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## Final Statement

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### Parliaments for Better Nutrition

Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union with the sponsorship of the Italian Parliament

Rome, 21 November 2014

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 reached 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 and extended sets of outcome and progress indicators, as well as the targets set in the post-2015 development agenda.
2. Adopt national nutrition policies and plans with a view to reaching national nutrition targets by 2025, taking into account the vision embodied and the commitments contained in the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the policy options included in its Framework for Action.
3. Develop legislation and oversee regulations aimed at creating a health-promoting environment and encourage healthy choices for all by protecting, educating and empowering consumers. This includes the adoption of measures such as the establishment of labelling standards (including information on sugars, salts, fats and trans-fat content) that respect people's right to know; marketing regulations, particularly for products targeting children; and consumer education through national campaigns and in the schools. Legislation and regulations for different settings, for example, schools, workplaces, households, cities and local communities, may be considered.
4. Adopt policies and legislation that support the production and processing of high-quality food that is safe and conducive to a healthy diet, including measures to diversify food production (in particular, fruits and vegetables), establish and implement food quality standards, and formulate or reformulate food products to provide healthier options; and ensure that legislation adopted by parliaments in order to improve nutrition pays particular attention to the important role of family farmers and smallholders, including 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 a healthy diet 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 by, among other things, acceding to the ILO Maternity Protection Convention and increasing access to high-quality health care (including prenatal and postnatal care).
8. Approve increased and prioritized budgetary allocations to reduce malnutrition and food insecurity and explore the possibility of providing adequate,

predictable and sustained resources for that purpose, including by funding capacity-building programmes for policy-makers, government institutions and the general public.

9. Monitor the various sectors to ensure the consistency of public policies in the areas of trade, economic development, agriculture, health and education and a cross-sectoral and holistic response to malnutrition.
10. Promote collaborative arrangements for better nutrition within and among parliaments by working across party lines, sharing experiences and good practices based on national and international review and promoting South-South and triangular cooperation.
11. Request that the IPU include in the agenda of its 132<sup>nd</sup> Assembly, in March 2015, an item on the results of this Meeting and follow-up on ICN2.