO:** as the lead agency in declaring the pandemic and in facilitating all health-related response, held the Director General's regular press conferences and daily press releases, through which WHO was able to inform on a number of technical guidance, advice for the public and research updates. These included technical guidance and recommendations for various food safety and nutrition-related impacts and consequences of COVID-19, notably for breastfeeding promotion, and for the provision of essential nutrition services during the pandemic. WHO released recommendations for people visiting and working in live animal/animal product markets and guidance for food businesses to assist them with measures to keeping the

<sup>10</sup> RPSF's planned interventions fall into four main categories: (1) Providing inputs and basic assets for production of crops, livestock and fisheries; (2) Facilitating access to markets to support small-scale farmers in selling their products in conditions where market functions are restricted; (3) Targeting funds for rural financial services to ensure sufficient liquidity and to ease repayment requirements so as to maintain services, markets and jobs; and (4) Promoting the use of digital services to deliver key information on production, weather, finance and markets. Available at: [https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/41971891/RPSF\\_flyer.pdf/d4854b63-4f20-9475-018f-9c30850820b3](https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/41971891/RPSF_flyer.pdf/d4854b63-4f20-9475-018f-9c30850820b3).

COVID-19 virus out of food premises and protecting their workforce from contracting the disease. WHO also conducted in 2020 pulse surveys to assess the impact of COVID-19 on the delivery of essential health services.<sup>11</sup>

23. **IAEA:** distributed RT-PCR equipment and expertise to 128 countries and territories. Recommendations on how to minimize the risk of COVID-19 infection during data and sample collection in IAEA-supported nutrition studies were released and shared with project counterparts. A virtual Technical Meeting in October 2020 with participation of FAO, WFP and UNSCN focused on understanding the effectiveness of food-based approaches to improve diet quality in the face of rapidly changing food systems driven by adverse events such as climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic and how to measure impact. It was concluded that food systems are complex and encompass the entire value chain from seed to fork to health and nutritional outcomes and mediating factors such as the environment, diseases, gender empowerment, urbanization and social behavior. More research is needed to fully understand the link between climate change and diet quality and the nutritional impact of climate-smart interventions such as plant breeding, biofortification, food fortification and dietary diversification; and the role of animal-source foods. Accurate methods to assess diet quality including nuclear techniques are needed; an integrated suite of measurement tools will enable simultaneous assessment of the multiple components of the food systems value chain. The discussions laid ground for a new research project in this area.

24. **UNEP:** As the leading agency for environmental issues, UNEP prepared a series of technical research and dissemination materials analysing the impacts from COVID-19 at the nexus of food systems and the environment and the SDGs. The report “*COVID19, the Environment, and Food Systems: Contain, Cope and Rebuild Better*”<sup>12</sup> provided analyses and proposed ways for governments and international agencies to mitigate food systems impacts and promote the resilience and sustainability of food systems through a diverse range of policies and investments, including in the area of food security and healthy diets. In addition to this report, the UNEP research on COVID-19 impacts on sustainable living and lifestyles identified changes in behaviour related to food consumption and proposed ways for individuals to consume healthier diets, while reducing environmental impacts. UNEP also organized a series of webinars on Food Systems and COVID-19 that promoted several ways that cities or national governments are ensuring the continued access of sustainable and healthier diets by individuals.

25. To expand the knowledge base on COVID-19 nutrition-related impacts, the UNSCN Secretariat carried out an online survey from 15 to 30 April 2020 to gain insights into the food and nutrition disruptions people around the world were facing due to the pandemic and associated measures to contain its spread. The survey was completed by 2’015 people from 118 countries, capitalizing on the UNN4SUN Secretariat’s outreach to the 61 SUN countries. At the time of the survey respondents’ food accessibility had altered notably and food related daily routines were the most disrupted, after work and social activities. Despite responses from largely higher income countries, 8% of respondents reported relying on social protection measures such as food banks, while 17% were relying on alternative sources of food such as personal and community food production. Policy actions were proposed.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>11</sup> [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-EHS\\_continuity-survey-2020.1](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-EHS_continuity-survey-2020.1).

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/covid19-environment-and-food-systems-contain-cope-and-rebuild-better>.

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.unscn.org/en/news-events/recent-news?idnews=2065>.

26. Importantly, UNN4SUN and the UN agencies supported the development of SUN movement communication products on nutrition and COVID-19.<sup>14</sup> Furthermore, the UNN4SUN Secretariat supported governments with the nutrition aspects of the COVID-19 response in multiple countries (e.g., Guatemala, Indonesia, Lesotho, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania). This encompassed a range of activities including mainstreaming nutrition into national COVID-19 response plans and/or supporting the development of nutrition response plans, providing technical assistance on adapting national protocols and guidance to support the continuity of essential nutrition services, and developing shock-response and nutrition-sensitive social protection models. It also provided a platform for the UN to harmonize nutrition messages and social and behavioural change communication materials on the promotion of breastfeeding and food safety in the face of COVID-19. Furthermore, it provided a venue to converge UN efforts regarding vulnerability assessments (e.g., in Mali) and analysis of the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 and its resounding crises (e.g., Honduras), generating valuable inputs for advocacy, programming and resource mobilization activities. In 58 out of the 61 SUN countries (95%), the UNN4SUN contributed to advocacy that underscored the links between COVID-19 and nutrition, such as a UN joint statement on Food Security and Nutrition in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia, helping to maintain nutrition as a priority amidst the pandemic. Further information is outlined in the 2020 UNN4SUN annual report.<sup>15</sup>

27. Furthermore, the COVID-19 crisis underscored the value of collective action and gave rise to UN joint programming in some countries, such as Malawi and Lesotho. In November 2020, the Government of Lesotho and the UN launched the Maximum Intervention Programme.<sup>16</sup> The programme brings together the efforts of FAO, UNICEF and WFP to help diversify diets through food assistance, the promotion of vegetable production and awareness-raising on recommended infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices, targeting vulnerable districts. Additional information is highlighted in a case study, developed by the UNN4SUN Secretariat.<sup>17</sup>

## ***II.2 Actions undertaken to fulfil UN-Nutrition core functions***

28. In addition to giving priority and focus on supporting COVID-19 response, UN-Nutrition Members and Secretariat worked, in 2020, to meet the four core functions,<sup>18</sup> as set out in the Terms of Reference, also in support to the Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025, thereafter Nutrition Decade) proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly resolution [70/259](#).<sup>19</sup>

### **UN-Nutrition Core Function 1: Ensure aligned advocacy and policy coherence for nutrition**

29. Effective advocacy and policy coherence on nutrition requires developing and disseminating joint UN System-wide robust narratives on nutrition challenges and their solutions. To this end, UN-Nutrition has fostered linkages between its members,

<sup>14</sup> <https://scalingupnutrition.org/covid19/>.

<sup>15</sup> <https://bit.ly/3pxN7NG>.

<sup>16</sup> REACH stands for the Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and undernutrition initiative, which served as the intensive support arm of UNN4SUN's multi-sectoral technical assistance facility. As of 1 January 2021, REACH has been repositioned as a special project of UN Nutrition.

<sup>17</sup> <https://bit.ly/3aOcdK9>.

<sup>18</sup> *Note: Several UN Nutrition work streams intersect and serve more than one core functions. To avoid repetition, they are reported only once.*

<sup>19</sup> UN General Assembly 70th session, April 2016, [A/RES/70/259](#).



furthering the debate on several key issues towards common understanding and consistent messaging. Besides COVID-19 nutrition impacts and responses, examples include the links between nutrition and other development challenges, such as climate change, environmental protection and urbanization, the rural–urban nexus, gender mainstreaming and development financing. Such narratives and key messages were delivered in several global, regional and national events.

30. The UNSCN Secretariat participated in the Tenth Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF10) organized by UN-Habitat on 8 to 12 February 2020, the foremost international gathering on sustainable urbanization in all its ramifications.

i. On 11th February, the UNSCN Secretariat organized a discussion on *Shaping the urban food environment for healthy and sustainable diets*.<sup>20</sup> The event featured the main insights from the *UNSCN Nutrition 44 – Food environment: Where people meet the food system*,<sup>21</sup> with a special focus on urban food environments.

ii. On 12th February, UN-Habitat, FAO, the UNSCN Secretariat and other partners hosted the networking event *Reducing the urban-rural divide through culture, revitalization and innovation*,<sup>22</sup> to show that stakeholders across different sectors can work together in the urban-rural continuum and how to do so.

31. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, from March 2020, new ways of working and exchanging were put in place. All successive meetings took place in the virtual space. This allowed for expanding the reach to a much larger audience that would otherwise not have had an opportunity and resources to attend.

32. On 1st July 2020, the UNSCN Secretariat, FAO and the Global Nutrition Report (GNR)'s team co-organized the *2020 Global Nutrition Report Satellite Event*<sup>23</sup> in order to bring together key stakeholders from across the various Rome-based agencies in a discussion around the latest GNR's data and recommendations. The event focused on inequalities in the food system, examining synergies between the GNR's findings and the UNSCN's publication *UNSCN Nutrition #43*<sup>24</sup> that explored equity in food systems. A short piece<sup>25</sup> on the subject was published on the GNR website.

33. Additionally, coherent nutrition narratives were delivered by the UNSCN Secretariat on behalf of UN-Nutrition in several events organized by a wide range of nutrition stakeholders and advocates:

i. On 2nd April, at the Agriculture-Nutrition Community of Practice discussion on COVID-19, food systems, and interaction with malnutrition.<sup>26</sup>

ii. On 3rd June, at the One Planet Network Sustainable Food System Programme Webinar: COVID-19 and Sustainable Food Systems – Responses and innovations to tackle vulnerabilities and build back better.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.unscn.org/uploads/web/news/Flyer-UNSCN-at-WUF10-final-OK.pdf>.

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.unscn.org/uploads/web/news/UNSCN-Nutrition44-WEB-21aug.pdf>.

<sup>22</sup> <https://urbanrurallinkages.wordpress.com/2020/02/17/reducing-the-urban-rural-divide-through-culture-revitalization-and-innovations/>.

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.unscn.org/en/news-events/upcoming-events?idnews=2077>.

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.unscn.org/uploads/web/news/UNSCN-News43-WEB.pdf>.

<sup>25</sup> <https://globalnutritionreport.org/blog/equity-and-right-food-systemic-approach-tackling-malnutrition/>.

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.unscn.org/en/news-events/past-events?idnews=2041>.

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.unscn.org/en/news-events/past-events?idnews=2063>.



- iii. On 9th June, at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) observers Webinar: Climate-Resilient Development & Transformative Food Systems in the COVID19 era: The Solutions Space.<sup>28</sup>
  - iv. On 16th June, at the FAO North America and Care Food Systems Dialogue on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment for Food Security and Nutrition.<sup>29</sup>
  - v. On 23rd June, at the FAO hosted Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG) Webinar: Water & Nutrition, from Research to Action.<sup>30</sup>
  - vi. On 28th July, at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)-Food Security Cluster Webinar: Making Food Systems Work for Healthy Diets.<sup>31</sup>
  - vii. On 3rd September 2020, at the FAO Regional Office for Near East and North Africa (NENA) Regional network on nutrition-sensitive food system for promoting healthy diets.
  - viii. On 13th October, at the World Food Prize side event: Small-Scale Irrigation, Resilience and Nutrition: Can we have it All?<sup>32</sup>
  - ix. On 25th November, at the European Commission and GIZ event on Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women (MDD-W): From Collection to Action. Event 3 – Promoting Diet Diversity of Women: Boon for SDG2.
  - x. And at the virtual World Public Health Nutrition Congress 2020<sup>33</sup> available online from June 2020.
34. With the same purpose of assuring UN System-wide policy coherence and advocacy on nutrition, the UNSCN is a member, since its onset in 2013, of the *United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (UNIATF)*. UN-Nutrition continues playing this role. In 2020, the UNSCN Secretariat participated in the body's fourteenth meeting in Geneva and fifteenth meeting held virtually. These meetings provided an opportunity to present progress in nutrition, collaborate on efforts to strengthen action on nutrition in response to COVID-19, strengthen networks and strategize future directions.
35. As the convenor of the IATF's thematic working group (TWG) on nutrition, the UNSCN Secretariat facilitated, in 2020, nine TWG meetings, working with other TWG members to accelerate action on all forms of malnutrition by: (i) refining guidance for joint country missions to elevate the priority given to nutrition actions, (ii) mapping nutrition specific influences and opportunities to accelerate progress on the Global Action Plan on Health and Wellbeing for All to support the accelerator working groups, (iii) initiating work with new TWG members on broadening the inclusion of nutrition actions within NCD investment cases, (iv) creating a joint narrative, in support of the UNSG policy brief on COVID-19, food security and nutrition, on strengthened action on nutrition within the COVID-19 response as well as an accompanying nutrition focused session of the UNIATF COVID-19 sessions entitled *Nourishing the Post COVID-19 World* which included presentations from WHO, UNICEF, FAO, WFP and IDLO, and (v) ensuring nutrition considerations were captured within the UNIATF policy brief *Responding to non-communicable diseases during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic*.<sup>34</sup>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.unscn.org/en/news-events/past-events?idnews=2067>.

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.unscn.org/en/news-events/past-events?idnews=2072>.

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.fao.org/index.php?id=104299>.

<sup>31</sup> <https://fsccluster.org/news/cfs-fsc-webinar-making-food-systems-work>.

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.unscn.org/en/news-events/recent-news?idnews=2111>.

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.wphna.org/blog/wphn-congress-2020>.

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.who.int/groups/un-inter-agency-task-force-on-NCDs/guidance-advocacy>.

36. Communication is the vehicle through which coherent nutrition messages can reach wider audiences creating awareness, imparting knowledge, projecting a vision, shaping attitudes, and stimulating action. Outreach to diverse audiences continued throughout 2020 through knowledge products prepared by both the UNSCN and UNN4SUN Secretariats.

37. In 2020, more than 600 new subscribers from all over the world registered to the e-Newsletters and e-Alerts jointly prepared by the UNSCN and UNN4SUN. A total of 16 communications (2 e-Newsletters, 4 e-Events, 10 e-Alerts) were disseminated and read by more than 7'000 individuals. Twitter reached almost 9'000 followers (13% increase); Facebook has 3'500 followers; and LinkedIn has 361. Notable in 2020 was the amount of information forwarded by subscribers: the e-Alert on the launch of *Nutrition in a Digital World*, was forwarded more than 4'000 times. UN-Nutrition news also regularly appeared in the newsletters and briefs of other organizations. Moving forward, the UN-Nutrition website will be launched, and all communications will be delivered under the UN-Nutrition brand.

38. Further ensuring policy coherence for nutrition, in 2020, UN-Nutrition took over UNSCN's role in the CFS Advisory Group, for making certain that nutrition is mainstreamed into CFS work in one coordinated voice. Throughout 2020, the UNSCN Secretariat on behalf of UN-Nutrition actively engaged in major CFS policy processes.

39. With regard to the *Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and other innovative approaches*, formal negotiations were postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, five informal group discussions were organized to explore possibilities for promoting further convergence among stakeholders on the Zero Draft, with UNSCN Secretariat offering consolidated inputs from UN-Nutrition member agencies.

40. As for the *Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN)*, negotiations were also postponed to the second half of the year. Several virtual meetings of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) were organized for CFS stakeholders to share views and proposals. Virtual negotiations were held from September. The VGFSyN were adopted in CFS47 in February 2021. FAO, WHO, WFP, UNICEF, UNEP, UNOCHA, IFAD, IAEA, UNHCR and the Alliance Bioversity-CIAT worked together under the auspices of UN-Nutrition to agree positions and speak as One.

41. UN-Nutrition, through the UNSCN Secretariat, was also an active party of the Technical Task Team created to support the development of the *Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition*, to be adopted in 2022.

42. Lastly, in accordance with ECOSOC decision 218/207, UNSCN submitted its annual report to the 2020 session of ECOSOC, followed by a presentation to the ECOSOC Coordination and Management Meeting (Virtual meeting, June 3rd), highlighting its evolution to UN-Nutrition.

#### **UN-Nutrition Core Function 2: Identify and coordinate strategic issues around nutrition**

43. Progress was made on coordinating strategic issues around nutrition, in particular in emergencies and food systems.

44. UNSCN Members and Secretariat supported the development of a Global Action Plan on Wasting,<sup>35</sup> and followed up closely in 2020 on its progress and adaptations for its implementation in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring updates were incorporated into UNSCN's COVID-19 initiatives.

45. Additionally, the UNSCN Secretariat participated in two workstreams of the Global Nutrition Cluster:<sup>36</sup> The Acute Malnutrition Global Thematic Working Group and the Reference Group on the Use of Cash and Vouchers Assistance for nutrition in humanitarian contexts. On the latter, it participated in the development of the *Evidence and Guidance Note on the Use of Cash and Voucher Assistance for Nutrition Outcomes in Emergencies* that was launched in 2020.<sup>37</sup>

46. With regard to food systems, in 2020, the UNSCN Secretariat remained an active member of the Sustainable Food Systems Programme (SFSP) of the One Planet Network.<sup>38</sup> It served on the Organizing Committee of the Third Global Conference of the SFSP, held online from 25th November to 3rd December 2020. On 30th November, it has co-organized Session 7 “*Leveraging public procurement to accelerate SDG implementation*”, focusing on the huge potential of public food procurement of sustainable school meals for nurturing people and the planet. A call was made for a global framework and action on sustainable school meals leaving no child behind, to be taken forward by the 2021 Food Systems' Summit.

47. Lastly, two discussion papers on strategic food system issues were launched in 2020 and are available in all six official UN languages:

- i. UNSCN Discussion Paper – *Water and Nutrition. Harmonizing actions for the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and the UN Water Action Decade*:<sup>39</sup> This paper analyses the complex web of pathways that link water, food security and nutrition outcomes. It was launched on 13th February 2020 at the *Mediterranean diet's principles for Agenda 2030* event.
- ii. UNSCN Discussion Paper: *Urban-Rural Linkages for Nutrition. Territorial approaches for sustainable development*:<sup>40</sup> Using the UN Habitat 2019 Guiding Principles for Urban-Rural Linkages (URL-GP) and Framework for Action (FfA)<sup>41</sup> as a starting point, the paper presents the opportunities that exist to improve nutrition in the context of urban-rural linkages, and provides input to planners of how nutrition could help to smooth local development along the urban-rural continuum. It was launched during the Tenth Session of the UN-Habitat's World Urban Forum (WUF10) in February 2020.

### **UN-Nutrition Core Function 3: Identify emerging issues, promote and support knowledge management and innovation**

48. Effective knowledge management is central to UN-Nutrition's work. It is not only one of its core functions, but is a key tool to enhance delivery on all its functions, including serving as the UN Network for SUN.

<sup>35</sup> WHO (2020) *Global Action Plan on Child Wasting. Accelerating progress in preventing and managing child wasting and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals*. Available at: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/global-action-plan-on-child-wasting-a-framework-for-action>.

<sup>36</sup> <http://nutritioncluster.net/>.

<sup>37</sup> [https://www.nutritioncluster.net/resource\\_Evidence%20and%20Guidance%20Note](https://www.nutritioncluster.net/resource_Evidence%20and%20Guidance%20Note).

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sustainable-food-systems/about>.

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.unscn.org/en/resource-center/UNSCN-Publications?idnews=2029>.

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.unscn.org/uploads/web/news/document/Urban-rural-linkages-for-nutrition-EN-WEB-OK-Feb.pdf>.

<sup>41</sup> <https://urbanrurallinkages.files.wordpress.com/2019/09/url-gp-1.pdf>.

49. In November 2020, a vision for a demand and needs-driven knowledge management ecosystem, with strong ties between global and country-level efforts, was articulated for UN-Nutrition and endorsed by its members.

50. Country-focused knowledge products were developed in support of the ambition to “deliver as one”. Among these, the second series of the UNN4SUN’s *Tales Be Told*<sup>42</sup> publication was released, capturing good practices, amplifying country voices and showcasing how the UN is working together on nutrition. This second edition recounts 26 country experiences in 22 tales<sup>43</sup> and was structured according to four themes: (1) UNN4SUN people, including interviews with UN Resident Coordinators that highlight their involvement in the national nutrition agenda; (2) UNN4SUN capacity strengthening, particularly of government-led, multi-stakeholder platforms that coordinate nutrition actions; (3) UNN4SUN programming and partnerships, testament to how joint frameworks have translated into joint action; and (4) UNN4SUN analytics, which continue to be in high demand and guide country-level decision making. Other products include country profiles, outlining UNN4SUN country level membership, chairing arrangements, priorities and contributions to the SUN Movement as well as an infographic<sup>44</sup> depicting how nutrition is linked to the seventeen SDGs and its potential to drive sustainable development.

51. With regard to new and emerging nutrition-related issues, *Nutrition in a digital world*<sup>45</sup> was launched in July 2020 as *UNSCN Nutrition #45*, the last issue of the series *UNSCN Nutrition*. The next peer reviewed edition will be published by UN-Nutrition under the new name UN-Nutrition Journal.

52. The choice of the theme was highly praised by the audience. Digital technology, in and of itself, cannot fix the world’s food and nutrition problems, nor mend its dysfunctional food systems. However, once improving nutrition is deemed a priority, digital technologies are important tools. The potential of digital technologies to improve nutrition is phenomenal, but so are the risks that these technologies might entail. The publication features a collection of 20 articles examining the complexity of the digital world for improved nutrition, considering the potential-risk duality in a range of food-system perspectives – from food production, transformation and distribution to digital food marketing and retail; from behavioural change and capacity-building, including through social media, to the generation, processing and use of data; and from the protection of vulnerable groups to issues of inequality and human rights.

53. The theme *Nutrition in a Digital World* was selected long before the world had to face the COVID-19 pandemic. Digitalization has been playing a key role ever since, reinforcing the need to enhance knowledge and further the debate on the potential benefits and adverse impacts of innovative digital technologies in helping to achieve sustainable healthy diets and progressively realize the right to adequate food.

54. To contribute to the debate, the publication’s launch was followed by a series of four webinars – *Webinar series: Nutrition in a Digital World*.<sup>46</sup> All webinars were recorded and are available online. As a next step, UN-Nutrition will set up a Community of Practice (CoP) on Digital Nutrition that will contribute, among others,

<sup>42</sup> <https://bit.ly/3qV5Vbm>.

<sup>43</sup> Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Costa Rica, Gambia, Honduras, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Togo and Zimbabwe.

<sup>44</sup> <https://bit.ly/3fjJoDV>.

<sup>45</sup> <https://www.unscn.org/uploads/web/news/UNSCN-Nutrition-45-WEB.pdf>.

<sup>46</sup> <https://www.unscn.org/en/news-events/upcoming-events?idnews=2121>.

to inform the discussions of the FAO-led International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture.<sup>47</sup>

55. Furthermore, the UNSCN continued hosting and supporting the following thematic nutrition-related CoPs during 2020:

- The ***Accelerated Reduction Effort on Anaemia (AREA) Community of Practice***: Moderation of the group in 2020 was conducted by WHO. The CoP membership continued to grow from 1'012 in 2019 to 1'206 in 2020 with members from over 90 countries. Twitter membership also grew from 336 to 383 in 2020. In 2020, four well-attended webinars were organized on the following topics: Cost-effectiveness of anaemia prevention interventions, on 23rd January; Technological innovations for anaemia prevention programmes, on 21st April; Build back better: anaemia programmes post COVID-19, on 25th June; Food-based approaches to reduce anaemia, on 24th September.
- The ***Nutrition and Noncommunicable Chronic Diseases – e-discussion Forum (NutNCD)***: In 2020, NutNCD reached 1'008 members from 98 countries, as mainly an information sharing platform. In 2020, communications took place on a variety of topics: updates on meetings, publication, commissions and papers, sharing of useful tools, announcements of NCD-related webinars, and of key events such as global meetings and world breastfeeding week.
- The ***School Nutrition Community of Practice***: In January 2020, a new CoP focusing on the topic of school nutrition was activated following a request led by FAO and supported by several partners. The CoP works to progress recommendations from the 2017 UNSCN publication *Schools as a System to Improve Nutrition*<sup>48</sup> and create a platform for cohesive and collaborative action on nutrition in school-based settings. In 2020 the CoP hosted seven dialogues and developed an inventory of UN level guidance and policy documents.<sup>49</sup> Currently the CoP focuses on enhancing UN level policy cohesion. Its expansion to work as a knowledge hub and collaboration platform with a wider membership base is anticipated for 2021. To foster collaboration and cohesion, UNSCN Secretariat has also contributed to the regular UNESCO hosted inter-agency calls on school health and nutrition and the establishment of a Global Status Report on School Health and Nutrition.
- The ***Nutrition, Human Rights and Law Community of Practice*** was established in 2019 and has progressed work during 2020 with knowledge sharing and by developing an overview of members' work: a strategic resource which captures UN level work at the nexus of nutrition, human rights and law. As an offshoot of the work of the UNIATF Nutrition TWG, the CoP also raised awareness of the right to food and human rights-based approaches to ending malnutrition, ensuring legal mechanisms were captured within the UNIATF COVID-19 policy brief and delivering a human rights focused session within the UNIATF's special COVID-19 session.

56. Two additional knowledge products in the form of discussion papers with a global reach were developed during 2020, with the input of UN-Nutrition Members, to contribute to build a robust narrative for healthy sustainable diets: *The role of aquatic foods in sustainable healthy diet*; and *Livestock derived foods and sustainable diets*. They are expected to be launched early 2021.

<sup>47</sup> <http://www.fao.org/news/story/pt/item/1338985/icode/>.

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.unscn.org/uploads/web/news/document/School-Paper-EN-WEB.pdf>.

<sup>49</sup> <https://www.unscn.org/uploads/web/file/School-Nutrition-Inventory-Oct-2020.pdf>.

57. Lastly, in UN-Nutrition's vision, knowledge management includes capturing, analysing and documenting past experiences and learning. To capture the experiences and learnings of UNSCN in its final years between 2016-2020 a publication on the *History of UNSCN* was produced. The piece was based on a combination of desk research and storytelling techniques with key informant interviews, with emphasis on the perspectives of its members.

#### **UN-Nutrition Core Function 4: Translate global level guidance into country-level guidelines, action and impact**

58. To support the process of translating global level guidance into country efforts, UN-Nutrition continued to promote and disseminate the 2017 *UNSCN Guidance Note on Integration of Nutrition* in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), renamed as the *United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF)*. An analysis of 102 out of 165 UNSDCFCS available on the UNSDG website<sup>50</sup> was conducted by the UNSCN Secretariat in 2020 To assess the extent to which nutrition was integrated into UNDAFs and UNSDCFCS since publishing the Guidance Note. Inclusion criteria was a starting date from 2017. Although no reference is made to the guidance note, almost all countries analysed (95%) had nutrition integrated into their UNSDCFCS, with little difference between SUN Movement member countries (100% of nutrition integration) when compared to non-SUN countries reviewed (93% of nutrition integration).

59. Digging deeper on this issue, the UNN4SUN Secretariat continued work on an ongoing desk review that explored *how* nutrition was reflected in the UNSDCF or UNDAF of 12 countries, as part of its efforts to support UN country teams holistically address nutrition. The review sought to document good practices, to obtain insights about barriers and other challenges related to mainstreaming nutrition in these frameworks, and ultimately, to support knowledge sharing so that other countries could benefit from these insights and experiences. The review found that a small number of countries (Burkina Faso, Pakistan and Zimbabwe) positioned nutrition as a standalone outcome in their UNDAFs, while many (60%) included nutrition under health and social services outcomes. All the cooperation frameworks analysed made reference to some kind of multi-stakeholder approach to nutrition and were aligned to at least one Action Area of the Nutrition Decade. The majority (75%) of cooperation frameworks included nutrition indicators, most often stunting, while less than half (45%) acknowledged the multiple burdens of malnutrition. Moving forwards, this suggests that there is scope for UN-Nutrition to promote integrated nutrition responses for tackling the triple burden of malnutrition, better harnessing global expertise for such country planning processes.

#### **Support to the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement**

60. The UNN4SUN made substantial contributions to the SUN Movement, providing a platform for United Nations agencies to better align at the country level and provide joint support to government on nutrition. A total of sixteen agencies, programmes and funds were engaged in country-level UN Networks in 2020 up from five in 2013, when the UN Network was founded. These include: the *FAO*;<sup>51</sup> *IFAD*; the International Organization for Migration (IOM); the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); the United Nations

<sup>50</sup> UNSDG, 2019. United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. Accessed: <https://unsdg.un.org/un-in-action/regional-level>.

<sup>51</sup> The agencies marked in italics are the five founding members of the UNN4SUN.



Population Fund (UNFPA); the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); *UNICEF*; UNOCHA; the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS); UN WOMEN; *WFP*; *WHO*; as well as The World Bank. This expansion in the membership base was in large part driven by: (a) the UNN4SUN Secretariat's outreach to UN leadership; (b) analytical tools,<sup>52</sup> particularly the UN-Nutrition Inventory, that galvanized the agencies and provided consolidated overviews; (c) neutral REACH facilitators where they were present; and (d) communications and knowledge products that brought the merits of collective action into focus.

61. According to self-reported data gathered through the UNN4SUN's annual reporting exercise, continuous functionality gains were observed over the course of SUN 2.0, which unfolded between 2016 and 2020. UN Networks from all 61 SUN countries participated in 2020, constituting a 100% response rate for the second consecutive year. An impressive 95% of country UN Networks were deemed to be 'highly functional' in 2020, compared to 87% in 2018, through the UN Network functionality index, comprised of nine indicators. In addition, the UNN4SUN has proved to be valuable in helping to establish or revitalize other SUN networks, such as the SUN Business Network in Nepal and the Youth Nutrition Champions network in Cambodia, and fostering collaboration between the networks as demonstrated in Chad with the support of REACH facilitators.

62. The 2020 reporting exercise demonstrated other positive trends as well as a sustained high-level of support to SUN Government Focal Points and the government-led multi-stakeholder platforms. For example, there has been an incremental improvement in the frequency with which nutrition is tabled at United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meetings, with 80% of countries reporting they had sometimes, often or always done so in 2020 up from 67% in 2018. A steady rise was also exhibited in efforts to reflect a multi-sectoral approach to nutrition in joint UN frameworks (e.g. UNSDCF, Humanitarian Response Plans), going from 69% in 2016 to 97% in 2020. Furthermore, these efforts to improve multi-sectoral nutrition dialogue and planning within the UN family materialized in increased joint UN programming on nutrition, which was estimated at 84% in 2020 compared to 63% in 2016 when SUN 2.0 was launched. UN Networks in all 61 SUN countries had provided technical support to the SUN Focal Point or other government authorities while 95% had engaged in the multi-stakeholder platform, further affirming the UN's strong footprint in the SUN Movement. Additional information is highlighted in the 2020 UN Network annual report.<sup>53</sup> Finally, the UNN4SUN actively participated in the development of the new SUN strategy that will guide the third phase of the Movement, supported by UN-Nutrition and other stakeholders within the SUN community.

### ***II.3 Actions in direct support of the Nutrition Decade***

63. With just 10 years to achieve the SDGs, in September 2019, the Secretary-General called on all sectors of society to mobilize for a Decade of Action on the SDGs and accelerate efforts on all levels.

64. To respond to the Secretary-General's call and to better capitalize on the opportunity presented by the Nutrition Decade, UN-Nutrition assumed UNSCN's support function as defined in the UNGA resolution 70/259.<sup>54</sup>

<sup>52</sup> Further information available at <https://www.unnetworkforsun.org/unn-analytics>.

<sup>53</sup> <https://bit.ly/3pxN7NG>.

<sup>54</sup> <https://undocs.org/pdf?symbol=en/A/RES/70/259>.



65. As such, UN-Nutrition continued assisting the joint FAO and WHO Nutrition Decade's Secretariat in their leading roles, supporting the Mid-Term Review (MTR) process and enhancing communications and advocacy by moderating the Nutrition Decade's main Twitter feed, highlighting the latest news dedicated webpages<sup>55</sup> and using the UNSCN YouTube channel<sup>56</sup> to disseminate video-based content for related Action Networks.

66. UN-Nutrition Members continue to make progress on meeting prior commitments to the Nutrition Decade, demonstrating the complementarity of their mandates and efforts, with a focus on responding to the COVID-19 pandemic as described in session II.1.

### III. Conclusions

67. In 2020, UNSCN and UNN4SUN engaged in steadily transitioning into a more effective nutrition coordination mechanism with global and country reach in preparation for the go-live of UN-Nutrition Secretariat in January 2021. The new institutional arrangements will be crucial for improving operational efficiencies to support members and countries in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

68. Throughout the year, UN-Nutrition Members and the two Secretariats were largely devoted to supporting nutrition-related COVID-19 response. UN System-wide policy coherence and collaboration between members helped to identify synergies and ways of optimizing available resources. The COVID-19 pandemic showed the strong interlinkages between malnutrition and the risks to be more severely affected by the virus. Moreover, the pandemic highlighted vulnerabilities across the food system that have a negative impact on nutrition outcomes.

69. Hampered by COVID-19, 2020 was a crucial milestone for people and the planet: the start of a 10-year countdown to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UN Secretary-General called for a Decade of Action on the SDGs. Furthering UN System-wide coordination efforts and strengthening policy coherence in nutrition are more important than ever.

70. The mid-way point of the Nutrition Decade was reached in 2020. Dialogues with stakeholders took place in 2020, to assess progress and appraise specific advances, initiatives and partnerships in nutrition over the first five years and to identify focus areas for priority action in its second half, in close alignment to the SDG Decade. Although consultations with Member States and other stakeholders had started in 2020 and a foresight paper was produced, the finalisation of the MTR is postponed until 2021, with a review of the work programme planned.

71. With only five years in which to achieve the World Health Assembly targets to improve maternal, infant and young child nutrition<sup>57</sup> and with a pressing need to transform our food system to enhance access to sustainable healthy diets for all, the MTR discussions around the Nutrition Decade engaged all stakeholders and linked up with other key global processes, such as the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021 to be hosted by the Government of Japan,<sup>58</sup> as well as the 2021 Food Systems

<sup>55</sup> <https://www.unscn.org/en/topics/un-decade-of-action-on-nutrition>.

<sup>56</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCiIfmdnJfHNuJZVZ9ziGQ/featured>.

<sup>57</sup> WHO (n.d.) *Global Targets 2025: To improve maternal, infant and young child nutrition* [online]. <https://www.who.int/nutrition/global-target-2025/en/>.

<sup>58</sup> <https://nutritionforgrowth.org/events/>.

Summit, called by the United Nations Secretary-General to identify and agree on the additional efforts required.

72. The second half of the Nutrition Decade will promote new ways of working together and the establishment of new action networks. It will forge further agreements and SMART<sup>59</sup> commitments by governments and other stakeholders to address all forms of malnutrition, leaving no one behind.

73. In 2021, UN-Nutrition will develop a new multi-year Strategic Plan. Important priorities for 2021 include: (1) Country support: Developing and implementing a coherent and effective approach to support countries on nutrition (UNN4SUN country support functions will be extended to non-SUN countries as relevant). (2) SUN 3.0: Shaping and supporting the operationalisation of the third phase of the SUN Movement, globally and at country level. (3) Ensuring coordinated strategic engagement in key 2021 global policy processes, especially the UN 2021 Food Systems Summit, the Nutrition for Growth Summit and implementation of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines for Food Systems and Nutrition.

74. By its nature, UN-Nutrition will have seamless feedback loops at all levels. The convening capacity will not only enable the development of enhanced knowledge products, but also increased uptake of them at country level. Furthermore, it will be instrumental in building momentum for increased nutrition commitments.

75. Through a clear work focus and the effective delivery of its 4 Core Functions, UN-Nutrition will catalyse the UN System to do much more in support of Member States in 2021 and beyond. UN-Nutrition will make sure the UN System speaks in one coherent and harmonized voice on all occasions, with a strong emphasis in reinforcing nutrition-related actions for sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and supporting food systems transformation for sustainable healthy diets.

76. Food system transformation while building back better from the pandemic is key to improve nutrition, health and well-being which, in turn, are essential steps for ensuring the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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<sup>59</sup> Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-based.