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# **Maternal, infant and young child nutrition**

## **Report on the preparation for the Second International Conference on Nutrition**

**Report by the Secretariat**

### **BACKGROUND**

1. In January 2014, the Executive Board at its 134th session requested the Director-General to report to the Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly on WHO's role and the progress made in the preparation for the Second International Conference on Nutrition.<sup>1</sup> This report describes progress made since the session.
2. The Second International Conference on Nutrition is a high-level intergovernmental meeting on nutrition being organized jointly by FAO and WHO, in collaboration with UNICEF, WFP, UNESCO, the World Bank, IFAD, WTO, the United Nations Secretary-General's High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis and the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition, as well as the International Food Policy Research Institute. The Conference will be held at FAO headquarters in Rome from 19 to 21 November 2014.
3. The Second International Conference on Nutrition will address issues related to all forms of malnutrition, namely undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and overweight and obesity, and will explore how governments and other actors can better work together to address these multiple burdens of malnutrition in a sustainable manner. The aims of the Conference are therefore to: (i) review progress made since the first International Conference on Nutrition in 1992, respond to new challenges and opportunities, and identify policy options for improving nutrition; (ii) bring food, agriculture, health and other sectors together and align their sectoral policies to improve nutrition in a sustainable manner; (iii) propose adaptable policy options and institutional frameworks that can adequately address major nutrition challenges in the foreseeable future; (iv) encourage greater political and policy coherence, alignment, coordination and cooperation among food, agriculture, health and other sectors; (v) mobilize the political will and resources to improve nutrition; and (vi) identify priorities for international cooperation on nutrition in the near and medium terms.

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<sup>1</sup> See decision EB134(2).

## **PROGRESS SINCE JANUARY 2014**

4. Briefings and informal meetings of Member States have been held in both Rome and Geneva to discuss the preparations for the Conference, including development of a draft road map and Conference programme, establishment of an intergovernmental process and the mandate of a joint working group of Member States, and review of a draft political outcome document.

5. The joint working group has been established and is composed of up to two members representing each of the seven FAO regional groups and each of the six WHO regions, as well as two co-chairs and two co-vice-chairs, one of each selected from FAO Members and from WHO Member States. Within the intergovernmental process, the joint working group is tasked with preparing, in cooperation with the FAO/WHO joint secretariat, the draft political outcome document and a draft technical framework for action. The joint secretariat is regularly informing the joint working group on substantive aspects of preparation of the Conference. The meetings of the joint working group, convened by the co-chairs in consultation with the joint secretariat, are held in the six official United Nations languages. Representatives of other FAO Members and WHO Member States are allowed to attend the meetings of the joint working group as observers.

6. The joint working group held formal meetings by video conference on 4 March, 14 April and 30 April 2014 to develop the draft political outcome document. Further meetings are planned on 12 May and in late June 2014. The joint working group will also meet in person in September 2014 to review the draft technical framework for action. In addition, the joint working group will advise the directors-general of FAO and WHO on convening a meeting of an open-ended working group, providing speaking rights to and full participation of the membership of both organizations, for finalization of the draft political outcome document and the draft technical framework for action before the Second International Conference on Nutrition.

7. A zero draft of the political outcome document was prepared by the joint secretariat and translated into the six official languages. Input on the zero draft was provided by members of the joint working group, as well as through a public web consultation involving, inter alia, civil society, the research community, academia, the private sector and international organizations, including organizations of United Nations system, as well as by members of the Steering Committee for the Second International Conference on Nutrition, composed of representatives of FAO, WHO and the collaborating organizations listed in paragraph 2. Around 100 submissions were received. A zero+1 draft of the political outcome document has been prepared by the joint secretariat, incorporating input and comments by members of the joint working group, under the guidance of the co-chairs and co-vice-chairs. The joint secretariat is proactively and collaboratively supporting the joint working group in the performance of its work.

8. It is proposed that the Second International Conference on Nutrition in November 2014 will commence with a general debate with statements from heads of delegations. Three thematic round table discussions will be held in parallel with the plenary session, and nine side events will be organized on topics to be selected from proposals submitted by Member States and organizations of the United Nations system. The draft political outcome document and technical framework for action will also be presented for adoption by the Conference. Invitations to the Conference are being sent jointly by FAO and WHO. Participation is expected at ministerial level.

9. The Second International Conference on Nutrition will be open to participation by non-State actors. Input will be sought through pre-conference events and public consultations on policy documents.

10. The convening of the Conference is not fully resourced and discussions are currently ongoing with potential donors.

**ACTION BY THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

11. The Health Assembly is invited to note the report.

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