

PARLIAMENTARIAN PLEDGE AT THE 2019 SUN MOVEMENT GLOBAL GATHERING

We, the undersigned, hereby recognise that:

1. One in three people globally suffer from at least one form of malnutrition – be it childhood stunting, micronutrient deficiencies or overweight and obesity. Every country in the world is affected by one or more forms of malnutrition;
2. Malnutrition causes more ill health than any other cause. It is an underlying cause of 45% of deaths of children under five and a leading cause of adult death and disability;
3. Malnutrition erodes human capital, since undernutrition during the first 1,000 days of a child's life from conception to age two has irreversible life-long negative effects on physical and cognitive development. It makes children vulnerable to infections and illness and prevents them from developing to their full potential. It stifles development due to high health care costs and lost economic productivity;
4. Climate change and conflict are driving an increase in hunger and malnutrition;
5. Good nutrition, supported by nutritious and climate-smart food systems, is key to realise children's rights and essential to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
6. The world is currently off track to meet the World Health Assembly Global Nutrition Targets and the nutrition-related Sustainable Development Goals;
7. Addressing malnutrition, especially during the critical first 1,000 days, is one of the best investments for boosting economic and social development;
8. Feeding the hungry is not enough – good nutrition requires ensuring everyone has access to a nutritious diet, appropriate care, hygienic environments and adequate health services;
9. Achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is vital for ending malnutrition and UHC will not be achieved until nutrition is fully integrated in national UHC plans and policies;
10. Food systems have the potential to nourish human health and support environmental sustainability; however, they are currently threatening both. Food systems must be transformed to deliver nutritious and affordable diets to all within planetary boundaries;
11. Ending malnutrition will require strong and sustained political leadership, the right laws and policies, increased financial resources and coordinated action across all relevant sectors and stakeholders from national to sub-national to community levels;
12. A multi-sectoral approach that encompasses areas such as health, agriculture, social protection, water and sanitation, natural resource management, finance, and trade, and that involves government, parliament, United Nations, development partners, civil society and businesses is necessary;
13. Of particular importance is addressing the vast funding gap for nutrition, especially by increasing domestic investment in nutrition;
14. Parliaments are uniquely placed to ensure that nutrition becomes and stays a key political priority and that action is taken to address malnutrition through their core mandates.

We therefore commit to:

1. Encourage our governments to allocate the necessary budget for nutrition to achieve our national nutrition targets; and that this funding is allocated and disbursed to devolved administrations and appropriate ministries and other governmental departments;
2. Encourage our governments to adopt or strengthen a multi-sectoral approach to nutrition - ensuring all relevant sectors have nutrition objectives as part of their remit, and contribute towards jointly delivering the multi-sectoral national nutrition plan;
3. Promote and implement policy, legislative and regulatory measures aiming to tackle malnutrition in all its forms, including through applying a food systems approach across the food value chain, and by ensuring nutrition is integrated in national UHC policies and plans;
4. Encourage our governments to make ambitious financial and policy commitments for improved nutrition in time for the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit in December 2020 which includes increasing our domestic investment for nutrition and use our oversight mandate to hold governments accountable for delivering on their commitments.

In order to pursue the above, we will:

1. Collaborate with the SUN Government Focal Point and SUN Networks, and with existing parliamentary networks and alliances for nutrition at national, sub-regional, regional and global levels;
2. Work through existing committees or caucuses, or set up a new caucus or subcommittee on nutrition, to ensure discussions and follow-up action on nutrition can take place;
3. Work towards holding at least one parliamentary debate about nutrition in the next year, hosted by the Speaker of Parliament and with the involvement of the highest level of government;
4. Hold at least one meeting focused on nutrition with the relevant ministers in the next year;
5. Promote nutrition in engagements with regional parliaments and with the Inter-Parliamentary Union;
6. Champion nutrition issues in engagements with our constituencies.