

**To:** The Milan Global Nutrition Summit Steering Group: the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Health Organization, the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, the United Kingdom Department for International Development, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Global Nutrition Report

December 11, 2017

Dear Members of the Milan Global Nutrition Summit Steering Group,

On behalf of the below signed organizations and the International Coalition for Advocacy on Nutrition (ICAN), thank you for hosting the Milan Global Nutrition Summit and putting nutrition at the forefront of the global agenda.

As an international coalition dedicated to mobilizing resources and improving policies for nutrition, we are committed to working closely with the Milan Global Nutrition Summit Stakeholder Group to ensure that the momentum and global leadership is maintained and driven forward. Particularly, we are calling on the government of Japan to announce this year that they will host the next Nutrition for Growth (N4G) alongside the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The Global Nutrition Summit offered an opportunity to highlight the critical importance and cost-effectiveness of good nutrition on a global stage. Importantly, it brought together diverse and new stakeholders to make commitments in the fight against malnutrition, including \$640 million of new resources from philanthropic and private donors, while mobilizing \$3.6 billion in total.

We are pleased to acknowledge these new donors and the much-needed infusion of financial resources to address malnutrition, a global crisis that now affects 1 in 3 people and every country. Even though malnutrition is responsible for nearly half of all child deaths, funding for nutrition is less than 1% of official donor assistance globally. At the same time, many countries face a growing burden of multiple forms of malnutrition as childhood overweight and obesity are on the rise. Each year the malnutrition crisis costs the global economy trillions of dollars in lost productivity and healthcare costs.

Yet, as was showcased at the Global Nutrition Summit, these costs are almost entirely preventable. Interventions to address malnutrition are evidence-based and some of the most cost-effective in global development. The World Health Assembly global nutrition and non-communicable disease targets, as well as Sustainable Development Goal 2, provide guidance for the global community to reduce and ultimately end malnutrition by 2030. Recent research by the World Bank and Results for Development also outlines a roadmap for donors, country governments and innovative financing mechanisms to reach 4 of the 6 global nutrition targets.

The goals are in place and high-impact interventions are known. Most urgently, more must be done by all actors to invest in a multisectoral approach to address malnutrition in all its forms. As humanitarian crises, famine-like conditions and climate change threaten the lives of millions, now is the time for the global community to ramp up known solutions to address both the immediate and underlying causes of malnutrition. A high-level nutrition summit, like the first Nutrition for Growth which mobilized \$4 billion for nutrition-specific programs and \$19 billion for improved nutrition outcomes from nutrition-sensitive investments in 2013, is critical to raising global awareness and mobilizing more resources.

We stand ready to support the Milan Global Nutrition Summit Steering Group to pass the baton to the Japanese government and look forward to working in partnership to make Nutrition for Growth 2020 a success so that fewer women, children and families suffer from malnutrition.

Sincerely,

