

A global action network on Nutrition labelling: taking action for better informed consumers' choices in the Decade of Action on Nutrition

A draft for discussion – September 2018

Background

The Decade of Action on Nutrition

In April 2016, the UN General Assembly, through its Resolution 70/259¹, endorsed the ICN2 outcomes and proclaimed 2016 to 2025 the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (Nutrition Decade). The Resolution also called upon the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) “to lead the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and to identify and develop a work programme based on the Rome Declaration and its Framework for Action, along with its means of implementation for 2016-2025, using coordination mechanisms such as the Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN) and multi-stakeholder platforms such as the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), in line with its mandate, and in consultation with other international and regional organizations and platforms.”

Action networks

One of the mechanisms of implementing the commitments of the Nutrition Decade is the establishment of Action networks.

“Through the convening and catalytic roles of the Nutrition Decade, action networks will be established. These action networks are informal coalitions of countries aimed at accelerating and aligning efforts around specific topics linked to one or more action areas of the Nutrition Decade, through advocating for the establishment of policies and legislation, allowing the exchange of practices and experiences, highlighting successes and lessons learnt, and providing mutual support to ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~implementation~~. Action networks will help countries implement their SMART commitments.”

“An action network may be established at the request of one or more countries, who should define the objectives, scope and initial programme of work, identify other partner countries, convene meetings and manage joint initiatives. Action networks may be regional or global, and operate under the leadership of a government institution. The UN system may support action networks, particularl

positioned on the back or side of the package.

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- Highlight the need for implementing mandatory nutrient declaration and values including the development of easy to understand FOPL systems. This process will facilitate consumers' understanding for dietary improvement.
- Highlight value of labelling to stimulate reformulation of food products.

Operation of the network

The network is co-convened by public Authorities from Australia and France.

The network is global, but can have regional groupings.

Membership is open to interested government Authorities, who make commitments to implement nutrition labelling.

UN organisations may support the network operations.

The network may decide to interact with non-state actors, according to the needs.

The convening public Authorities provide secretariat support and seed resources for the activities of the network (convening, technical products). The role of convener may rotate among participant countries.

Network members develop a joint workplan.

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