



**Standing Committee on Nutrition
Annual Meeting
Hanoi, 3-7 March 2008**

International Alliance Against Hunger - Key Messages

1. In spite of the commitments made at the International Conference on Nutrition, the World Food Summit and the Millennium Summit, only a few nations were able to achieve significant progress in the reduction of the number of undernourished through determined and effective actions against hunger and malnutrition. These nations have shown that rapid improvements are possible. In most countries, however, efforts are, at best, half-hearted, partial and fragmented, and interventions are pitifully small in relation to the scale of the problem.
2. A global failure to tackle hunger and malnutrition seriously is resulting in premature death and impaired physical and mental development on a vast scale. It is depriving hundreds of millions of our contemporaries of their ability to meet the most basic of human needs and rights – the right to adequate food. It is perpetuating deep poverty, undermining economic growth prospects and threatening international stability and security.
3. We cannot claim that we do not know how to end hunger and malnutrition. There is a good understanding and broad agreement of the key instruments and approaches, but effective action is delayed by technical debates and institutional barriers. Plenty of research results and technologies and reasonable infrastructure are already available for effective programmes to be put in place. The fact that solutions are known and affordable but are not being applied, suggests that the institutions we represent, along with governments and policy makers at various levels are guilty, through our collective negligence, and have not taken full advantage of the opportunities and resources available to us.
4. Many actors are involved along the food chain and some of them are themselves food insecure. In order to improve nutrition it is essential that a combination of safe and diverse foods be available to all and that people's livelihoods enable them to feed their families adequately. Paradoxically the link between food and agriculture development on the one hand and health and nutrition on the other, remains weak, and yet strengthening it would have positive impacts on many sectors. Addressing poverty, hunger and malnutrition in itself improves economic productivity and human well-being, truly an example of the elusive win-win-win outcomes that are said to be so desirable.
5. In order to provide sustainable responses to hunger and malnutrition, close collaboration will need to be established between the production and social sectors so that all have

access to the necessary food, health and care. Capacity-building and synergy among all concerned institutions (including schools and health centres) will be required to address the needs of poor communities and households. However, capacity building of institutions still has a long way to go. Meanwhile much progress has been made in the development of models for community-based programmes, such as community-based therapeutic care, which present alternative options for places where institutions are absent or weak.

6. To address these problems, the Rome-based food and agriculture agencies (FAO, IFAD and WFP as well as Bioversity International – acting on behalf of CGIAR members) teamed up with interested international NGOs to launch the International Alliance Against Hunger (IAAH) on World Food Day 2003. The immediate aim of the IAAH is to develop a common vision of how to achieve universal food security and to do joint advocacy at global and national levels towards the eradication of hunger and malnutrition.
7. Since 2003, the IAAH has been nurturing the emergence of National Alliances Against Hunger (NAAH), bringing together civil society and government interests to engage in more vigorous action. Some 23 NAAH are now operational in both developed and developing countries and another 25 are at various stages of formation.
8. Encouraged by the progress so far achieved, the IAAH is engaged in expanding the network of NAAH and building up their advocacy capacities. It will be present at key international events and advocate expanded and more coherent action towards the eradication of hunger and malnutrition. And it is seeking to expand its membership, welcoming all institutions, from the UN system and civil society, that are active internationally in addressing issues related to chronic hunger and malnutrition.
9. The IAAH invites all participants at the 36th annual session of the SCN who share the vision of a world free from hunger and malnutrition to join its ranks. It also encourages delegates from member countries to support the creation and strengthening of National Alliances Against Hunger.
10. If we do not succeed in raising our voices to ensure that eradicating hunger and malnutrition rises to the top of the international agenda, our generation will be condemned by future generations for its failure to address the most fundamental problem facing humanity when it had all the knowledge and power to do so but preferred to turn its face the other way.