

Time to Deliver on Commitments: Eradicating Hunger and Malnutrition by 2025¹

Executive Summary

Background

Over the years, many commitments have been made by governments to end hunger, but the number of hungry and malnourished continues to rise in spite of the ample availability of food in the world. As a new food Summit is convened, we cannot afford to let this sad history of broken promises repeat itself.

We propose a new approach to strengthening the commitment of national governments for eradicating hunger and malnutrition, particularly undernutrition. This is founded on the recognition that most people on earth would agree that no one should be denied access to adequate food and that, once they understand the scale and impact of the hunger and malnutrition problem, many will come forward to support enhanced action by their governments.

The proposal

We propose to invite governments to translate their global commitments into voluntary national Declarations of Commitment and to prepare Food and Nutrition Security Action Plans that show how they will achieve the goal of eradicating hunger and malnutrition by 2025 at the latest, and how they will help other committed countries to do likewise. These Declarations will be morally – but not legally – binding.

To ensure accountability, we will urge governments to deposit these Declarations and Plans in an International Public Register of Commitments (IPRC), administered by the reformed Committee on World Food Security or other UN coordination body for all to see. A small inter-agency Secretariat will set schedules for governments to submit progress reports and coordinate periodic in-country reviews. Reports will be made public, and comments and shadow reports will be invited from interested non-state actors

The Campaign

To build popular support for stronger action, we are building a loose but broad coalition of civil society institutions who share a common commitment to a world free from hunger and malnutrition and who already contribute to this in many different ways. Together, we intend to design and implement a campaign aimed at raising popular awareness and understanding of the problems and of the solutions. The long-term goal of this campaign will be to eradicate

¹ This paper has been prepared and endorsed by an informal group of civil society organizations from many parts of the world who contribute through their work and advocacy in lots of different ways to reducing hunger and malnutrition and who share a strong commitment to their eradication. An updated list of organizations can be seen on <http://www.moreandbetter.org/en/news/declaration-from-governments-to-eradicate-hunger-and-malnutrition>. Contact points are listed at the end of this paper.

hunger and malnutrition. The immediate objective will be to encourage governments to deposit their Declarations of Commitment, prepare Action Plans and ensure more rapid and effective implementation.

The combination of the voluntary Declaration process and of the worldwide campaign has the potential to induce a quantum jump in the scale of commitment to address hunger and malnutrition. In this way, it can greatly increase the impact of the forthcoming World Summit on Food Security as well as the ongoing institutional reform processes.

We are:

Organisations involved in this campaign include: Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) (Farmers Union), India; Coordination Nationale des Organisations Paysannes (CNOP) ; Development Fund, Norway; Institute for Research and the Promotion of Alternatives in Development (IRPAD), Mali; International Alliance of Women (IAW); Kenyan Federation of Agricultural Producers (KENFAP); MIJARC/IMCARY, the International Movement for Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth; National Fisheries Solidarity (NAFSO), Sri Lanka; Oxfam International; Save the Children International; Tebtebba, the Philippines (indigenous peoples' organization); UDYAMA, India; União Nacional de Camponeses (UNAC), Mozambique; World Forum for Fisher Peoples (WFFP).

For more information:

See the following website: <http://www.moreandbetter.org/en/news/declaration-from-governments-to-eradicate-hunger-and-malnutrition>

Participate in developing our proposals by joining our yahoo group:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Anti-hunger_commitment/ Follow the link and click on "Join this group"

Please contact us:

Chris Leather, Oxfam International: chris.leather@oxfaminternational.org

Aksel Naerstad, the Development Fund, Norway: aksel@utviklingsfondet.no

Lina Leal, Campaign Assistant: marceleall@gmail.com

Time to Deliver on Commitments: Eradicating Hunger and Malnutrition by 2025

Context and Rationale

Through their participation in successive Food Summits, their adoption of the Millennium Development Goals, and their ratification of the International Covenant for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, most countries are committed to eradicating hunger and combating malnutrition, especially under-nutrition. Whilst some countries have taken their commitments seriously, many have not. Globally, the number of hungry continues to rise – to over 1 billion – and 2 billion people suffer from “hidden hunger” caused by micronutrient deficiencies. This means that around half of humanity suffers from undernutrition², despite enough food being produced to allow all of the world’s inhabitants to enjoy an adequate diet.

The consequences of the failure to act on existing commitments are devastating. Families who are unable to access adequate and nutritious food are therefore highly vulnerable to disease, natural and economic shocks, and early death. Undernutrition accounts for the largest proportion of under-five deaths in developing countries. Hunger and undernutrition also have staggering economic costs.. The desperation induced by extreme deprivation may threaten national and global peace, security and economic and environmental stability.

The current state of world hunger and malnutrition is a glaring manifestation of the failure of governments to deliver on their countless commitments. Global meetings, statements and declarations have become meaningless – especially to those who are hungry - as they are rarely followed by the agreed actions at the national or international level. The lack of any accountability for pledges made to end hunger leads to gross hypocrisy and injustice, and ultimately needless death and disability for millions.³

The 2007-08 food price crisis led to a flurry of international meetings that will culminate in a World Summit on Food Security in November 2009. Over the past two years, calls have been made for reforms to improve the effectiveness of the institutions responsible for global food security; a UN High Level Task Force has been set up and a Comprehensive Framework for Action has been developed; and donor governments have pledged substantial resources to achieve “food security for all”.⁴

² Undernutrition is most often the result of acute or sustained inadequate access by people of all ages (including *in utero* babies) to dietary intake and/or illness. It can refer to stunting whose consequences include physical and mental impairments (e.g. low height for age, poor psychomotor development, lower cognitive development and ability) with long-term effects on learning and working capacities; wasting (thinness); and nutritional oedema and/or deficiencies of micronutrients (vitamins and minerals) . Undernutrition exacerbates vulnerability to diseases and may lead to premature death. The main focus of this initiative is on the undernutrition dimensions of malnutrition, but some governments may decide to address issues of over-nutrition within the same framework.

³ This perception also breeds a lack of public confidence in the international institutions mandated to ensure that all of the world’s people are able to eat adequately.

⁴ High-level Meeting on Food Security, Madrid, January 2009, and G-8 Summit, L’Aquila, July 2009

However, without stronger popular support for immediate and urgent political action, the momentum gained over the past year will inevitably falter and food security and nutrition issues will move down on the national and international agendas whilst hundreds of millions of people continue to face a stark life, deprived of adequate food.

We need to act NOW, to avoid history repeating itself in the wake of the 2007-08 crisis.

There are many good precedents for effective intergovernmental action to address major problems affecting humanity. Often these take the form of legally binding treaties, international conventions and protocols. Successful examples include those related to the rules of warfare, the banning of land-mines and of ozone-depleting substances, and the reduction of green-house gas emissions. A similar approach could be considered for combating hunger and under-nutrition.

A preliminary proposal⁵ for such a convention was aired informally around the time of the Madrid meeting. Reviewers responded that the intergovernmental process of negotiation would be very long, would consume a lot of energy and could distract attention from the need for immediate action. This prompted a search for alternative mechanisms that could achieve a similar surge in the level of government commitment and accountability for eradicating hunger and malnutrition but in a much less cumbersome manner.

The Proposal

We propose a new approach to strengthening the commitment of national governments for eradicating hunger and malnutrition, founded on the recognition that most people would agree that no one should be denied access to adequate food. By campaigning to raise awareness throughout the world of the massive scale of hunger and malnutrition, the huge human suffering they cause, the gross inadequacy of current actions, and the relative simplicity and affordability of solutions, it should be possible to create a strong groundswell of public support for enhanced efforts to eradicate the scourges of widespread hunger and malnutrition. Without such support, few governments will be emboldened to do more about the problem than they are already doing, and the new international institutional arrangements under consideration will be no more effective than those they replace.

States are invited to demonstrate their intention to translate the global goal of eradicating hunger and malnutrition by 2025 into actions at country level by voluntarily depositing a national Declaration of Commitment and national Action Plan in an International Public Register of Commitments (IPRC). The obligations into which they enter would not be legally binding under international law, but they would be morally binding - and perhaps all the stronger for this.

Moreover, by depositing a Declaration of Commitment in the IPRC, States would indicate their willingness to be held accountable for taking appropriate actions until the goal is attained nationally and globally.

⁵ MacMillan, Andrew & Vivero, José Luis, Proposal for an International Convention on Eradication of Hunger and Severe Malnutrition and a Simultaneous Campaign to Raise Commitment Levels (revision 1, dated 20 April 2009)

This proposal is based on the premise of mutual *respect, trust, openness, and support*. These concepts, together with the assumption that participating *governments will fulfil legally binding commitments to which they are already parties*, set the tone for the design of implementation arrangements.

The Goal

We propose a global goal of eradicating hunger and malnutrition by 2025, a target that has already been adopted at a regional level by nations of Latin America and the Caribbean. We believe this is achievable, provided that there is strengthened political commitment. To adopt anything short of a goal of eradicating hunger and malnutrition implies a willingness to continue to deny large numbers of people access to the most basic of human needs, and is incompatible with the obligations assumed by countries that are parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) to respect, protect and fulfil the human right to adequate food.⁶ Moreover, a focus on hunger eradication provides the most certain way of ensuring that anti-poverty programmes reach all of the very poorest members of society and impact on their well-being.

The adoption of a time-bound goal to eradicate hunger and malnutrition can only strengthen efforts to deliver against the existing intermediate commitments to halving hunger by 2015, made at the 1996 World Food Summit and in the Millennium Development Goal process.

The Instruments for Enhanced Commitment and Accountability

We propose that all States be invited and encouraged to make their own voluntary national Declarations of Commitment for the eradication of hunger and malnutrition within their country by 2025 and to help other committed countries to do likewise. Interested governments will deposit these Declarations in a United Nations-based International Public Register of Commitments (IPRC).

In making a Declaration, each State pledges to take all necessary actions within its capacity to:

Specifically, we shall:

- I. Offer leadership by example in the fight against hunger and malnutrition nationally, regionally and internationally, including by fostering greater coordination and cooperation between committed nations.**
- II. Meet our legal obligations to protect, respect and fulfil the right of everyone to adequate food – which includes freedom from hunger and malnutrition.**
- III. Engage in agreements with other nations to share knowledge and experience and to undertake enhanced financial and technical cooperation in order to help them end hunger and malnutrition.**
- IV. Avoid unilateral actions and policies that could significantly damage the achievement of the agreed goal by other countries.**

⁶ “The right to adequate food is realized when every man, woman and child, alone or in community with others. Has physical and economic access to adequate food or means of its procurement.” Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, General Comment 12.

- V. Consult with all other committed countries in addressing global issues that affect food availability and accessibility, quality, trade, distribution and access, with the aim of reaching international agreements that are supportive to the goal of ending hunger and malnutrition.**
- VI. Contribute to safeguarding the adequacy and sustainability of global food supplies to meet the needs of future generations.**
- VII. Submit to the Secretariat of the International Public Register of Commitments, within 24 months of the date of registration, a detailed and specific Action Plan, prepared with the full involvement of all stakeholders, covering the actions that shall be undertaken nationally and internationally to fulfil each of the above commitments, including time-bound intermediate goals and indicators to be used in assessing progress.**
- VIII. Propose, within 24 months of the date of registration, the passage of national legislation that incorporates the above commitments.**
- IX. Submit periodic reports on progress in implementing the Action Plan to the International Public Register of Commitments, as requested by its Secretariat, and agree to their in-country review by other committed States and non-state parties.**

For the full draft text, see Annex 1 or <http://www.moreandbetter.org/en/news/declaration-from-governments-to-eradicate-hunger-and-malnutrition>.

Important features of the Declaration are that it:

- Focuses on an unambiguous, bold but feasible time-bound goal for committed countries;
- Covers both food and nutrition security;
- Encourages mutual support between committed countries;
- Creates a practical basis for developing partnerships between committed non-state institutions and governments at national and international levels;
- Avoids prescribing specific policies to be applied nationally since these are expected to emerge from local analysis and consultation;
- Restrains unilateral actions that could be damaging to nutrition in other committed countries;
- Promotes agreement on international actions supportive of better food and nutrition security;
- Contributes to safeguarding the long-term adequacy of global food supplies;
- Leads to early participative formulation of Action Plans to meet the goal;
- Establishes a transparent monitoring and reporting system
- Fits easily with the current international institutional reform processes and could raise their effectiveness.

A small Secretariat would manage the IPRC. This could form part of whatever international coordination mechanism emerges from the ongoing global institutional reform processes. It would be responsible for the following functions:

- Issuing guidelines on the commitment process, the preparation of Action Plans, monitoring performance against commitments and reporting on progress;

- Acknowledging the receipt of Declarations of Commitments and annexes;
- Maintaining the Register, and ensuring public access to it via a website;
- Overseeing a monitoring and reporting process, involving participating countries, UN organizations and civil society;
- Servicing meetings of participating States.

The Global Campaign

One of the reasons for disappointing government performance in relation to earlier commitments is that there is a very low level of public understanding of the nature and scale of the hunger and nutrition, its immense impact on human well-being, and the fact that there are ready and affordable solutions. We believe that, as a result of increased awareness and recognition of the role that they can play in monitoring progress, growing numbers of people will start to call on their governments to do much more about hunger and malnutrition.

We are, therefore, fostering a loose coalition of civil society organizations who are committed from various perspectives to the common vision of a world free from hunger and malnutrition, to design and engage in implementation of a global campaign to expand the constituency of support for greater engagement of governments in addressing hunger and malnutrition. The long term campaign goal will be to accelerate progress towards the achievement of MDG1 and other relevant MDGs by 2015 and to eradicate hunger and malnutrition by 2025. The short-term objective will be to call on interested governments to deposit their Declarations of Commitment and, subsequently, their Action Plans in the International Public Register of Commitments.

Campaigning would be undertaken on a carefully orchestrated basis mainly by NGOs/CSOs⁷ engaged in food security and hunger reduction programmes, organizations representing farmers and consumers, and national alliances against hunger and other groups such as women's groups, human rights groups, and religious organizations at national level. In a first stage, the strategy would be to engage grass-roots organizations in a learning process, so as to create a very large body of people who understand the issues. In a second stage, the campaign, making use of mass media and communication methods, would engage this expertise in processes aimed at bringing more people on board to express their strong support for enhanced government action.

Operational Implications⁸

From an operational perspective, amongst the most important commitments made by governments that deposit Declarations in the IPRC are:

- To prepare or strengthen a national Action Plan and deposit it in the IPRC.

⁷ Many NGOs are already campaigning for hunger reduction but the effort is fragmented and lacks a clear common time-bound objective. The challenge now is to bring together the existing campaigning capacity, agree on objectives, tailor messages to individual country situations and bring many more organizations on board.

⁸ Note: at this stage, this section addresses the operational implications only of the DoC/IPRC dimension of the proposal. Operational implications of the Global Campaign will be examined in a later edition of this Briefing Paper.

- To agree to the national and international monitoring of its performance in relation to its commitments.
- To help other countries that deposit Declarations to achieve the goal of eradicating hunger and malnutrition.

National Action Plans

Each participating country commits itself to prepare or update a national Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan (AP) and to deposit this in the IPRC within two years of registering its Declaration of Commitment.

The main focus of the AP will be on specifying the policies and programmes that the country will adopt to achieve the goal of eradicating hunger and malnutrition by no later than 2025. The AP will also set out how the country intends to help other countries that have deposited Declarations to reach their goal. This dimension might be the dominant element within the APs of better-off countries in which the incidence of hunger and malnutrition is relatively low, but it is hoped that many other countries will plan expanded programmes of South-South cooperation.

It is up to each country to decide on the actions that it will take to the goal, and to set time-bound intermediate goals. It will also establish funding requirements, national resource commitments and the extent of external financial and technical assistance needed. Food Security and Nutrition Plans will be integrated into, and coherent with, overall national development plans and budgets. Plans will be periodically updated, taking account of progress, new knowledge and changing circumstances, and these updates will be deposited in the IPRC.

The Plans will specify the individual roles and technical and financial commitments of different stakeholders within national coordination mechanisms for food security and nutrition. This will enable monitoring of the delivery of commitments at the country level.

Technical assistance in the development and implementation of the Plan will be provided by members of national coordination mechanisms and informed by coordinated and coherent guidance provided from the global level. Internationally approved guidelines, particularly the Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to food⁹ are expected to serve as useful points of reference. The Secretariat may also periodically issue reference materials, including information on “best practices”, derived from successful country experiences.

In applying the *Guiding Principles* set out above, it is expected that countries will:

- Create or strengthen institutional mechanisms that enable better coordination between the various public institutions responsible for addressing different aspects of the hunger and malnutrition situation;
- Establish mechanisms through which civil society, especially organizations representing those who suffer from hunger and malnutrition, can have a voice in shaping policies and programme design and in assessing performance

⁹For full text, see <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/009/y7937e/y7937e00.pdf>

- Draft legislation to ensure that the commitments made in the AP endure until the goal has been reached.

Monitoring

Governments will establish their own internal arrangements for monitoring and reporting on progress in implementing their Action Plans, involving their national partners.

The IPRC Secretariat will set a schedule for the submission of progress reports by governments and will issue guidelines on their formats and on the core indicators to be adopted in monitoring performance. The prime responsibility for monitoring and reporting on progress will rest with governments. All progress reports will be deposited in the IPRC and will be available to the public through the IPRC website.

Any individual, entity or group of entities may submit “shadow reports” or comments on the official report, and request that the IPRC Secretariat also make these public.

The Secretariat will arrange for in-country reviews of progress reports by other participating governments, UN agencies and interested civil society organizations. The reviews and any comments of the concerned government on their conclusions will be made public on the IPRC website.

In the longer term, subject to the mutual agreement of participating governments, the functions of the Secretariat could be extended to further strengthen accountability. This could, for instance, be through empowering it to arrange for in-depth consultations in relation to national programmes that are at serious risk of failing to deliver as intended. They could also be invited to facilitate discussions between governments, with the aim of resolving disputes that might arise.

Mutual Assistance between Countries

How countries help each other is up to them to decide. The amount of support that countries undertake to provide, and the terms, conditions and means of delivering assistance, would be defined in their Action Plans. The process would be set in the context of the Accra Agenda for Action¹⁰ and will be in line with the guiding principles set out above. In particular, countries intending to offer assistance should focus their support on other committed countries so as to provide an incentive for non-participating governments to join the initiative.

The overall amount of resources committed by a country to the global initiative will be defined in its Action Plan and updated on a five-year rolling basis.

The IPRC Secretariat will track and issue reports on overall financial commitments and disbursements.

¹⁰ For text, see: <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/ACCRAEXT/Resources/4700790-1217425866038/AAA-4-SEPTEMBER-FINAL-16h00.pdf>

Institutional Arrangements

Governments participating in the initiative will create or strengthen institutional arrangements that ensure a well coordinated cross-sectoral approach to addressing hunger and malnutrition at national and local levels.

Putting this proposal into practice will require the creation of a light Secretariat to manage the IPRC. It is proposed that this be attached for purposes of administration to a relevant UN body, among which the reformed Committee on World Food Security would seem to be the most appropriate. Other options could include the UN System Standing Committee on Nutrition, ECOSOC, on any other UN forum or coordination mechanism that might emerge from the ongoing processes of consultation.

Arrangements would have to be made to provide for participating governments to shape the ways in which the initiative evolves and to guide the work of the Secretariat, with meetings being held on the sidelines of meetings of the parent body. In the spirit of openness, means of engaging civil society in these processes would have to be developed.

Costs of the Secretariat would be met through contributions by participating governments, set according to standard UN assessment practices; by the host organization (especially in the form of infrastructure and support services), and voluntary donations.

The IPRC, as its name implies, is simply a register in which the submission of documents by countries (specifically DoCs, Action Plans and revisions, and Monitoring Reports) is recorded. Any materials deposited in the Register become immediately open to public view. The central function of the Secretariat will be to maintain the Register and to ensure public access to its contents, especially through the maintenance of a website. It will also ensure public access to any comments and observations on progress submitted by non-state actors.

Other functions of the Secretariat, as implied in earlier sections, will include servicing meetings of members and informing them of progress, establishing guidelines for planning, monitoring and reporting, including recommendations on the application of indicators (basing this, if possible, on the work of the CFS expert panel and the SCN). It will also establish reporting schedules and arrange for the peer review of progress reports by panels composed of representatives of participating governments, UN agencies and civil society. The Secretariat may seek the engagement and assistance of United Nations agencies in fulfilling its functions, including through secondment of staff, contributing to the drafting of guidelines, and participating in progress report reviews and hearings.

Members of civil society, in the broadest sense, may, through their access to materials held in the IPRC, comment on any documents submitted by governments, including through compiling “shadow” reports. They may be invited by the Secretariat to participate in progress report review panels.

Conclusion

This proposal has several inherent advantages:

- It strikes at the heart of one of the greatest injustices inflicted by humans upon each other, and will inspire serious action;
- It recognises the fundamental role that public opinion plays in most countries in setting the agenda for public action, and it is founded on the belief that, once large numbers of people understand the problem of hunger and malnutrition, they will strongly support a commitment by their government to act;
- It allows those states that are genuinely committed to “eradication” to publicly declare this commitment and, in so doing, set an example that other states will hopefully emulate;
- It can reinforce current institutional reform processes, particularly the reform of the Committee on World Food Security, enabling it, through its possible management of the IPRC, to promote and oversee a higher level of government commitment and accountability;
- By creating an opportunity for governments to publicly declare their commitment, it provides an immediate and clear objective for campaigning in all countries.

There are a number of new and distinctive features of this proposal which encourage the belief that it will make a major contribution to the eradication of hunger and malnutrition in ways that previous initiatives have not:

- It supports a goal which is country specific, measurable, ambitious, achievable, and time bound;
- It is based upon the belief that hunger and malnutrition will only be progressively reduced and ultimately eradicated if there is simultaneous increased commitment, coordination and compacts, in particular at the national level, involving a range of different stakeholders, including the population at large;
- It promotes the improved coordination and coherence of international assistance in alignment with country and regional led processes as agreed in the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action;
- It promotes integration and coherence with broader national development plan;.
- It improves accountability by ensuring that the commitments of individual stakeholders are quantified, long-term, predictable, country specific and measurable;
- It envisages global institutional arrangements responsible for promoting accountability that are affordable and inclusive and that fit with the emerging new architecture;.
- It provides a basis for the mass mobilisation of civil society around the world to generate political will and encourage their governments and international organisations to increase commitments, action and accountability;.
- The campaign is not focused on specific policy solutions which tend to promote tension and fragmentation but on ensuring that commitment to a clear goal is reinforced, the political will to act is increased, institutional arrangements enable the inclusive development and implementation of policies and programmes at national level, and practical mechanisms are in place to monitor progress and hold governments and other stakeholders to account for their actions.

Finally, the proposal, if adopted by the World Summit on Food Security, could greatly enhance the impact of this event by translating a global commitment into national commitments and definitive plans to achieve a world free from hunger and malnutrition by 2025.

For more information:

See the following website: <http://www.moreandbetter.org/en/news/declaration-from-governments-to-eradicate-hunger-and-malnutrition>

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Chris Leather, Oxfam International: chris.leather@oxfaminternational.org

Aksel Naerstad, the Development Fund, Norway: aksel@utviklingsfondet.no

Lina Leal, Campaign Assistant: marceleal@gmail.com

Work in Progress: 21 September 2009

National Declaration of Commitment To Eradicate Hunger and Malnutrition by 2025

A. Preamble

1. Humanity has been plagued by hunger and malnutrition throughout its history. For several decades there has been enough food produced for everyone on earth to eat adequately. Yet, of the world's 6.7 billion inhabitants, over one billion are now chronically hungry and at least 2 billion more are affected by "hidden malnutrition" (i.e. micronutrient deficiencies). Malnutrition is the leading underlying cause of child death, killing 3.2 million children each year. Decisive action is long overdue but all the more urgent in view of the impacts of recent food price rises and of the global economic and financial crises on the capacity of the poor to meet their daily food needs.

2. Hunger and under-nutrition¹¹ have broad and devastating consequences for individuals, families, countries and all humanity:

- Hunger locks people into a trap from which escape by their own means alone is almost impossible. Prolonged lack of adequate and nutritious foods lowers people's work capacity and productivity, and, for children, it lowers their ability to learn and grow to their full potential. Under-nutrition heightens their vulnerability and restricts their capacity to cope with shocks such as wars or natural disasters, and it exposes them to frequent illness and premature death.
- The economic costs of poor nutrition are staggering.
- Hunger threatens peace, security and environmental sustainability

3. Eradicating hunger and under-nutrition is entirely possible. The solutions will be country-specific but will usually involve a combination of short and long term food security, nutrition, health and social security interventions, by governments and also by non-governmental agencies. These may include policies and programmes for sustainable smallholder agriculture, food stock management, social protection, trade, employment, population, disaster risk reduction, emergency response, and wide-ranging nutrition- and health-related actions. Macro-economic and fiscal management policy adjustments might be required and institutions might have to be created to ensure necessary inter-sectoral coordination

¹¹ The term "malnutrition" embraces both "under-nutrition" and "over-nutrition". The primary focus of this initiative is on eradicating hunger and all aspects of under-nutrition, both chronic and acute. Should any governments also decide to address "over-nutrition" in their Action Plans, they would, of course, be free to do so.

4. The increasingly interconnected nature of the global food system demands robust institutions, responsible actions and effective coordination at the international, regional and country levels. Issues requiring special attention include trade in food commodities, national and global food stock levels and management, food safety standards, agricultural research, climate change mitigation and adaptation, natural resources management including protection of non-replaceable resources for food production, and early warning and disaster preparedness and response.

5. States that are parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), have legal obligations to respect, protect, and fulfil the right to adequate food¹² (Art 11, ICESCR). In addition, through the Millennium Development Goals, the world's leaders have committed to halving hunger and poverty, cutting child mortality and improving maternal health by 2015. Finally, in approving the World Food Summit Declaration (1996), States have endorsed the goal of eradicating hunger.¹³

B. Declaration

By signing and depositing this voluntary Declaration of Commitment in the International Public Register of Commitment (IPRC), the Government of pledges to take all necessary actions within its capacity to end hunger and malnutrition by 2025, within our country and worldwide.

Specifically, we shall:

- I. Offer leadership by example in the fight against hunger and malnutrition nationally, regionally and internationally, including by fostering greater coordination and cooperation between committed nations.**
- II. Meet our legal obligations to protect, respect and fulfil the right of everyone to adequate food – which includes freedom from hunger and malnutrition.**
- III. Engage in agreements with other nations to share knowledge and experience and to undertake enhanced financial and technical cooperation in order to help them end hunger and malnutrition.**
- IV. Avoid unilateral actions and policies that could significantly damage the achievement of the agreed goal by other countries.**
- V. Consult with all other committed countries in addressing global issues that affect food availability and accessibility, quality, trade, distribution and access, with the aim of reaching international agreements that are supportive to the goal of ending hunger and malnutrition.**
- VI. Contribute to safeguarding the adequacy and sustainability of global food supplies to meet the needs of future generations.**
- VII. Submit to the Secretariat of the International Public Register of Commitments, within 24 months of the date of registration, a detailed and specific Action Plan, prepared with the full involvement of all stakeholders, covering the actions that shall be undertaken nationally and internationally to fulfil each of the above**

¹³ This may be adjusted, depending on the outcome of the World Summit on Food Security.

commitments, including time-bound intermediate goals and indicators to be used in assessing progress.

VIII. Propose, within 24 months of the date of registration, the passage of national legislation that incorporates the above commitments.

IX. Submit periodic reports on progress in implementing the Action Plan to the International Public Register of Commitments, as requested by its Secretariat, and agree to their in-country review by other committed States and non-state parties.

Signed on behalf of the Government of

By.....
(name and title) (signature)

Date:

Received and Registered, on behalf of the International Public Register of Commitments.....

By.....
(name and title) (signature)

Date:.....