

A woman wearing a vibrant green and blue patterned sari with a gold border is smiling warmly while holding a young child. The child is wearing a red and white patterned jacket and blue pants. The background is softly blurred, suggesting an indoor setting.

Commitment-Making Guide

April 2021

TOKYO
**NUTRITION
FOR GROWTH**
SUMMIT 2021

Food, Health, & Prosperity for All



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Glossary of Terms

Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021 – A capstone to the year, the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit in Japan in December 2021 will be hosted by the Government of Japan. The event will convene a cross-section of stakeholders to celebrate the N4G commitments made throughout the year and announce final financial and policy commitments that chart the path toward 2030 with concrete recommendations to the global community.

2021 Compact for Nutrition – An outcome document from the N4G Summit that serves as a global agreement and summarizes conclusions from the N4G Summit, recommendations for action to the global community, and that summarizes the combined ambition of all stakeholders to reach specific nutrition targets by a specified date. The Compact will include an annex that documents all final commitments from all stakeholders.

Core Areas – The Government of Japan has identified three core areas that are critical to achieving the global targets and ending malnutrition in all its forms: (1) making nutrition integral to Universal Health Coverage (UHC); (2) building food systems that promote healthy diets and nutrition, ensure livelihoods of producers and are climate-smart; (3) addressing malnutrition effectively in fragile and conflict affected contexts. Promoting data-driven accountability and securing new investment that drive innovation in nutrition financing are cross-cutting goals of these areas. All N4G commitments will correspond to one or more of these areas.

Thematic Working Groups – Each core area has its own working group that has undertaken a consultative process to identify key priorities in each area and determine relevant specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) commitments in that area.

Constituency Groups – Networks supporting the coordination of engagement and mobilization of commitments across their respective constituency groups and feedback through an Advisory Group, representing: the United Nations (UN); donor governments; civil society; academia; domestic governments; and Scaling Up Nutrition Movement (SUN) countries.

N4G Principles of Engagement – Principles for all stakeholders to abide by to ensure a credible and transparent process, free of conflicts of interest, that will deliver strong and consensus-driven pledges at the N4G Summit.



1. Summary

2020 marked the beginning of a decade-long race towards the deadline of the world's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Continuing the legacy of Nutrition for Growth (N4G), the Government of Japan is focusing the world's attention on one of these goals: SDG 2: Zero Hunger. The Zero Hunger goal includes targets to end all forms of malnutrition by 2030 and ensure that all people have access to safe and nutritious diets all year round.

The Tokyo N4G Summit in Japan in December 2021 under the auspices of the Government of Japan provides a historic opportunity to transform the way the world tackles the global challenge of malnutrition. The Summit comes at a critical time, midway through the United Nations (UN) Decade of Action on Nutrition, with only four years left to achieve the World Health Assembly (WHA) targets on maternal, infant, and young child nutrition, and nine years to reach the SDGs.

Reaching these targets will require a considerable scale up in global investment in nutrition: one in three people around the world struggle with at least one form of malnutrition—undernutrition, obesity, overweight, or micronutrient deficiencies—and current trends project that one in two people will be malnourished by 2025 (The Global Nutrition Report, 2018). Countries, donors, the private sector, and civil society are stepping up to find innovative ways to drive progress, yet action needs to be rapidly accelerated. Global and national-level targets need to be converted into clear and meaningful commitments and actions for which those making commitments can be held accountable.

This N4G Commitment-Making Guide is written for all stakeholders who can contribute toward achieving the global nutrition goals and targets. The Government of Japan encourages a diverse set of constituency groups to take part, including national governments, donors, multilaterals, philanthropic organizations, civil society organizations, businesses of all sizes, and business associations. This Guide provides the tools and resources to prepare a specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) pledge in advance of the Summit. It draws on work already undertaken by the global nutrition community to guide governments, donors, businesses, and civil society organizations looking to make a meaningful commitment as part of the Summit.

Section two

Outlines the opportunity that the Summit presents.

Section three

Summarizes who can make commitments, what a SMART commitment looks like, and how to develop a commitment. The section will contain the N4G Principles for Engagement for the 2021 Summit.

Section four

Summarizes next steps.

Section five

Summarizes resources for the three core areas which the Government of Japan has prioritized:

1. Integrating nutrition into Universal Health Coverage (UHC); and
2. Building food systems that promote safe, sustainable and healthy diets that support people and planetary health; and
3. Effectively addressing malnutrition in fragile and conflict affected contexts, supporting resiliency.

2. Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021: The Opportunity

Winning the race to end malnutrition in all its forms by 2030 requires a transformation of health, food, and social protection systems to deliver better health, nutrition, and diets. A targeted focus on tackling undernutrition, as well as action to reverse the global epidemics of obesity and diet-related disease, are urgently needed to fuel human capital. Above all, winning the race requires that the world prioritize the nutritional needs of the most vulnerable.

Commitment-making is at the heart of the Summit. It is proven that investing in nutrition is one of the best buys in global health and development: for every \$1 invested in nutrition, \$16 is returned to the local economy (Horton and Hoddinott, 2014). Yet not enough is being invested and the need could not be more urgent—growing demands on our food system and our planet mean we are facing the irreversible loss of not only human capital, but also of natural resources and energy. Climate change is one of the greatest challenges today and has complex interlinkages with both obesity and undernutrition. Diets are changing, while the food system continues to be the biggest contributor to greenhouse gases (Wilton et al, 2019).

The last decade has brought greater recognition of the importance of investing in nutrition. In 2012, at the WHA, 194 countries agreed to the first-ever set of global nutrition targets. These targets are set to expire in 2025, four years beyond the Summit in Tokyo in 2021. At the first N4G Summit in London in 2013, 110 stakeholders committed over \$4 billion to tackle undernutrition and \$19 billion in complementary nutrition-sensitive investments, to prevent at least 20 million children from being stunted and save at least 1.7 million lives by 2020. In 2015, as part of the SDGs, world leaders committed to ending all forms of malnutrition by 2030. In 2016, at the UN General Assembly, the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition was launched as a tool for all actors to set, track, and achieve commitments to end all forms of malnutrition and the Government of Brazil hosted a second N4G moment. At the Global Nutrition Summit in Milan in 2017, governments, civil society organizations, philanthropic organizations, and the private sector made policy commitments and pledged \$3.4 billion in financial commitments. Today, 61 countries lead the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement.

The Summit will be a high-level event hosted by the Government of Japan to celebrate the N4G commitments made throughout the year and announce final financial and policy commitments, charting the path toward 2030 with concrete recommendations to the global community. The outcomes of the Summit will be enshrined in the 2021 Compact designed to accelerate the achievement of the objectives of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and the SDGs.

To optimize resources and build on existing and expiring commitments, the Summit in Tokyo in December 2021 will focus efforts on three core areas. Governments, business, multilateral, donors, and other development partners are encouraged to make financial, policy, programmatic, or impact commitments covering one or more of them (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Commitment areas.

Core Areas		
<p>Health: Making nutrition integral to UHC because investing in nutrition services as part of health systems can lead to greater well-being and more equitable development.</p>	<p>Food: Building food systems that promote healthy diets and nutrition, ensure livelihoods of producers, and are climate-smart because the way the world produces and consumes foods impacts people and planet.</p>	<p>Resilience: Effectively addressing malnutrition in fragile and conflict-affected contexts because people impacted by violence and instability are especially vulnerable to malnutrition and young children in these settings need special attention.</p>
Cross-Cutting Themes	<p>Data: Promoting data-driven accountability because better data, measurement, and accountability is essential to facilitate more effective commitments to nutrition and to drive equitable progress to leave no one behind.</p>	
	<p>Financing: Securing significant increases in domestic financing and other, innovative financing are central to the Compact.</p>	

The Government of Japan’s Vision and Roadmap for the Summit will be made available on the [SUN website](#). For more information on commitment-making please visit the [N4G website](#).

3. Principles of Engagement

Introduction

The N4G Summit to be held in Tokyo in December 2021 is a reset opportunity: it marks the end date for commitments made at the original N4G Summit in 2013 and leaves us nine years to deliver the SDGs in 2030. The Summit in December 2021 therefore intends to mobilize ambitious and wide-reaching multi-stakeholder commitments to transform food systems and health systems to deliver substantial nutrition gains. Concerted and coordinated action from policymakers, civil society, and business is needed to address the complex challenge of ending malnutrition in all its forms.

Malnutrition in all its forms is a global emergency affecting more than one in three people, and the Principles of Engagement are designed to open up dialogue and facilitate bold, new and imaginative commitments or pledges, backed by well worked out implementation plans, with targets and with SMART measurements.

These Principles of Engagement were developed over several months of consultations with input from governments, international organizations, civil society, and business. The success of N4G depends on robust participation from all those stakeholders who shape food systems. The principles are designed to mobilize all these stakeholders and identify solutions and commitments to meeting the Summit goals based on a shared vision, ambition, and identification of common ground.

While some recommendations by their nature are specific to different types of stakeholders, the underpinning values and core principles apply equally to all. Thus to ensure that the Summit delivers credible, sustainable, and well-supported outcomes for nutrition via public and private sector action, stakeholder consultations, and participation at the Summit is based on this set of agreed principles. The accountability section in this guide describes the Summit's monitoring and accountability processes.

Preamble

These principles are designed both to reflect the SUN Principles of Engagement while elaborating how they will be applied at the Summit.

1 Be transparent about intentions and impact	6 Be cost-effective
2 Be inclusive	7 Be continuously communicative
3 Be rights based	8 Act with integrity and in an ethical manner
4 Be willing to negotiate	9 Be mutually respectful
5 Be predictable and mutually accountable	10 Do no harm

1. The process of developing commitments must engage a wide range of actors in open and transparent consultation

- Commitments should be developed from the outset using a consultative process based on open dialogue and a collaborative spirit with all relevant stakeholders involved including the private sector, governments, multilateral organizations, and civil society. This also includes commitments from business membership organizations (e.g. business associations) as a means of resetting norms and achieving scale.
- The consultation process should also enable stakeholders to voice their concerns about public policy proposals and business contributions, and discuss how public policies or business contributions encourage rather than undermine public health objectives.
- The consultation process is intended to serve as a safe space in which the integrity of different positions is respected, and to motivate stakeholders to take action.
- The consultation process will prioritize the inclusion of a diverse set of stakeholders throughout the process in order to create the best opportunity for a strong set of recommendations from the consultation process. This includes trying to prioritize perspectives of people with different experiences, which can include but is not limited to things such as gender identity, race, and class.
- Outcomes of consultations should be shared with other Summit stakeholders.

2. All stakeholders' commitments need to be SMART and significant

- Stakeholders should only be allowed to contribute commitments that are SMART, designed to meaningfully contribute to achieving internationally agreed goals, targets, strategies, and standards on nutrition.
- As for all other stakeholders, commitments from businesses or business associations should be appropriate to their size/membership, and primarily strive to mainstream good practices within their core business in addition to any 'corporate social responsibility' programs. At the Summit, all commitments should clearly be more ambitious than 'business-as-usual' and illustrate how that is so.
- All stakeholders must commit at the outset to reporting on their progress towards these SMART commitments fully and publicly, on an annual basis, through existing mechanisms or by actively participating in existing accountability mechanisms wherever possible. If such mechanisms don't exist, the partners should commit to creating them as part of this process.
- The criteria listed in this principle are further outlined in this guide.

3. Public policy must be evidence-based, established by governments through inclusive participatory processes

- Organizers of consultations on public policy recommendations/commitments should provide a safe space to consider policy options and voice concerns. These consultations must be conducted in a way that protects policy recommendations from undue influence of or interference from financial interests, and focus on evidence-based approaches.
- All stakeholders participating in public policy commitment consultations should be transparent about their interests and positions. They should only be invited by governments to participate if they are prepared to share their contribution publicly via their organizational websites and/or other transparency mechanisms.
- The outcomes of the consultations on public policy recommendations should be shared with other Summit stakeholders by the organizers of the consultations. The finalization of the public policy commitments is the responsibility of governments.

4. Breast milk substitute (BMS) manufacturers need to commit to an action plan to achieve full compliance with the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes (the Code) by 2030, both in policy and practice.

- Consideration will be given to inviting BMS companies to the Summit if they:
 - o Show evidence of having taken a first step that goes above and beyond the company's current policy commitments and practice before the start of the Summit; and
 - o State publicly a commitment to work towards full compliance with the Code and subsequent relevant WHA resolutions by 2030 in terms of both policy and practice; and
 - o Set out publicly a clear published action plan, with milestones, and agree to its progress being independently monitored and the results published.
- The Meridian Working Group is the platform for discussion between civil society, BMS companies, and UN organisations on the action plans. Assessment of whether proposed action by a BMS company is a meaningful step forward will be undertaken by the Japanese government with advice from the Access to Nutrition Foundation.

5. Excluded companies or industries cannot represent their business associations at the Summit

- Business associations that have members from excluded industries or companies (based on UNICEF criteria, such as arms and tobacco; see Annex) can participate in the Summit to deliver commitments that meet SMART criteria, but cannot be represented by these excluded members or by companies that do not meet the criteria outlined in principle four.

Read the appendix: [Conventions, goals, targets, strategies, and standards on diets and nutrition](#)

4. Making a Good Commitment

Who can make a commitment?

The Global Nutrition Report has developed comprehensive guidance on Commitment Registration which you can find [here](#). The Government of Japan invites all stakeholders and constituency groups working to improve nutrition outcomes for people across the world to make commitments. This includes:

1. Government ministries and bodies—particularly Ministries that are mandated to work on nutrition, including Ministries of Finance and Planning, Health, Agriculture, Education, and Social Protection.
2. Donor governments, multilateral, international, and philanthropic organizations.
3. Civil society organizations working on delivering nutrition programs or improving nutrition policy, communications, and consumer behavior change.
4. Private sector and business—business and consumer associations, multinational corporations, and small and medium enterprises involved in producing, packaging, retailing, and marketing food products.

What is a commitment?

The guidance in this chapter has been prepared by the N4G Accountability Working Group and consolidates the most important take-aways from the Global Nutrition Report Guidance Note on Making Smarter Commitments to Nutrition Action and MQSUN+ Guidelines for Nutrition Commitment ‘SMARTness’ Assessment. Commitments can be programmatic, policy, or financial, supporting progress toward global nutrition goals and targets. Meeting global nutrition targets requires converting commitments into clear actions for which governments, businesses, civil society organizations, and philanthropic organizations can be held accountable. Commitments that meet this standard must also meet four key criteria:

1. Be SMART;
2. Align with national priorities, per the questions below;
3. Align with the N4G Principles for Engagement, as outlined in the next chapter; and
4. Align with the accountability framework.

SMART pledges

Specific: Each commitment should identify a specific action and indicate who is responsible for achieving it.

Measurable: Pledges should include an indicator to enable measuring progress and achievement of the commitment. Quantifiable indicators are easier to monitor and should indicate the baseline where relevant and possible.

Achievable: Commitments should, at a minimum, be consistent with the level of progress achieved in the past. They should be as ambitious as possible, but mindful of the limits of what can be delivered in a realistic timeframe.

Relevant: Pledges should reflect the nutritional priorities and challenges relevant to the context (at regional, national, or global levels) and be based on levels of progress achieved in the past.

Time-Bound: Commitments should have a realistic timeframe for achievement and specify key milestones to be achieved within that time. Commitments should cover more than one calendar or fiscal year and be tracked and reported against annually. The process for holding pledge holders to account

will be further defined during Summit preparations (see Table 1 on page 11).

How to develop SMART commitments and align them with national priorities

In formulating commitments, country governments and all constituency group pledgers are encouraged to review existing national nutrition policy and programs and consult with other nutrition stakeholders. It is important to **balance national and sector priorities**. Where possible, this means aligning sector plans with national priorities to tackle the most pressing malnutrition challenges for each country or region. To do this, it is important to **analyze barriers to progress for nutrition** and review evidence on how to overcome those barriers. Please consider the questions below as relevant criteria to develop strong commitments that align with national priorities:

1. Does the pledge contribute to a SUN-endorsed National Nutrition Plan or goal and is it multi-sectoral (including nutrition-specific and -sensitive commitments)?
2. Is the pledge an improvement on the current policy and enabling environment?
3. Does the pledge increase scale, scope, or ambition of current programming?
4. Does the pledge include women and under-represented groups (e.g., youth, women, and girls) in development and planning and/or include plans to reach the most marginalized groups?
5. If the pledge includes a financial commitment, is this new money? Does the pledge include a plan to raise and disburse those finances?
6. If the pledge includes a policy commitment, is this a new or improved policy? Does the pledge include a plan to finance this policy?
7. Is the pledge cost-effective (in line with economic models and evidence)?
8. Does the pledge consider the differentiated impacts that their commitment may have on all individuals of all genders and the role that gender has in determining nutrition outcomes?
9. Is the pledge aligned with:
 - SDG targets 2.2 (malnutrition in all its forms) and 3.4 (non-communicable diseases (NCDs));
 - WHA targets on undernutrition, breastfeeding, NCD, or obesity; or
 - The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) Framework for Action?

If the answer to many of the above questions is yes, then it is likely that the pledge can offer significant value at the Summit and contribute to reaching the global nutrition goals. Prior to the Summit, the Government of Japan will prepare a comprehensive questionnaire for all stakeholders to complete in order to 'register' a commitment. It will also be important to align the pledge with an agreed set of principles for commitment-making, per the Principles of Engagement (see previous section).

Summit Principles of Engagement

To ensure that the Summit delivers credible, sustainable, and well-supported outcomes for nutrition via public and private sector action, stakeholder consultations, and participation at the Summit must be based on a set of agreed Principles of Engagement. These principles reflect the SUN Principles of Engagement and support member states to deliver actionable and trackable commitments.

Table 1: Examples of SMART Commitments¹

Commitment type	Commitment	Specific action	Responsible party	Measurable	Baseline	Timeline
Impact	Reduce stunting in children under age five from 28% in 2020 to 20% by 2030.	Accelerate scale up of National Nutrition Action Plan and nutrition-specific and-sensitive interventions.	Ministries of Health and Agriculture from country government.	Prevalence of stunting, underweight, low birth weight, anemia in children age under five.	28%.	9-10 years.
Financial	Commit and invest \$600 million by 2030.	Multi-Phase Project approach focusing on the first 1,000 days and most vulnerable population groups.	Ministries of Finance and Planning, Health and Agriculture from country government.	Allocation and disbursement of funds across line ministries and programs.	Current nutrition budget – including nutrition sensitive budget line if available.	9-10 years.
Programmatic	To treat acute malnutrition in children under five in all areas of the country.	Ensuring 100% of treatment centers are equipped with management kits. Roll out communications plans in community health centers.	Donor or philanthropic organization in partnership with local civil society organizations.	Number of acute malnutrition cases successfully treated.	Acute malnutrition prevalence rates.	All cases to be treated within 9-10 years.
Policy	Develop a multi-sectoral breastfeeding policy in line with the Code.	Strengthen existing policies and plans, set up regional breastfeeding committees, budget line analysis, and implementation plan.	Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, with input from National Industry Associations.	Does the policy align all key sectors? Is it costed? Does it have an implementation plan? Include breastfeeding targets.	Current breastfeeding policies and regulation.	To be fully implemented in 9-10 years.

¹ Examples are taken from the Global Nutrition Report Guidance Note on Making Smarter Commitments to Nutrition Action and MQSUN+ Guidelines for Nutrition Commitment ‘SMARTness’ Assessment, PATH, August 2018.

5. Making a Pledge – Next steps

Where and when to make a pledge

Pledges can be made at the Summit and will be lodged in the Compact. Pledges can be made at any point in 2021.

How will pledges be tracked?

Government pledges will be tracked using existing mechanisms where possible: donor financial pledges will be tracked using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) databases; government commitments will be lodged on the UN Decade of Action commitment repository held by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); discussions are underway to agree upon monitoring mechanisms for business and civil society organizations commitments. Data verification will form a part of this process and will be fully detailed at a later date.

The process of developing commitments

The process of identifying bottlenecks and priorities should be consensus driven. **Constituency groups supporting the mobilization process—governments, civil society, business, development actors, and other actors—are encouraged to consider how pledges contribute towards harmonization across sectors.** Often, existing coordination platforms and national planning processes have considered these various perspectives and can be drawn upon in making a pledge. To hold stakeholders accountable for commitments made at the Summit and enshrined in the 2021 Compact, an accountability framework will be developed with key indicators linked to the criteria above. Existing mechanisms such as the Global Nutrition Report, the UN Decade of Action and the Access to Nutrition Initiative provide potential methods to track 2021 commitments.

For more information

The N4G website will be updated with additional information throughout 2021: please keep an eye out for how to register commitments, and who to contact for technical assistance. If you have questions in the meantime, please send them to nutritionforgrowth@gmail.com.



6. Commitment Guidance for Each Core Area

Integrating nutrition into Universal Health Coverage

Healthy populations are central to sustainable development. Without good health, children cannot learn, people cannot work productively, and societies cannot prosper. Meaningful progress towards good health for all and the health-related SDGs will not be possible unless all people can access the health services they need, when they need them, without risk of financial ruin or impoverishment—particularly those most left behind. This is what is meant by UHC.

At its core, UHC has three dimensions: who is covered; what is covered; and what portion of the cost is covered. As countries implement their national health plans and UHC roadmaps, their journeys are marked by incremental expansions across each of these three dimensions: (1) expanding the population that has access to health care; (2) expanding the package of quality health services; and (3) reducing out-of-pocket payments, such as user fees, which currently push 100 million people into poverty each year. This serves as the foundation on which UHC achieves its objectives of equity, quality, and financial risk protection. As a result, UHC protects communities from shock during times of crisis and cultivates prosperous and healthy societies and economies.

Nearly one in three people around the world has at least one form of malnutrition—namely, undernutrition (including stunting, wasting, and micronutrient deficiencies), overweight, obesity, or diet-related NCDs (WHO, 2017). The consequences of malnutrition in all its forms for health and development are significant.

The objectives of UHC cannot be achieved unless nutrition actions are integrated into primary, secondary, and tertiary health care service platforms, as well as across each of the areas of prevention of ill-health, health promotion, and curative, rehabilitative, and palliative care. This is because a person's nutritional status is inextricable from their health status: malnutrition increases the risk of getting ill, staying ill, and dying of illness. Similarly, people who are ill are more likely to become malnourished and therefore require nutrition assessment and, if necessary, adequate quality nutrition support when presenting to health services.

Both undernutrition and obesity can promote themselves and their adverse health effects across the life-course and across generations, fueling the rising burden of NCDs. Populations that do not achieve their full productive potential limit the competitiveness of countries and encumber societies with the costs of treating and managing malnutrition. This results in an annual cost of almost \$3.5 trillion globally, with overweight and obesity comprising \$500 billion of this cost (Global Nutrition Report, 2018).

Integrating nutrition actions into national health plans and UHC roadmaps, with a focus on those most left behind, contributes to equity in health, including through improving access to essential services. Generally, wealthier and urban populations are more likely to access nutrition interventions, especially in low- and middle-income countries. Reducing or eliminating out-of-pocket expenditures and other barriers to access nutrition interventions assures everyone can obtain quality, timely, and safe health and nutritional care.

Nutrition investments improve not only nutrition outcomes, but also health outcomes more broadly. Scaling up coverage of 10 nutrition-specific interventions to 90% in 34 high-burden countries was projected to save 900,000 lives, reduce under-five mortality by 15%, including a 35% reduction in diarrhea-specific mortality, 29% in pneumonia-specific mortality, and 39% in measles-specific mortality (Bhutta et al, 2013).

Importantly, addressing the challenge of malnutrition requires coherent action beyond the health sector, though with health sector stewardship. This includes: increasing access to safe drinking water, hygiene, and sanitation; improving food safety and equity in the food supply chain; providing social protection; well-designing and effectively implementing nutrition education; investing in nutrition-sensitive trade and public interventions to increase the diversity of household food production and consumption; promoting early childhood development; protecting human rights; strengthening governance and accountability for nutrition; and combating climate change, which exacerbates issues of food insecurity in vulnerable areas.

Good health and sustainable development are not possible without good nutrition, and UHC is not possible without integrating nutrition actions into national health plans. The Summit, falling in mid-term of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025), will position nutrition as an essential driver of sustainable development and secure new policy and financial commitments to act on malnutrition. This is an opportunity not to be missed to promote nutrition as an essential component of UHC, including through scaling up comprehensive and integrated nutrition services that support the goal of achieving UHC, health-related SDGs, and sustainable development more broadly.

In the lead up to and at the Summit, commitments may be made toward ensuring that nutrition is an essential component of UHC. Commitments should:

- 1. Reinforce nutrition as a pillar for UHC;**
- 2. Be tailored to the country context**, including the health needs of that population and the full package of essential health services required to meet these needs, as well as specific considerations relating to fragile and conflict-affected states, emergency settings, and the humanitarian-development nexus;
- 3. Be evidence-based and align with the WHO's proven effective Essential Nutrition Actions** (Annex 1), as well as the World Bank's Essential Universal Coverage (EUC) interventions and Highest-Priority Package (HPP) lists involving nutrition;
- 4. Prioritize the nutrition needs of the poorest and most vulnerable populations** by leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest behind first, in line with the SDG promise;
- 5. Cover the whole life-course and periods most sensitive to good nutrition**, including the first 1,000 days, adolescence, pregnancy, and old age, through the health sector as a critical entry point that should be leveraged to maximize health and nutrition outcomes;
- 6. Account for the co-existence of multiple forms of malnutrition** within the same individual, families, communities, and nations;
- 7. Focus on equity, quality and financial risk protection;** and
- 8. Be SMART.**

The following table provides a list of generic commitments that decision-makers, governments, and other stakeholders can make in the different pillars of health systems. They are meant to inspire but need to be SMARTened by the respective stakeholder. A detailed list of examples of SMART commitments has been developed by the N4G working group on nutrition in UHC, arranged by the six health system pillars and by constituency, providing the rationale, list of key documents, and indicators to monitor commitments. This information can be found on the N4G website.

Read the appendix: [Mobilizing commitments for transformative change: UHC](#)

Table 2: Examples UHC Commitments

Stakeholder	Example commitment		
	Strengthening governance for a comprehensive approach to UHC that integrates essential nutrition actions into service delivery	Strengthening inputs to support delivery of a comprehensive approach to UHC that integrates essential nutrition actions	Financing delivery of a comprehensive approach to UHC that integrates essential nutrition actions
Governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate WHO Essential Nutrition Actions into the package of essential health services as part of national health plans and UHC roadmaps. Ensure national UHC plans that integrate nutrition are aligned with national multi-sectoral nutrition plans as part of a 'health in all policies' approach with nutrition at the heart. Increase the effective coverage of essential nutrition actions through the health system, with a focus on reaching those most left behind. Ensure a basic health insurance scheme, including through private providers, national health plans, and UHC roadmaps that integrate essential nutrition actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure health workers are properly trained on the integrated delivery of nutrition interventions across the life-course and that they receive integrated, supportive supervision and mentoring that builds capacity to deliver these interventions. Ensure that essential, quality-assured nutrition-related health products are available, affordable, accessible, and properly administered through the health system, including through including in national essential medicines lists. Ensure that national health information systems include indicators to track the coverage and quality of essential nutrition actions and provide early warning of nutrition emergencies and develop capacity to use this information for decision-making. Allocate domestic resources to deliver integrated essential nutrition actions in national health plans, in terms of an annual amount per year or as a proportion of a final costed plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocate domestic resources to deliver integrated essential nutrition actions in national health plans, in terms of an annual amount per year or as a proportion of a final costed plan.
Donor agencies and research funders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest an established number of millions of dollars in technical assistance to governments to support a country-led, comprehensive approach to UHC that integrates essential nutrition actions. Help fill a financial gap of an established number of millions of dollars in research and evidence generation, surveillance, analysis, and use of data capacity to support countries to follow an evidence-based path to taking a comprehensive approach to UHC that integrates essential nutrition actions. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that all investments in health systems strengthening and health service delivery supports the integration and delivery of essential nutrition actions included in the package of essential health services.
UN and multilateral agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and update normative guidance and other global public goods to support countries to take a comprehensive approach to UHC that integrates essential nutrition actions (WHO, UNICEF, UN Population Fund (UNFPA), World Bank, and others). Ensure technical assistance to governments supports the development of a country-led, comprehensive approach to UHC that integrates essential nutrition actions (WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, and others). Strengthen cross-agency coordination and coherence through the SDG3+ Global Action Plan to ensure a joined-up approach to supporting a country-led, comprehensive approach to UHC that integrates essential nutrition actions (WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, Global Fund, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and others). 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incentivize countries to use Gavi and Global Fund funding proposals to request financial assistance to deliver integrated essential nutrition actions in national health plans, including through investing a specified amount of millions of dollars in technical assistance and partnerships for this purpose.
Civil society organizations and academia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for countries to pursue a comprehensive approach to UHC that integrates essential nutrition actions. Implement activities to support the delivery of a comprehensive approach to UHC that integrates essential nutrition actions, including research by academic actors. Support community demand-generation for preventative essential nutrition actions as part of health service delivery platforms. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for the allocation of domestic resources and international financing to deliver integrated essential nutrition actions in country health plans.
Private sector actors		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and bring to market low-cost solutions for nutrition-related health products, diagnostics, and technologies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide innovative private-sector financing to deliver integrated essential nutrition actions in country health plans.

Building food systems: Promoting safe, sustainable, and healthy diets that support people and planetary health

Our food systems are failing us. They are not delivering affordable, sustainable healthy diets to help us meet our nutrition needs. Nearly 151 million children are stunted globally, 20 million babies are born at a low birthweight each year and one third of all women of reproductive age are anemic (The Global Nutrition Report, 2018). At the same time, overweight and obesity among adults, adolescents and children are rising to record levels globally. The vast majority—88%—of countries are now experiencing a ‘double burden’ of at least two types of malnutrition.

Stresses on the global food system will continue given other critical factors, such as climate change, conflict, and natural resource degradation. Climate projections at 2°C warming suggest an additional 540-590 million people will be undernourished and another 4.8 million stunted children globally by 2050 (Ebi et al, 2018). Climate models estimate more than 500,000 additional deaths in 2050 due to climate-related changes in diets (Springmann et al, 2016). These projections mean that food systems will be forced to adapt, requiring a scale up of investment in climate-sensitive agriculture and technology. Currently, food systems generate between 19% and 29% of total greenhouse gas emissions worldwide—a trend that cannot continue in context of climate projections.

As a result, building our food systems is essential to support people and planetary health now and in the future. The food system needs to make it possible for all consumers to make healthy decisions in every market in the world. Building policy dialogue around action plans for improved diets requires a robust and scaled up engagement between business and government at the country level. This transformation is too large for any one stakeholder to deliver, so it is essential that all stakeholders from various sectors come together and work together to help make this happen (see Table 3 on page 17).

Read the appendix: Mobilizing commitments for transformative change: Food Systems



Table 3: Examples Food System Commitments

Stakeholder	Core area	Why does this matter	Example commitments
Government	Develop and publish 'Whole of Government' Food System Nutrition Action Plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shift entire food system toward more nutritious outcomes with an awareness of synergies and trade-offs with livelihoods and environment. Prioritize actions setting out roles and mutually supportive actions of key stakeholders. Improve the accessibility of safe nutritious diets in line with National Food Based Dietary Guidelines (e.g. a set of policies—subsidies, taxes, public procurement, labelling, public awareness campaigns). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specified governments commit to publish a Food System Action Plan by the end of 2021, with a small set of SMART targets and a commitment to monitoring them.
Business	Establish Investor Coalition with a clear set of expectations around nutrition, tracked by the Access to Nutrition Index (ATNI) and other civil society organizations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Businesses are incentivized by investor priorities. The greater the clarity and the stronger the coalition, the more influential they can be in getting businesses to do more for nutrition because investors recognize the value of rewarding companies for producing healthier foods and mitigating risks associated with unhealthy diets and environmental degradation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specified investors join a coalition that clearly spells out the expectations of businesses in SMART metrics.
	Business sign up to a Responsible Food Business Pledge .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Companies are key influencers of the food system. Those who are not interested in advancing nutrition will find it harder to sustain their position with customers, investors, and employees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specified companies sign up to a pledge that promotes progress in areas such as demand creation, product quality, workforce, supply chain, and adherence to the N4G Principles of Engagement.
	Businesses (food and non-food) sign up to a Workforce Nutrition Pledge supported by a Workforce Nutrition Alliance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large companies employ thousands of people in their headquarters and throughout the value chains they support. Improving their employees' and partners' diet and nutrition is a good business investment in terms of productivity, wellbeing, and turnover. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specified companies sign up to a workforce nutrition pledge that has SMART commitments in several categories (access to affordable nutritious diets, nutrition information, breastfeeding facilities, wellness checks, and others).
	Scale up the ability of the SUN Business Network (SBN) and/or other similar networks to advance nutrition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most low- and middle-income consumers in low- and middle-income countries rely on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the food system for access to safe nutritious diets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trebling of SBN membership by 2022 by number/country. Independently documented examples of value added to nutrition from each SBN network by 2022. Increase in membership of SMEs to specified business networks by 2022.
	Action Plans or other similar networks.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in membership of SMEs to specified business networks by 2022.
Public Sector Donors/ Philanthropic Organizations	Establish an Alliance on Sustainable and Healthy Diet Food Demand Creators to consolidate efforts to promote healthy and sustainable food choices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To boost demand for nutritious food, investment is needed in research and evidence to pilot/test evidence-based solutions and create a learning platform to share evidence and "what works." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specified donors and stakeholders sign up to funding and participating in this by 2021.
	Invest \$100-\$150 million to leverage a \$1 billion of private investment in a Nutritious Foods Finance Facility to increase access to safe nutritious food.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SMEs that produce, distribute, store, transform, market, and retail nutritious foods face significant financial constraints in terms of credit and investment. Blended finance (a combination of public and private) is needed to unlock private sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The allocation of \$100-150 million to a Nutritious Food Finance Facility for SMEs by public funders by 2021 and a commitment from private investors of \$1 billion by 2025.
UN	Support international bodies (i.e. the Committee on World Food Security) and governments to integrate the Guiding Principles for Sustainable, Healthy Diets into relevant texts, policies, and programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Without implementation of the Guiding Principles of Sustainable, Healthy Diets, it is difficult to link actions to ideal nutrition outcomes in a country. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAO ensures that the Guiding Principles for Sustainable, Healthy Diets are integrated into the 2020 UN Secretary General's report on Population, Food Security and Nutrition, and Sustainable Development. By June 2021, FAO has developed a tool to assess sustainable healthy diets, including a score to measure the adherence of the population to sustainable healthy diets in at least four countries and two regions.
	Facilitate, support and advocate for the collection, sharing, and dissemination of data to inform food systems analysis and policy development for physical and affordable access to sustainable, healthy diets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data describing all facets of a food system informs policy and business leaders to identify strengths and weaknesses in food systems for nutrition and to formulate actions to advance nutrition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By June 2021, FAO has filled the FAO/WHO Global Individual Food Consumption Data Tool (GIFT) with 25 additional datasets of individual quantitative food consumption data. By December 2021, FAO has merged the FAO knowledge platforms on food loss and waste into one single platform.

Promoting resilience: Addressing malnutrition effectively in fragile and conflict affected contexts

In recent years, conflict and climate shocks have emerged as the biggest drivers of the global rise in hunger (FAO et al, 2018). 60% of the world's hungry people live in places affected by fragility and conflict, while 13 of 19 states identified as being in protracted crises by the FAO have consistently remained at the bottom of the Global Hunger Index. Given these trends, it is not surprising that more children are at risk of death due to concurrent wasting and stunting in fragile contexts (McDonald et al, 2013), and there is a greater burden of wasting and stunting coexisting in young children and pregnant women who are exposed to conflict (Global Nutrition Report, 2018). Good nutrition is central to improving the survival and resilience of people and communities, and therefore it is central to achieving long-term development and stability.

To achieve the 2030 goal of ending malnutrition in all its forms, leaving no one behind, investments in nutrition must benefit the most vulnerable groups in fragile contexts. This will save lives, protect livelihoods, and build resilience to the growing number of shocks caused by climate extremities. The Summit is a pivotal opportunity to reach the furthest behind first, and improve nutrition progress through pledges to:

1. Address financing gaps and provide flexible multi-year financing to allow earlier responses to mitigate and respond to potential nutrition crises and to tackle the drivers of malnutrition;
2. Adapt basic services to prevent, treat, and manage malnutrition at scale; and
3. Improve coordination and the division of responsibilities between humanitarian and development actors, while being sensitive to the local context.

What does a good commitment look like for resilience in fragile and conflict-affected contexts?

Pledges should sit within one or more of the four following areas:

- 1. Risk informed and responsive policies and plans.** Donor and recipient governments are encouraged to commit to nutrition policies and multi-year plans that set collective targets to sustainably reduce malnutrition by addressing chronic needs, underlying social, political, and climate-related risks, and scaling up in response to shocks. Plans should also define a coherent division of responsibilities between government, donor, and implementation stakeholders, including humanitarian and development service providers. For example, nutrition indicators should be integrated into disaster preparedness and management frameworks and early warning systems. Commitments may include those specific to scaling adaptive services to meet increasing needs as part of health systems strengthening and investments in nutrition sensitive social safety nets for the most vulnerable households.
- 2. Sufficient, long term, and flexible financing.** Governments, donors, and multilaterals are encouraged to commit to multi-year flexible financing that help chronically at-risk people meet immediate needs, address long term needs, underlying causes and factors in shocks, and enable the scale up of rapid and early response to shocks.
- 3. Coordination.** Governments, multilaterals, civil society, and donors are encouraged to make collective commitments to coordinate both across the humanitarian-development divide and across sectors that play a role to prevent and address malnutrition.
- 4. Responsible business behavior.** Commitments made to play a role in the wellbeing of their consumers and to 'do no harm' in these contexts, and to leverage opportunities for innovation and expertise to improve production, access, affordability, and consumption of nutritious foods in fragile and hard to reach areas. For example: governments can commit to improving legislation, regulation, and enforcement measures, including turning the Code into national legislation and enforcement; businesses can commit to upholding the Code; and donors can commit to providing catalytic funds for business-led solutions in areas of fragility.

Read the appendix: **Mobilizing commitments for transformative change: Resilience**

Table 4: Example Resilience Commitment

Commitment type	Policy
Example commitment	<p>Agree upon a results framework across key line ministries with targets to reduce wasting, stunting, low birth weight, anemia, and underweight by 8%. Enact a functioning coordinating mechanism to develop plans.</p> <p>Invest a specified amount of millions of dollars in data systems that enable effective early warning and response.</p>
Specific action	Develop and implement a \$500 million cross-government, risk-informed food system policy.
Responsible party	Ministry of Finance and Planning with Ministries of Health, Social Affairs, and Agriculture from a country government.
Measurable	Prevalence of stunting, underweight, low birth weight, wasting, and anemia in children age under five.
Baseline	Current prevalence rates.
Timeline	9-10 years.

Financing for nutrition: Securing new investment and driving innovation in nutrition financing

Overarching commitment

Financing commitments will contribute to closing the \$8.2 billion annual gap that remains to scaling up high-impact nutrition interventions towards the WHA global nutrition targets and SDG 2, as identified in the World Bank’s Investment Framework for Nutrition, by 2025.

Commitments will also further develop and pursue the key research agenda for nutrition-sensitive interventions and associated financing by 2025.

Background

In 2017, the World Bank published an Investment Framework for Nutrition, which estimated an average of \$7 billion would be required annually between 2016 and 2025, in addition to the estimated \$3.9 billion spent in 2015 to achieve the WHA global nutrition targets (which have since been subsumed as the SDG targets) for stunting, anemia in women, exclusive breastfeeding, and the scaling up treatment of severe wasting among young children. Full financing at this level would enable monumental gains, including a reduction of 3.7 million deaths in children under the age of five, 65 million fewer stunted children, and 91 million cases treated of severe acute malnutrition, based on conservative estimates (Shekar et al, 2017). The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have increased the financing need to \$8.2 billion annually.

With the addition of a policy marker for nutrition in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Co-operation Directorate (DAC)'s Common Reporting Standard (CRS), donors will also now be able to voluntarily report on nutrition programming across all sectors, which will provide data to help understand the scale of multi-sectoral nutrition spending.

The Summit represents a critical 'make or break moment' for achieving the global nutrition and SDG targets—over \$4 billion was committed between 2013 and 2020, doubling official development assistance (ODA) to nutrition over subsequent years (Nutrition for Growth Summit, 2013). This is all on the line, therefore it is imperative that we (1) secure meaningful and substantial commitments for increasing financing from all sources, and (2) employ more strategic, innovative, and sustainable approaches for mobilizing, deploying, and ensuring the efficiency of those resources. Under the overall mantra of 'more money for nutrition, and more nutrition for the money spent,' the following key action areas are identified: increased and sustainable domestic financing; increased predictable donor financing; innovative/catalytic financing models; and improved data/measurement/accountability for effective financing.

Read the appendix: [More money for nutrition and more nutrition for the money](#)



Table 5: Examples Finance Commitment

Stakeholder		Example commitment
Government	Countries with fiscal space to take on proportionally more nutrition spend as gross domestic products (GDPs) increase, including support for double burden/ nutrition transition interventions and data for nutrition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having evidence-based, costed nutrition plans, including data and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) components (comprising 4-6% of total investment) by 2025; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 2.9% domestic nutrition spending as a share of the national on-budget health spending over five years; or • At least \$10 per child per year spending from domestic government expenditures (on-budget spending) for nutrition actions in support of the national costed plans over five years, whichever is higher.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening nutrition resource tracking mechanisms using sustainable financial management and data systems by 2025; and
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing the impact of resources for nutrition by using evidence-based decision tools (e.g. OPTIMA Nutrition) by 2025.
Development partner/UN organization		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Securing a specified number of millions of dollars for nutrition-specific investments and nutrition-sensitive investments by 2025;
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening existing innovative financing sources through performance-based financing mechanisms that hold recipients accountable for measurable improvements in coverage of an enhanced set of nutrition-specific interventions, accountability enabling data, and measurement systems by 2025; and
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributing a specified amount of funds per year to support data and evidence innovations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Use of Nutrition Data (STUND) fund to provide technical assistance for data and its use and to test data systems innovations; and • Evidence to Action (E2A) fund to support use of OPTIMA Nutrition and other decision-science tools for investment planning and to generate evidence on nutrition-sensitive policies and specific programs.
Civil society partner		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting on all nutrition programming, including both nutrition-specific and sensitive investments, using the OECD policy marker on nutrition by 2021.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising a specified amount of millions of dollars million in privately raised funds for nutrition-specific and sensitive investments raised by 2025; • Engaging with governments and development partners to advocate for establishing sustainable financing and accountability mechanisms for nutrition-specific interventions by 2025; and • Working with development partners and governments to further develop and pursue key research agenda for nutrition-sensitive interventions and associated financing by 2025.
Private financier/ investor	Should consider exploring new 'catalytic' financing solutions as well as building on existing innovative mechanisms such as the Power of Nutrition to further catalyze the acceleration of investments in both high-burden, low-resource countries and countries in transition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investing a specified amount of dollars invested through innovative/catalytic financing solutions for nutrition that will leverage further private sector investments and domestic financing by 2025.

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²Examples are taken from the Global Nutrition Report Guidance Note on Making Smarter Commitments to Nutrition Action and MQSUN+ Guidelines for Nutrition Commitment 'SMARTness' Assessment, PATH, August 2018.





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