



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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# 132<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly

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## Reports on recent IPU specialized meetings

**(b) Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), on the theme *Parliaments for better nutrition***

**Rome (Italy), 18 November 2014**

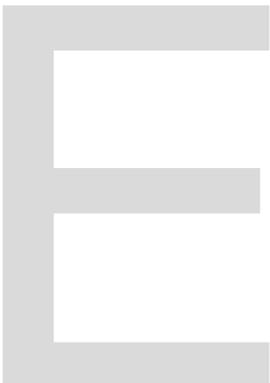
The IPU is tackling the issue of nutrition as part of its ongoing work with parliaments on maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) as well as child rights. Particular attention is being paid to parliaments' law-making, oversight, and representation powers, which they can use to help reduce malnutrition rates and thereby improve health and development outcomes.

At the request of WHO Director-General, Dr Margaret Chan, and FAO Director-General Mr. José Graziano da Silva, on 18 November the IPU organized the parliamentary component of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) with the sponsorship of the Italian Parliament and technical support from WHO and FAO.

The event gathered close to 100 members of parliament from across the world and provided them with up-to-date information on issues related to nutrition. The meeting also served as a forum for an exchange of views on key nutrition challenges and opportunities.

Parliamentarians reaffirmed the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food and acknowledged the need for its further recognition through specific constitutional and legislative provisions, including the adoption of national nutrition targets and policies, legislation that creates health-promoting environments and encourages healthy choices for all, as well as supports the production and processing of good quality foods.

The outcome of the parliamentary track was presented to the ICN2 plenary by Senator Pier Ferdinando Casini, Honorary IPU President.



**PARLIAMENTARY MEETING ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUTRITION (ICN2)  
ON THE THEME *PARLIAMENTS FOR BETTER NUTRITION***

**Rome (Italy), 18 November 2014**

***Organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union with the kind sponsorship of the Italian Parliament***

**FINAL STATEMENT**

We, members of parliament from across the world, assembled in Rome on 18 November 2014 on the occasion of the Second FAO-WHO International Conference on Nutrition (Rome, 19-21 November 2014) issue this statement as a contribution to the final outcome of the Conference.

We are deeply concerned that, despite progress in reducing hunger and undernourishment throughout the world, some 805 million people are still chronically hungry. Over 161 million children are suffering from stunted growth, 99 million from underweight and 51 million from wasting (low weight-for-height); 2 billion people have micronutrient deficiencies; and more than 500 million adults are obese. We stress that malnutrition in all its forms is a problem from which no country is spared and which it is imperative to eliminate within our lifetime.

We are aware of the opportunity that the ICN2 presents for parliaments as institutions capable of addressing the problem of malnutrition within their constitutional mandates.

We note the commitments made in the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and its Framework for Action, particularly with regard to the role of parliaments in addressing malnutrition, thereby contributing to our shared vision of a sustainable world with food security and adequate nutrition for all.

We recognize the support given by FAO and its Director-General, Mr. José Graziano da Silva, with a view to enhancing the contribution of parliaments and their role in the achievement of progress towards better nutrition.

We reaffirm that everyone has a right to adequate, safe, sufficient, and nutritious food and to freedom from hunger, and we acknowledge the need for specific constitutional and legislative provisions to ensure the enjoyment of those rights.

In light of the adoption of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and its Framework for Action, we see an urgent need for parliaments to advocate for more effective responses to malnutrition while ensuring that public policies are safeguarded against real or perceived conflicts of interest.

We stress the importance of parliamentary dialogue at the national, regional and global levels in order to share good practices and experiences in ensuring food security and adequate nutrition. At the same time, we encourage our colleagues around the world to continue their efforts to strengthen their own parliamentary institutions by taking proactive measures to endow their parliaments with greater accountability and oversight powers.

We therefore call on Parliaments to:

1. Adopt national nutrition targets to be attained by 2025, as well as a set of national indicators, taking into consideration the six global nutrition targets included in the WHO Comprehensive Implementation Plan on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition and the core set and extended set of outcome and progress indicators, as well as targets set in the Post-2015 Development agenda.
2. Adopt national nutrition policies and plans to attain national nutrition targets in 2025, taking into account the vision and commitments included in the Rome Declaration on Nutrition, the policy options included in Framework for Action.

3. Develop legislation and oversee regulations to create health-promoting environments and encourage healthy choices for all by protecting, educating and empowering consumers. This includes measures such as the establishment of labelling standards (including information on sugars, salts, fats and trans-fat content) which respect people's right to know; marketing regulations in particular for children; and consumer education through national campaigns and schools. Legislation and regulation for different settings may be considered for action, for example, in schools, workplaces, households, cities and local communities.
4. Adopt policies and legislation that supports the production and processing of good quality foods that are safe and conducive to a healthy diet, including measures to diversify food production (in particular fruits and vegetables), to establish and implement food quality standards, and to formulate/reformulate food products that provide healthier options. Ensure that legislation adopted by Parliaments to improve nutrition pays particular attention to the important role of family farmers and small holders, notably women farmers, in reducing malnutrition.
5. Adopt policies and legislation to promote exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months and protect women's right to breastfeed.
6. Support policies, programmes and legislation to improve access to healthy diets through poverty reduction, employment creation and social protection, including school meal programmes.
7. Develop legislation and support policies to empower women and support them in their role as producers, income earners, and caretakers, such as the adherence to the ILO Maternity Protection Convention and increasing access to quality health care (including ante and post-natal care).
8. Approve increased and prioritized budgetary allocations for addressing malnutrition and food insecurity and explore the provision of adequate, predictable and sustained resources, including capacity development programs for policy makers, government institutions and general public.
9. Oversee different sectors to ensure public policy coherence (trade, economic development, agriculture, health and education) and that addressing malnutrition receives a cross-sectoral and holistic response.
10. Promote collaborative arrangements within the Parliament and across Parliaments for better nutrition, working across party lines, sharing experiences and good practices based on national and international review, promoting South-South and triangular cooperation,.
11. Request that the IPU include into its 132<sup>nd</sup> Assembly, in March 2015, an item on the results of the meeting and the ICN2 follow-up.