

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe
Office of the Prime Minister and His Cabinet
1-6-1 Nagata-cho
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8968

December 11, 2017

Dear Prime Minister Abe,

On behalf of the below signed organizations and the International Coalition for Advocacy on Nutrition (ICAN), thank you for your commitment to 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 together to ensure that the momentum created at the Global Nutrition Summit in Milan in November is maintained and accelerated. Hence, we are calling on your government to announce this year that you 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. Although 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. More must urgently 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 malnutrition. The 2013 Nutrition for Growth mobilized \$4 billion for nutrition-specific programs and \$19 billion for improved nutrition outcomes from nutrition-sensitive investments. A high-level nutrition summit that builds on this success is critical to raising global awareness and mobilizing additional resources.

We are grateful for your leadership on nutrition, including the launch of IFNA (Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa) at TICAD VI last year, and for your commitment to Universal Health Coverage, as health for all and good nutrition are intrinsically linked. The Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs' participation and statement at the Global Nutrition Summit in Milan further demonstrates Japan's prioritization of nutrition as part of the broader development agenda. We stand ready to support 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,

