



**Statement by Ms. Gerda Verburg, UN Assistant Secretary-General, Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Coordinator<sup>1</sup>;**

WHA75 - agenda item 14.1 follow up to the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases

Honourable chair,

I deliver this statement in my capacity as UN Assistant Secretary-General and Coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, a global movement committed to bring people and sectors together to end malnutrition in all its forms.

Non-communicable diseases are the leading cause of death and disability globally, accounting for about 71% of all annual deaths. Unhealthy diets and the simultaneous occurrence of both undernutrition and overweight and obesity are increasingly driving the prevalence of non-communicable diseases in low and middle income countries, contributing to about 85% of premature deaths. The burden of NCD related mortality and morbidity is higher in LMICs than in developed countries. I applaud the WHO for co-leading the Healthy Diets Coalition.

I also applaud the initiative to develop guidance for Member States on regulatory measures to restrict digital marketing of breastmilk substitutes as breastfeeding is an essential cost-effective, gender sensitive tool to combat malnutrition.

The global impacts of the war on Ukraine, on top of the impacts of the pandemic, are rapidly affecting millions of families' access to nutritious food through increasing food, fuel and fertiliser prices. The cost of addressing malnutrition is rising, yet the economic gains of investing in nutrition are far greater. I call on each one of you to step up your commitments to nutrition to avoid any further setbacks to achieve the WHA Nutrition targets and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you for your attention.

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<sup>1</sup> This statement is delivered by Ms. Gerda Verburg, in her capacity as United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement. The SUN Movement Secretariat is hosted by the United Nations Office for Project Services in Geneva.