



**Administrative Committee  
on Coordination**

ACC/1994/18  
25 July 1994

ENGLISH ONLY

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMME  
AND OPERATIONAL QUESTIONS

REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NUTRITION ON  
ITS TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

(New York, 7-11 March 1994)

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## INTRODUCTION

1. The twenty-first session of the ACC Subcommittee on Nutrition (SCN) was held at the headquarters of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in New York-11 March 1994, following ad hoc group meetings on individual micronutrient deficiencies (vitamin A, iodine and iron); nutrition, ethics and human rights; and nutrition of refugees and displaced people. In his opening remarks, the Executive Director of UNICEF referred to the substantial progress being made in improving the nutrition of children in several areas of the world. UNICEF fully supported the work of SCN and expressed particular appreciation for its publications. The session, which was chaired by Dr. A. Horwitz of the World Health Organization (WHO) opened with a symposium on behavioural change and nutrition programmes (see paras. 18-20 below). The list of participants is contained in annex IX; the list of documents, in annex X.

### I. MATTERS FOR THE APPROVAL OR ATTENTION OF CCPOQ

#### A. Election of Chairman

2. The practice had been for SCN to elect its Chairman for two-year periods and the term of office of the current Chairman expired at the close of the twenty-first session. However, the meeting was informed by the Secretary that new procedures for the appointment of chairpersons of ACC subsidiary bodies were under consideration by the Organizational Committee (OC).

3. Given the need for continuity and taking account of the possible adoption of new procedures, SCN decided by consensus to nominate Dr. Horwitz for an extension of his current Chairmanship until the close of the twenty-second session, at which time a new nomination would be made under any new rules adopted by ACC. Dr. Horwitz, in accepting the assignment, emphasized the useful role of SCN, and the many tasks it had to accomplish.

#### B. Methods of work

4. In response to a request by ACC through OC for a review of SCN methods of work, the SCN secretariat had prepared a background document (annex I) to facilitate discussion. As part of the restructuring of ACC and its subsidiary bodies, SCN was to report in future to the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ); accordingly, the results of the SCN review of its methods of work are submitted for consideration by CCPOQ. The review covered (a) Participation in SCN meetings; (b) the Advisory Group on Nutrition; (c) the implications and specific responsibilities of the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN); (d) SCN reporting on its meetings; (e) SCN Chairmanship; (f) the SCN secretariat; (g) the publications issued by the SCN secretariat; and (h) the programme budget and financing of SCN activities. The discussions and conclusions of SCN on those subjects are summarized below.

1. Participation in Subcommittee meetings

5. In line with SCN mandate, approved by the Economic and Social Council, participation in SCN had from the outset been of a tripartite nature, i.e., it consisted of representatives of United Nations agencies, Governments and non-governmental organizations. That tripartite participation had proved essential to the SCN task of coordinating nutrition matters in the United Nations system and was seen by most members as vital to its continued well-being. However, most of the subjects dealt with by SCN concerned conditions or situations in developing countries and it was felt that an enhanced presence of representatives from those countries was essential. Rather than enlarge its participation at that stage, SCN decided that in future it would appoint experts from developing countries as members of its Advisory Group on Nutrition, whenever appropriate, and would encourage the participation in its symposia of an increased number of persons from developing countries. As to increasing the number of participating non-governmental organizations, SCN felt that in view of the large number of non-governmental organizations in the field it would be difficult to make a selection of appropriate representatives; the matter required further study, but SCN might meanwhile consider inviting to its meetings persons who, in their individual capacity, were active in fields that had a direct bearing on items on its agenda.

6. SCN had generally rotated the venue of its meetings at the headquarters of one of its member bodies and it considered the possibility of meeting in the near future in Africa, where many of its nutrition activities were focused. The effects of holding an SCN meeting in Africa could be very beneficial in making better known in the region the many developmental efforts of SCN member bodies; those effects would offset any additional costs involved, which to the extent that they were to be charged to the SCN budget would have to be borne within the approved budget. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) undertook to investigate the possibility of inviting SCN to hold a future session at its regional office for Africa in Accra.

7. The practice had been for the annual SCN sessions to be preceded by meetings of ad hoc groups on specific subjects, notably three micronutrient groups, as well as by a symposium on a topic of particular relevance. New ad hoc groups had recently been established on refugee nutrition; nutrition, ethics and human rights; and breast-feeding and complementary feeding. Many of the subjects dealt with in such groups were subsequently reviewed, albeit in a different format, at the regular SCN session. SCN felt that some reorganization of that aspect of its work was desirable but concluded that the subject required further study.

2. Advisory Group on Nutrition

8. In reviewing the functions of the Advisory Group on Nutrition, SCN felt that no change in its terms of reference as contained in the background document (see annex I, para. 4) was called for; the Group should be free to bring in new issues and comment on ongoing activities of SCN. The creation of a panel from which to select members was not felt to be appropriate; rather, SCN confirmed that the current practice should be maintained of selecting eight scientists

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from different disciplines and generally from outside the United Nations system. The SCN secretariat should in future request nominations from United Nations agencies to fill vacancies in the Group. In particular, a better geographic balance should be obtained by appointing members from developing countries. Also the number of women members of the Group should be increased. Finally, it might on occasion be necessary for the Group to obtain the services of an expert on specific issues.

### 3. Follow-up to the International Conference on Nutrition

9. The follow-up tasks of the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN), held in Rome in 1992, were an absolute priority for SCN, which requested all United Nations agencies to make efforts in order to realize its goals. The task of the secretariat was to facilitate the coordination of those efforts and prepare periodic reports on the agencies' activities in implementing the World Declaration and Plan of Action for Nutrition, 1/ for consideration by ACC and submission through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly. Those additional tasks might require some additional consultancies and thus extrabudgetary funds, if resources under the SCN core budget for 1994-1995 were not sufficient for any agreed additional work.

### 4. Subcommittee reporting

10. In view of the fact that a standard format for reporting by ACC subsidiary bodies had been suggested by OC, SCN did not discuss the matter. The format of the present report reflects the OC decision.

### 5. Chairmanship of the Subcommittee

11. The considerations and conclusions of SCN on its chairmanship are reflected in paragraphs 2 and 3 above.

### 6. Secretariat

12. The Subcommittee was informed that standard procedures for the appointment of secretaries of ACC subcommittees were being prepared by OC; accordingly, that matter was not reviewed by SCN. As to the location of the secretariat, the former considerations that necessitated moving the secretariat from place to place no longer applied. Also, in view of the disruptive effect of moving and the cost involved, SCN concluded that its current location in Geneva should be continued. One member stressed its continuing position that the secretariat should consist only of the Technical Secretary, a secretary, and any additional consultants and temporary assistance needed to accomplish the work programme agreed to by participating agencies. The majority of members, however, did not share that view.

#### 7. Subcommittee publications

13. SCN reviewed the range of documentation and publications prepared by the secretariat, a list of which is contained in annex II. SCN considered the publications issued very useful, in particular such serial publications as SCN News. The question of commenting on or reviewing publications or documents prior to their issuance was considered. SCN concluded that formal statements by SCN would continue to require prior review and approval by all participating agencies. Subjects for symposia and the State-of-the Art Series should be agreed in advance by SCN and the relevant documents reviewed by the Advisory Group and agencies with a specific interest in the particular topic. Serial publications, such as SCN News and Refugee Nutrition, would be issued by the Technical Secretary and in view of the sources of the data published would carry a disclaimer based on the model suggested in the background document (see annex I, para. 35 (c)). A standard United Nations disclaimer relating only to geographical names, areas etc. would be necessary for all SCN publications.

#### 8. Budget procedures

14. The SCN budget was prepared on a biennial basis and consisted of core activities financed by United Nations participating agencies and supplementary activities financed by contributions from United Nations agencies, bilateral agencies and others. The programme budget and its financing would henceforth require approval in the first instance by SCN and subsequently by CCPOQ and the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Financial and Budgetary Questions) (CCAQ)(FB)). The presentation of the budget document had evolved over the past few years and now appeared to fit CCAQ(FB) requirements; a further improvement would be the inclusion of a work plan or list of proposed activities in the forthcoming budget document covering the biennium 1996-1997, to be reviewed at the twenty-second session. That document would include all proposed activities and their estimated cost, both for core and supplementary activities, and the approval of SCN would be required for the total programme and its budget. When the budget was being reviewed (e.g., the 1996-1997 budget would be reviewed during 1995), no certainty as regards the possibility of finding all supplementary funds would exist; that would only become clear during the budget implementation period (i.e., in 1996 and 1997).

#### C. The world food problem, hunger and malnutrition

15. The attention of CCPOQ is drawn to the statement contained in annex III, entitled "The world food problem, hunger and malnutrition", which was prepared by the Advisory Group.

#### D. Venue and dates of the twenty-second session

16. SCN accepted the invitation from the Director of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) to hold its twenty-second session at the headquarters of PAHO/Regional Office for the Americas of WHO in Washington, D.C., tentatively from 12 to 16 June 1995. The provisional agenda is contained in annex IV.

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II. WORK IN PROGRESS: SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

A. Appointment of Advisory Group members

17. SCN felt that an insufficient number of names had been received to fill the four vacancies arising in the Advisory Group. Participating agencies were urged to submit additional names to the Technical Secretary by 30 April 1994; a mail poll would subsequently be carried out following the method proposed by the United Nations University (UNU).

B. Symposium: behavioural change and nutrition programmes

18. It was agreed that the subject of the symposium was of critical importance but did not receive adequate recognition. The report of the symposium should be widely publicized and each agency should examine its own procedures in the light of the report to determine ways in which more attention could be given to behavioural issues. There were recognized processes and tools for that purpose, including rapid assessment procedures, and agencies should promote their use in the field. In practice, models for the identification and influence of behavioural factors affecting nutrition were not as complex as they might first appear.

19. There were many people in developing countries with backgrounds in sociology, anthropology, advertising and marketing whose help could be enlisted, but there was a need for skilled professional guidance. Ways of enhancing the number of those with such catalytic skills deserved urgent consideration.

20. It was agreed to establish an ad hoc group to maintain the momentum of interest generated by the symposium. Terms of reference for the group are contained in annex V; however, it was decided not to activate the group until next year.

C. Report on the World Nutrition Situation

21. The Chairman noted that the Executive Director of UNICEF, in opening the current session, had expressed his appreciation for the Report on the World Nutrition Situation, emphasizing their value for UNICEF. The Report was now available as an electronic database. Up-to-date information using national data from 14 countries was presented. While there were several countries on track for meeting prevalence goals related to underweight in South-East Asia, there were virtually none in Africa. WHO presented its up-to-date data on protein-energy malnutrition from the WHO Global Database on Child Growth, which currently covered 87 per cent of all under-5-year-olds in developing countries. It was noted that based on current trends, no world region and only a few countries were likely to achieve a 20 per cent reduction in malnutrition by the end of 1995.

22. It was decided to forward to CCPOQ a statement from the Advisory Group concerning the prospects for future world food supplies and their relation to



nutrition. The statement, entitled "The world food problem, hunger and malnutrition", is contained in annex III.

D. Assessment of flows of external resources for nutrition

23. The assessment of flows of external resources for nutrition was regarded as a potentially useful and important exercise, which could be linked more closely with the Report on the World Nutrition Situation. There remained problems with the assessment of the contributions of some agencies, specifically those of the World Food Programme (WFP), and the detection of trends was complicated when agencies changed definitions or procedures. Furthermore, there were conceptual problems in aggregating resource flows on unlike items to arrive at a total for nutrition, understood as an outcome. Direct commitments to nutrition on the part of bilateral donors appeared very variable over the period 1987-1991, although nutrition components in bilateral projects could often not be adequately assessed.

24. It was agreed that while the current system would not be interrupted, specific major activities that influenced nutrition, such as resources for salt iodization, would be monitored as well. Consultation would be held between the secretariat and member agencies about what items should be monitored and about the process for assessing flows and displaying results.

25. It was also agreed that a concise statement summarizing the main points should be prepared for policy makers and managers and should be widely disseminated.

E. Infant and young child feeding

26. WHO representatives presented a draft of the WHO global approach to infant and young child feeding, welcoming comments and collaboration, especially at the country level. While agencies expressed a desire to consider the draft in greater detail, the approach was generally seen as an operational response to the World Declaration and Plan of Action for Nutrition and an extension of the Innocenti Declaration on the Protection, Promotion and Support of Breastfeeding (1990). 2/ Suggestions included placing more emphasis on complementary feeding, maternal nutrition, therapeutic feeding, breast-feeding in emergency situations and the use of WHO collaborative centres, as well as the caution that while granting more resources and attention to complementary feeding was welcome, it should not be allowed to diminish support for breast-feeding.

27. The need for harmonization of the policies of different agencies, especially at the field level, was stressed. It was agreed to establish a group on breast-feeding and complementary feeding to follow up on ICN goals, based on the terms of reference contained in annex VI. It was agreed that WHO would serve as the focal point within the United Nations system for establishing the group. Membership of the group would be open to all members and agencies that normally participated in SCN, as well as any institutions, specialized groups and experts whom the ad hoc group felt might contribute to its purpose and who might then be invited by the Chairman to attend.

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F. Micronutrient malnutrition: group reports

1. Iodine deficiency disorders

28. SCN noted the mid-decade goal accepted by the UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy in January 1994, which had been expressed as follows: "Iodize all salt for human and animal consumption (including salt for food processing) (Universal Salt Iodization) in all countries where iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) are a public health problem; where full salt iodization is not possible in areas where IDD are a severe public health problem, supplementation with oral or injected iodized oil will be recommended as a temporary measure." The first WHO working paper from its Micronutrient Deficiency Information System (MDIS), entitled "Global prevalence of IDD", was made available. Extensive support for activities related to IDD goals on the part of many agencies had been demonstrated at the meeting of the Working Group on Iodine Deficiency Disorders, held on 6 March 1994. 3/ As a mechanism for sharing information, raising questions and providing a forum for discussion, the Working Group had confirmed its value and should be retained. The possible role of the International Council for the Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCIDD) in providing a means for independent verification to ensure the sustainability of the attainment of the elimination goal was being further considered by WHO and UNICEF.

2. Vitamin A

29. SCN noted the mid-decade goal accepted by the UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy in January 1994, expressed as follows: "Ensure that at least 80 per cent of all children under 24 months of age living in areas with inadequate vitamin A intake receive adequate vitamin A through a combination of breast-feeding, dietary improvement, fortification and supplementation." Some 13 agencies had reported on their activities. WHO had revised its prevalence map, based on information from its MDIS database and regional offices. UNICEF had been informed that at least 49 countries recognized significant vitamin A deficiency, only 17 of which had large-scale action programmes. Recent research had yielded evidence that providing multiple prophylactic supplements of relatively large doses of vitamin A below the age of six months should be treated with caution. It was agreed that the Ad Hoc Group on the Control of Vitamin A Deficiency, which had met on 5 March 1994, 4/ was serving a valuable function.

3. Iron

30. The Ad Hoc Group for the Control of Iron Deficiency (GCID), which met on 5 March 1994, 5/ had heard reports from some 10 agencies. It was affirmed at that meeting that iron deficiency was the most widespread of the micronutrient deficiencies, with a 50-70 per cent prevalence of anaemia in women (especially pregnant women) and preschool children, with serious consequences for physical and mental performance. WHO was consolidating its 1992 database on the prevalence of anaemia in pregnant and non-pregnant women with its MDIS data on children from 85 countries. The joint WHO/UNICEF/UNU consultation in

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December 1993 had been optimistic about global progress towards the ICN goal of achieving a substantial reduction in iron deficiency within the decade through a combination of the four strategies relating to diet, fortification, supplementation (for pregnant women at least) and public health programmes to control disease. It was noted, however, that while there were mid-term goals for both iodine and vitamin A, there was currently no mid-term goal for iron, and it was suggested that one be adopted.

31. SCN recommended that all relevant United Nations agencies urge Governments to adopt the following goal to be achieved by the end of 1995, in line with the mid-term goals for vitamin A and iodine accepted by the UNICEF-WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy: "The development of a plan for the elimination of iron deficiency anaemia as a public health problem among women and children." The plan's strategy should be based on a mix of interventions appropriate to the country situation analysis. Interventions should include in all instances the improvement of dietary patterns and practices to increase the bio-availability and absorption of iron, complemented by universal iron supplementation for pregnant women in accord with WHO recommendations. For most countries, the fortification of suitable foods with bio-available iron would be appropriate. Where malaria was prevalent, its control was essential to the prevention of anaemia. In some populations, the elimination of intestinal parasites would achieve a reduction or even elimination of iron deficiency anaemia. The ultimate goal was the elimination of iron deficiency anaemia as a public health problem, which would be essential for the achievement of other overall goals adopted by the World Summit for Children, including a halving of maternal mortality rates and a one-third reduction in under-five death rates.

#### G. Nutrition of refugees and displaced people

32. Three meetings of the Ad Hoc Group on Nutrition of Refugees and Displaced People had been held since it was established in 1992, the latest having been held on 6 March 1994, 6/ and three issues of the Refugee Nutrition Information System Report had appeared and had been distributed widely through the SCN secretariat's network of member agencies, bilaterals and non-governmental organizations. The intention was to issue the Report about every two months, since the situation tended to change rapidly; and to extend coverage, as that became practicable, from its current concentration on Africa to other regions of the world. The significance of the problem was illustrated by the fact that the numbers of refugees and displaced people in sub-Saharan Africa had increased during the last two and a half decades in Africa by about 12 per cent per year, four times the rate of natural population growth.

33. The Refugee Nutrition Information System (RNIS) was proving a useful tool for information and advocacy for member agencies, particularly the two chiefly concerned, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and WFP, as well as for several bilateral agencies and non-governmental organizations. The secretariat was congratulated for establishing the RNIS and encouraged to further improve and simplify its presentation, as well as to introduce a greater degree of standardization in the collection of data on both adults and children.

34. Although current research was increasing the understanding of famine and the behaviour of groups especially susceptible to famine, there was still need for further research to enable more efficient responses to be made to the needs of refugees and displaced populations. Food relief should be viewed as part of broader actions for the promotion of human rights, involving a more effective participation on the part of local communities. Of particular concern were the impact of displaced populations on the social structure of local communities and problems associated with identifying and working with leaders who were genuinely representative of refugee communities, which were generally 80 per cent women and children. In collaboration with non-governmental organizations, UNHCR and WFP were both conducting studies on food-related issues in refugee communities.

35. SCN endorsed the proposal that a workshop on better management of nutritional emergencies in refugees and displaced people in Africa should be held under the auspices of the Ad Hoc Group at the University of Nairobi in 1994, and should be organized by UNHCR in collaboration with other agencies and funded by the Deutsche Gesellschaft Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ).

#### H. Follow-up to the International Conference on Nutrition

##### 1. Activities of the Subcommittee secretariat

36. In connection with monitoring ICN goals related to the reduction of famine deaths, the SCN secretariat had recently initiated an inquiry into the adequacy of resources being made available. Notably, the mobilization of resources and an impressive degree of country preparedness during the recent drought in southern Africa had prevented starvation. It was considered that the inquiry should be continued and extended; in addition, the importance of costs associated with the initiation of interventions should be recognized, as well as those incurred through ongoing operations.

37. SCN agreed to the suggestion of the Advisory Group that a workshop on famine in Africa be held, with the participation of representatives of several drought-prone countries, regional organizations, SCN agency members and interested bilaterals. WFP would take the lead in following up and coordinating the concerns of the many other agencies interested in supporting the workshop. The rationale for the workshop and its specific objectives are contained in draft form in annex VII.

38. In 1993, the SCN secretariat had begun to assess the availability of the resources from agencies and Governments required for reaching ICN goals. Initially, some 10 countries in eastern, central and southern Africa (ECSA) were to be assessed, with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). A first exploratory assessment had been made in Kenya, Tanzania and Zimbabwe at an estimated cost of \$2,000 per country. Several organizations questioned the value of the entire exercise as an ICN follow-up activity, given the difficulty of assessing and costing nutritionally relevant programmes; however, others thought it to have been a useful exercise, especially in terms of developing a methodology that was based on actions taken to meet the cross-cutting and thematic recommendations of ICN. A matter requiring further study was how to quantify and incorporate into the assessment

the contribution made by communities themselves to resources, both of manpower and money. The assessment was to be carried out by Governments with the guidance of the Eastern, Central and Southern Africa Nutrition Group (ECSA) food and nutrition coordinator and the outcome should be ready for reporting to SCN at its twenty-second session.

## 2. United Nations Children's Fund

39. UNICEF distributed summarized information from a recently conducted survey of its country offices. Of 54 respondents, 76 per cent had indicated that significant progress had been achieved in drafting national nutrition plans of action; 81 per cent had indicated significant involvement of UNICEF in financial, technical, advisory or advocacy work related to ICN follow-up.

## 3. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

40. FAO distributed a detailed report on its follow-up action. Guidelines had been prepared for assisting countries in developing their national plans of action for nutrition. All FAO country representatives had been requested to encourage close cooperation between local United Nations offices in support of national efforts. Official requests for assistance had been received from over 60 countries and direct assistance had been provided to over 50.

## 4. World Health Organization

41. WHO reported on progress in its ICN follow-up activities, including the establishment of a Food and Nutrition Division and a nutrition task force at headquarters and regional offices. The main thrust of WHO activities was to assist countries in developing and strengthening national nutrition plans of action. To date, 67 countries had requested support from WHO and funds and/or technical support had been provided to 45. WHO reported that 49 countries had already developed national nutrition plans of action in draft or final form. WHO reported on its holding a series of 12 workshops and preparation of 22 publications in support of ICN follow-up activities, as well as on its monitoring/evaluation function through its six data banks.

## 5. Others

42. ICN follow-up activities were also reported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), WFP and UNU. Inter-agency collaboration appeared to be especially good at the country level, but efforts needed to be made to ensure that Governments did not receive contradictory advice and multiple requests for information from different agencies.

I. Household food security

43. IFAD and UNICEF had commissioned a technical review entitled Household Food Security: Concepts, Indicators, Measurement 7/ which had been published in 1992. It had been decided to defer the question of whether or not to establish an ad hoc working group until after ICN.

44. It was agreed that IFAD would take the lead, in consultation with FAO and WFP, in following up the matter. IFAD would ascertain the interest in, and practicality of, holding a meeting in Rome later in 1994. If such a meeting was held, IFAD would report its results to SCN at its next session when a decision on the establishment of a working group would be made. Representatives of several United Nations and bilateral agencies stated that they would be interested in participating in such a meeting and would appreciate being consulted about what topics they might wish to include in the agenda.

J. Nutrition and chronic disease

45. SCN took note of the increasing importance in developing countries of diet-related non-communicable diseases, such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes mellitus and obesity. SCN commended the initiative of WHO in planning, jointly with FAO, a consultation in Cyprus in 1994 on promoting appropriate diets and lifestyles. It was agreed that the consultation would be complementary to a symposium on the subject that had been proposed for the SCN meeting in 1995.

46. There were alternative proposals for the symposium at that time, including one on the changing context of nutrition in the modern world and its implications for support to national and local nutrition services, illuminated by the discussion of issues in the series of Martin J. Forman memorial lectures.

K. International Nutrition Institute

47. SCN took note of initiatives to undertake operational research and strengthen management capacity in nutrition programming, sometimes referred to as the promotion of nutrition engineers. The Rockefeller Foundation was supporting a small meeting in Bellagio (31 October-4 November 1994), at which carefully selected participants from developing countries, non-governmental organizations, agencies and academia would explore alternative concepts and funding. The Pew Charitable Trust might support a related initiative in Central America and Mexico that would focus on training and research needs. A regional approach would enable readier adaptation to different problems, needs and resources.

L. School nutrition and health

48. SCN took note of the progress of the Inter-agency Action Group on School Nutrition and Health. The Group, which was currently supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), UNICEF, USAID, WFP and the World Bank, welcomed the membership of any interested party. The Education Development

Centre, Inc. (EDC) served as secretariat. The Group sought to promote collaboration among its members in support of country projects that addressed nutrition and health constraints to learning among primary school students, with an emphasis on strengthening the capacity of local institutions. Two technical papers had been prepared. Countries identified for collaborative opportunities were Bolivia, Ecuador, Burkina Faso, Kenya, the Philippines and possibly Eritrea.

49. UNESCO efforts in the area of school health and nutrition were targeted to areas in which access to and participation in basic education was poor, since in many developing countries the goal of universal primary education had receded rather than grown closer. A systematic review of the situation in over 100 developing countries had been complemented by detailed country assessments. The UNESCO approach was to foster in-country interdisciplinary operational research to inform the design of school/community-based actions to improve the public health conditions in schools and the health and well-being of schoolchildren.

M. Improving nutrition: country experiences

50. Following the SCN secretariat workshop on managing successful nutrition programmes, held at the Fourteenth Congress of the International Union of Nutritional Sciences (IUNS), held in Seoul, 10 case studies had been undertaken with UNICEF support on the country-wide experiences of actions leading to improved nutrition. The case studies had been published in the countries concerned. The SCN secretariat had prepared a synthesis of the findings from the reviews of nutrition-relevant actions in the 10 countries (Brazil, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, the United Republic of Tanzania, Thailand and Zimbabwe) for discussion at a workshop at the Fifteenth IUNS Congress, held in Adelaide in September 1993. A draft had been prepared and would be published after additional comments had been solicited from the participating agencies and incorporated into the final document. SCN took note with satisfaction of the useful exercise.

N. Activities sponsored by the United Nations University

51. SCN noted with appreciation the reported activities of the International Dietary Energy Consultancy Group (IDECG), including its useful technical publications; the International Food Data Systems project (INFOODS), including the cooperation between UNU and FAO in developing improved regional databases on food composition and improved quality control in laboratories as well as their joint sponsorship of two IUNS committees concerned with developing food quality indicators and improving the nomenclature for facilitating the interchange among regional databases; and the International Food Intake Data project (INFID), in its efforts to assist all countries in compiling standardized summaries of food consumption data.

O. Nutrition, ethics and human rights

52. The Ad Hoc Group on Nutrition, Ethics and Human Rights submitted a proposal to SCN containing 11 recommendations (annex VIII). SCN recognized the importance of the subject but decided to proceed cautiously and agreed that for the time being it would act only on recommendations 1, 3 and 6.

53. FAO, WHO and UNICEF reported on their work to assess the impact of sanctions on the health and nutrition of civilians in Iraq.

54. UNICEF stated that it was prepared to continue to act as a focal point among the member agencies for the activity through the involvement of its groups concerned with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and with Nutrition. It would maintain close liaison with the World Alliance for Nutrition and Human Rights (WANHR).

P. Bilateral group statement

55. In the course of the full (informal) meeting, a representative of the donor aid organizations drew attention to the SCN mandate, noting that it stated that special arrangements could be made for SCN to meet as required with bilateral agencies and non-governmental organizations active in nutrition-oriented projects (E/5805, para. 32). The representative also expressed great appreciation for the tripartite arrangements, under which it had been agreed that there should be informal tripartite meetings involving members of the ACC Subcommittee, the Advisory Group on Nutrition, bilateral agencies and representative institutions active in nutrition, especially from developing countries (E/5968, para. 8); he urged that those arrangements continue.

56. The representative, on a separate point, noted that SCN estimates of resource flows from bilateral agencies to nutrition should not yet be interpreted as showing a trend because the data were incomplete and covered too short a period.

Notes

1/ International Conference on Nutrition, Final Report of the Conference, Rome, December 1992 (Rome, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and World Health Organization, 1992), Part II.

2/ The Innocenti Declaration was produced and adopted by participants at the WHO/UNICEF policy makers' meeting on the theme "Breast-feeding in the 1990s: a global initiative". The meeting was co-sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), and was held at the Spedale degli Innocenti, Florence (30 July-1 August 1990). The Declaration reflects the content of the original background document for the meeting and the views expressed in group and plenary sessions.

3/ Chairman: Dr. G. Clugston; Secretary: Dr. B. Hetzel.

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- 4/ Chairman: Dr. D. Alnwick; Secretary: Dr. B. Underwood.
- 5/ Chairman: Dr. N. Scrimshaw; Secretary: Dr. F. Viteri.
- 6/ Co-Chairs: Mrs. R. Bhatia and Mrs. J. Katona-Apte.
- 7/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.92.XX.USA.7.

Annex I

NOTE ON METHODS OF WORK OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NUTRITION

Introduction

1. SCN was established in 1977 by the Economic and Social Council, primarily as a consequence of decisions taken at the World Food Conference. The Council, in document E/5968 (paras. 4-5) dated 26 April 1977 on institutional arrangements relating to nutrition, decided that SCN would keep under review the overall direction, scale, coherence and impact of the United Nations response to the nutritional problems of the world. It would be a point of convergence in harmonizing the policies and activities of the United Nations system [in the area of nutrition]. The terms of reference of SCN were defined as follows:

(a) Examine the existing and projected activities of the United Nations system in implementing the resolutions of the World Food Conference related to nutritional improvement, taking account of the relevant decisions of the governing bodies of the agencies concerned;

(b) Determine, in cooperation with Governments at all levels, whether the efforts of the system are fully mobilized and integrated in order to achieve maximum impact at the country level, taking into account programmes being undertaken on a bilateral basis;

(c) Consider whether the existing arrangements and resources can respond effectively to the major nutritional problems of the developing world.

At its twentieth session, in 1993, SCN recommended that wherever the World Food Conference was mentioned, in the terms of reference, reference should also be made to the International Conference on Nutrition.

2. ACC, at its second regular session of 1977, outlined the specific activities, reviews and research falling within the competence of SCN, as follows:

(a) Provide initiatives for developing a harmonized and consistent approach on the part of international agencies in their collaboration with Governments to select options for improving nutrition, for including nutritional considerations in national development planning and for developing nutrition planning systems and policies;

(b) Take initiatives towards achieving the complementarity and coordination of activities of the concerned international agencies in regard to their direction, scale, coherence and impact in response to the nutritional problems of the world, including the setting of objectives for the international effort and the periodic review of progress;

(c) Keep under continuing review the major determinants of nutritional status, particularly the general situation of food production, food distribution and utilization, food security, sanitary conditions, breast-feeding practices

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and other pertinent socio-economic conditions, and call attention to special problems in that regard;

(d) Arrange for regular information exchange, consultation and, where appropriate, coordination of action with concerned agencies and organizations outside the United Nations system;

(e) Examine every two to three years reviews of the general food and nutrition situation in the world, with special attention to nutrition, and assess their implications for vulnerable groups in developing countries;

(f) Sponsor periodic reviews of the most up-to-date knowledge about nutrition problems and how to deal with them;

(g) Identify priority-applied research and training needs for both the understanding of the complex basis of nutrition problems and the development and management of policies and programmes for their prevention;

(h) Mobilize the institutional, human and financial resources of the United Nations system and other organizations in order to meet those needs, with special emphasis on developing countries;

(i) Maintain relations with concerned agencies and organizations outside the United Nations system and with the scientific community in order to ensure that full use is made of their potential contribution.

3. The Advisory Group on Nutrition was established by ACC at the outset (see E/5968, paras. 6-7). The Advisory Group meets formally twice a year - once at the time of the annual SCN session - and members regularly contribute to SCN activities, such as workshops and the preparation of publications. There are eight members, appointed for two-year terms renewable twice and drawn from relevant scientific disciplines with a regional balance; they must have wide experience and an extensive reputation.

4. The terms of reference for the Advisory Group, as agreed to at the first session of SCN, are:

(a) Provide advice on matters referred to the Advisory Group by SCN, with particular reference to multidisciplinary problems, the linkages between various activities designed to tackle the nutrition problem and the overall orientation of the nutrition efforts of the United Nations system;

(b) Bring to the notice of SCN other issues the Advisory Group considers to need special attention;

(c) Help execute, where appropriate, the programme of work as formulated and approved by SCN;

(d) Maintain relations with concerned agencies and organizations outside the United Nations system and with the scientific community, and help SCN ensure that the United Nations system makes full use of their potential contributions.

5. SCN began its work in 1977. At an informal meeting held near Rome in October 1985, an assessment of the aims and future work of SCN was made, which was discussed by SCN at its twelfth session, in February 1986 (see ACC/1986/PG/10, paras. 107-110). At that session, SCN concluded that its role consisted of advocacy; facilitating coordination, especially among United Nations agencies; fostering dialogue among those concerned with nutrition, particularly among SCN member agencies and bilaterals; and promoting relevant research, analysis and dissemination of information. As to other ACC subcommittees and related institutions, SCN should be primarily concerned with policy. A large number of issues had found their way onto the agendas of the Advisory Group and of SCN and a process for resolving them had developed, involving the compilation of background information, review (through the Advisory Group ad hoc groups, meetings and SCN) and the dissemination of conclusions by such means as publication. Those procedures and other issues were reviewed at a second informal meeting held in Toronto in October 1991; finally a number of them were raised again by SCN at its twentieth session, in February 1993, as reported to OC on 19 March 1993. In an exchange of correspondence between the SCN Chairman and the OC Chairman (May-July 1993), the SCN Chairman requested the secretariat to prepare the present note on working methods for the consideration of SCN at its twenty-first session.

6. SCN has focused on three regular mandated roles to meet its terms of reference. First, periodic reporting on the evolution of the world nutrition situation is required. Second, the flows of external resources to address the nutrition problems thus identified must be assessed. Third, the policies of the United Nations agencies (and those of bilaterals, as appropriate) should be harmonized to ensure the most effective use of available resources to improve nutrition, which partly involves linking the nutritional problems (distribution, severity and trends) with the resources allocated and their use. Given the structure of SCN as an ACC subsidiary body, the main means of facilitating agency activities in nutrition is to generate information, foster its exchange (particularly but not exclusively through the annual SCN sessions) and disseminate it to those who can use it. That information should be sound and up to date; it should also represent a balanced and reasonable consensus among SCN member agencies and not merely their lowest common denominator.

7. Since its establishment, SCN has held annual sessions, at which it reviews the important nutrition matters confronting participating agencies and approves the programme of activities for the future and the related budget. The venue of annual sessions has rotated, normally in response to an invitation from a participating United Nations agency. Participants at the annual sessions of SCN currently comprise some 16 United Nations agencies or programmes, 12 bilateral agencies, four international non-governmental organizations and the members of the Advisory Group on Nutrition; total participation averages 50 to 60 persons. A number of special meetings, as well as a topical symposium, take place prior to or as part of the annual meeting of SCN. SCN sessions last one week, comprising both plenary sessions and executive sessions limited to United Nations agencies and programmes only.

8. SCN was initially located at FAO headquarters in Rome; it was transferred in 1988 to WHO headquarters in Geneva. It consists of the Technical Secretary and two Professional posts (project officers, one of whom is based in

Washington) and one General Service post. Furthermore, there is provision for consultants and temporary assistance; the approved budget was \$1,908,000 for the period 1992-1993, financed by regular contributions from United Nations agencies totalling \$1,131,000 and the balance (approved subject to available funds) by supplementary contributions from United Nations agencies, bilateral agencies and other donors.

9. OC, acting upon the Secretary-General's letter of 23 December 1992, concluded in its report of 12 February 1993 that SCN should carry out a review - in the form of a self-appraisal - of its future role. The self-appraisal was carried out by SCN at its twentieth session and both the report and its conclusions were transmitted by the Chairman of SCN to the Chairman of OC on 19 March 1993. ACC decided to retain SCN as part of the ACC system and suggested that SCN review its methods of work. It was decided that SCN should henceforth report to the newly established CCPOQ. In addition, given the fact that SCN has been functioning on the same lines for some years and that a number of recent developments, notably the tasks assigned to it by the 1992 International Conference on Nutrition, have had an impact on its work, it seems appropriate to carry out a broad review of SCN methods of work, in particular:

- (a) Participation in SCN meetings, particularly in the light of the follow-up to ICN decisions;
- (b) Functions of the Advisory Group on Nutrition, as well as its meetings and membership;
- (c) Implications and specific responsibilities for SCN resulting from ICN;
- (d) Reporting procedures;
- (e) Chairmanship;
- (f) Secretariat;
- (g) Publications issued by the SCN secretariat;
- (h) Programme budget and financing of SCN activities.

The purpose of the present note is to describe some alternative methods that might better fulfil the SCN mandate in nutrition matters to be a point of convergence in harmonizing the policies and activities in the United Nations system; it is also intended to provide some initial recommendations for consideration by SCN at its twenty-first session. The paper has been prepared by the SCN secretariat, which on specific topics has consulted with a number of people who are or have been involved with SCN in various capacities.

#### Subcommittee meetings

10. The follow-up on the decisions taken by ICN in 1992 and its ensuing discussion by SCN at its twentieth session emphasized the need for the involvement of the United Nations system in nutrition matters at regional, national and local levels. The specific goals set by ICN would appear to

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require a greater need for coordination at those different levels, where structured cooperation is generally scarce. The present participation in SCN meetings does not directly provide for participation by either developing countries or regional representatives, nor is there provision in SCN for sponsoring regional meetings for such purposes as working towards some of the specific goals set by ICN.

11. The coordination functions of SCN are substantially enhanced by the presence at its meetings of representatives not only of interested United Nations agencies but also of donor Governments and non-governmental organizations. Of necessity, discussions in SCN have focused to a large extent on nutrition problems in developing countries and on methods for coordinating agency activities in the countries and regions concerned; however, they have been deprived of the benefit of the participation of representatives of the countries or regions in question or of non-governmental organizations actively involved in nutrition problems in the developing world. Accordingly, the question arises whether formal or informal representatives from the developing world should be invited to SCN sessions and if so what countries, regions or organizations should be represented. An enlarged participation in SCN - other than its executive sessions - might require some adjustment to the organization of its annual meetings but would in principle be feasible within existing arrangements.

12. As to the representation of non-governmental organizations working in developing countries, it would be necessary to identify focal point(s) and strike a balance between different types of non-governmental organizations. Representation from non-governmental organizations concerned primarily with development assistance and relief would be particularly important. The Global Food and Nutrition Alliance (GLOFNA), established in the wake of ICN, could also provide a useful focal point.

13. One way to foster the participation of developing countries would involve identifying and cooperating with regional and national groupings of agencies (governmental, non-governmental and international) that deal with nutrition and the specific goals of ICN. If such groups do not exist, further action will need to be considered. However, there are already a number of such groupings with which SCN has at least informal contact, including groups of those professionally concerned with nutrition (especially in government departments and agencies) in the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN); ECSA; the Latin American Group of Nutrition Societies (SLAN); and possibly the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama (INCAP). India and China should perhaps participate in their own right rather than as members of regional groupings.

14. That would be a step towards the requirement for SCN to consider coordination at all levels in order to achieve maximum impact at the country level (see para. 1 (b) above); as well as to facilitate the coordination of United Nations efforts to follow up ICN (see paras. 18-20 below). A meeting of SCN in Africa, for example, would focus attention on nutrition matters and stimulate action in that region.

15. Any such expansion of participation in SCN meetings and change in focus need not materially alter the structure of SCN, which would continue as an ACC Subcommittee and meet as such during the executive session in the course of enlarged meetings. A distinction already exists between formal United Nations business - conducted in executive sessions - and the participation of bilaterals, non-governmental organizations and others in the plenary (informal) sessions, which could continue to provide for broader coordination activities, whose scope would vary according to needs. It should be noted that networking in regional groups has recently become far more feasible and inexpensive using modern communications technology. For example, it would be straightforward to use an electronic mail network to maintain communications (possibly through networks already set up, such as the UNICEF health network).

16. As to the organization of SCN sessions, since the seventh session, in 1981, the first day has generally been used for symposia on policy issues of current relevance, providing an opportunity for involving outside representatives from developing countries and non-governmental organizations. That practice has highlighted many important issues and stimulated their wider discussion, including through publications. Periodically, that practice has been reviewed to try to relieve pressure on the agenda but has been considered sufficiently important to continue. None the less, it could be considered again whether it represents the best use of the limited time available. A further question that may be worth considering is whether one session per year is adequate.

#### Advisory Group on Nutrition

17. The composition and functions of the Advisory Group have been summarized in paragraphs 3 and 4 above. In that regard, the following questions may also be considered:

(a) Instead of a fixed membership, a panel system whereby a larger group is called upon could be considered, which would allow ad hoc attendance by experts on specific issues and would enable the Chairman to replace members unable to attend meetings. On the other hand, the lack of continuity of such a panel system might lead to problems compared with a core advisory group matched to well-defined responsibilities;

(b) Another issue for consideration concerns whether the present size, composition and frequency of meetings of the Advisory Group is adequate to deal with its functions. Should the number of members be expanded in order to ensure that advice in different fields can be provided? Should a greater representation of developing country experts be encouraged? Does SCN formulate concise requests for advice from the Advisory Group? Does the secretariat have the resources to adequately support the Advisory Group?;

(c) A need has been expressed by both SCN and Advisory Group chairmen, from time to time, for specific expertise to support their advice to SCN. One option would be to provide for up to three special advisers to the chairmen, which the SCN Chairman, in consultation with the Advisory Group Chairman, could nominate to facilitate their work;

(d) Alternative procedures for the selection of Advisory Group members may be considered. Its composition, as reflected in the selection of members, may be trying to fulfil too many criteria (especially with only eight members). The criteria include the needs, with variously perceived priority, for programmatic experience, regional balance, top-level scientific capability in a whole range of topics (10 subject areas were included in previous selections, some members covering more than one). One alternative that might be considered is to view membership as needing to be combined from two main viewpoints:

- (a) Programmatic experience, balanced by region;
- (b) Senior scientists of wide-ranging expertise who can provide sound general judgement.

To cover the need for specific areas of expertise (such as specific nutrients, such well-defined policy issues as structural adjustment, and statistical questions, the Chairman of the Advisory Group could invite one or two specialists to its meetings, depending on the agenda, which would not preclude special advisers as noted in paragraph 17 (c) above; however, costs should be carefully considered.

(e) The work of the Advisory Group could benefit from assigning specific funds (and/or staff time) for say 3 person-months per year to carry out organizational and research tasks for the chairman of the Advisory Group either in the form of research assistance attached to the Chair or within the secretariat.

#### Follow-up to the International Conference on Nutrition

18. ICN in its Plan of Action for Nutrition, stated as follows:

"United Nations agencies have a special responsibility for follow-up. All concerned agencies and organs of the United Nations system were urged to strengthen their collaborative and cooperative mechanisms in order to fully participate at the international, regional, national and local levels in the achievement of the objectives of the Plan of Action. SCN should facilitate coordination of those efforts and, in close collaboration with its participating agencies, should prepare periodic reports on their activities in implementing the World Declaration and Plan of Action for Nutrition for consideration by ACC and submission, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly." a/

At its twentieth session, in February 1993, SCN had spent some time in considering its initial response and had put forward a proposal for its functioning in the next biennium in order to carry out the ICN mandate (see ACC/1993/5, paras. 14-21).

19. The two main new activities in the latter proposal for which methods of work need to be decided concern (a) the evaluation of the adequacy of resource flows and agency actions for the achievement of ICN goals, and (b) using groups to monitor and promote progress in three major areas (micronutrients, famine and famine-related deaths, and chronic malnutrition). Item (a) has begun with an

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assessment in Africa. Item (b) involves more explicitly defined procedures, namely (in brief): compiling agency plans; considering the reports of specialized groups and experts on special issues; reviewing the current situation and trends, if possible country-by-country; determining common priorities, gaps, and programmatic needs; and reporting on practical progress. Monitoring progress through that process requires the willingness and ability of participating agencies to provide the necessary information.

20. A substantial part of the work flows naturally from reporting on the world nutrition situation and assessing the flows of external resources relevant to nutrition. To bring them together and provide for effective monitoring, it will be necessary to provide for professional time, ideally up to one full-time person, to be responsible for the work. In the budget, that would fall under subprogramme 2.3, "Policy analysis and monitoring", as approved in principle by SCN at its twentieth session (see ACC/1993/5, paras. 56 and 57). The methods of work in the area are therefore in line with the other working methods currently used and require no new decisions except for endorsement. On that basis, funds could then be raised against subprogramme 2.3.

#### Reporting on Subcommittee meetings

21. The current practice of reporting on the work of SCN at its annual sessions consists of (a) a summary report, issued shortly after the session and incorporating text agreed at the session as well as summaries of discussions, and (b) a more expanded report, issued later in the year. Both reports consist of three parts: (a) matters brought to the attention of ACC; (b) work in progress, containing the conclusions and decisions of SCN on each agenda item discussed; and (c) matters concerning SCN and the Advisory Group, containing internal matters. A final paragraph provides the venue and dates of the next meeting.

22. OC had earlier suggested that SCN should review its reporting practice; however, in decisions made in October 1993 OC subsequently determined the format of SCN reports and requested that they be adopted during SCN sessions.

23. In line with those instructions SCN should approve, during its sessions, the text of decisions taken in the course of its meeting and information on its action that it considers should be reported through the ACC machinery.

24. The opportunity could be taken, with the SCN now reporting to CCPOQ, of asking CCPOQ (hence ACC) for guidance on precisely the types of topics it wishes to have drawn to its attention and to clarify the follow-up to that part of the reporting procedure. In future, member agencies could report to SCN on the actions that they specifically wish to be drawn to the attention of ACC and also on the actions that they have taken following previous statements to ACC.

25. The report will essentially consist of its current initial and final sections and will include the headings: "Matters drawn to the attention of ACC", "Programme priorities and decisions on action", "Programme and budget" and "Venue and dates for the next session". Compared to the existing summary reports, such as that of SCN on its twentieth session, the major change would be that section II, "Work in progress: summary of discussions and conclusions"

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(approximately eight pages for the report on the twentieth session) would be greatly reduced to the minimum agreed wording and would relate exclusively to decisions on relevant agenda items.

#### Chairmanship of the Subcommittee

26. The chairmanship of SCN is held on a two-year renewable basis; the current Chairman is the Director Emeritus of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) (the regional office for the Americas of WHO). In the ACC machinery, rotation of chairmanship is customary but apparently no fixed rules or guidelines exist; each subsidiary body or indeed any other interorganizational body selects the arrangement best suited to its needs. The present arrangement, under which a distinguished international personality is asked to assume the chairmanship for fixed periods of time, may be continued. At some time in the future, SCN may consider rotating the chairmanship on a one-year or half-year basis, the Chairman to be selected from among those formerly or currently employed by one of the participating agencies, although that need not at present be a requirement.

27. In selecting the most suitable arrangement for SCN, it may be useful to bear in mind some of the functions or attributes of the chairmanship:

(a) The Chairperson presides over SCN meetings, at both plenary and executive sessions; any working groups and other meetings sponsored by SCN are chaired by the SCN Chairperson or person(s) appointed by him/her;

(b) The Chairperson should have the customary attributes of non-partisanship, as well as the ability to mediate conflicting views. Furthermore, the Chairperson has an ambassadorial role and needs between sessions of SCN to assume representative functions with Governments and other outside institutions in order to meet the terms of reference (see, for example, para. 2 (d), (g) and (h) above). In any event, the Chairperson should have had sufficient seniority in his/her career to have ready access to decision-making officials in the United Nations system;

(c) The Chairperson should have considerable background in nutrition and more broadly in socio-economic development and public health matters. Inter-organizational experience is useful. Those qualifications will help the Chairperson to provide broad guidance to the Technical Secretary and to participate on behalf of SCN in other ACC forums;

(d) In considering procedures for decisions on Chairmanship, a crucial issue concerns ensuring leadership from a person available and willing to devote the considerable time required to the task, thus emphasizing the need for flexibility rather than trying to proscribe the process with specific rules.

#### Secretariat

28. Several points have come up for discussion recently, such as future outside recruitment or secondment, the possible rotation of the Technical Secretary, the location of the secretariat and the size of its staff.

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29. No attempt is made in the present note to define the functions of the Technical Secretary, beyond noting the responsibility for following the instructions of SCN and meeting its terms of reference (a job description was agreed at the first session). For the purpose of future staff planning, some consideration may be given to the choices of recruitment versus secondment, perhaps viewed in the light of possible staff rotation. While some rotation of incumbents may be the interest of both the person involved and SCN, continuity in the job is clearly a great advantage. A number of ACC subsidiary bodies do not have a policy of purposely rotating staff after a certain number of years in the job. A policy of deliberate rotation would require the releasing agency to guarantee in advance the reabsorption of the seconded staff member in a position of similar or higher grade and responsibilities than the one occupied prior to secondment. Such secondments, particularly in smaller agencies, are often difficult to arrange, the more so when a staff member of senior grade is involved.

30. One approach, which would make the post of Technical Secretary a more attractive career prospect to candidates both within and outside the United Nations system, would be to agree that the incumbent be automatically considered as an internal candidate for a post within the United Nations system after a given period, such as five years.

31. The SCN secretariat was located at the FAO headquarters in Rome until 1988, when it was transferred to WHO headquarters. It has been suggested that the location of the secretariat should change periodically. In locating the secretariat, the convenience of technical cooperation with other United Nations organizations is an important consideration; from that point of view, its current location is beneficial to SCN because of its proximity not only to WHO, other United Nations agencies and ACC subsidiary bodies but also to several non-governmental organizations based in Geneva or nearby in Europe. Other ACC subsidiary bodies with joint funding are now located in Geneva. Relocating the secretariat outside Geneva would involve the problem of changing support staff and the costs of moving staff and records, and would probably mean reduced effectiveness for the better part of a year. Inasmuch as the secretariat has already been located in Rome, any further move outside Geneva would probably be to New York or Washington, D.C. Currently, SCN already has a presence in Washington, D.C. in the person of the Chairman (at PAHO); also, one staff member is located at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), primarily for the purpose of coordinating data for reporting on the world nutrition situation.

32. As to the size of the secretariat, that reflects the nature of the tasks assigned to it by SCN. It is the programme needs that determine the size of the staffing and budget and not the other way round. b/ If SCN is to carry out the terms of reference described in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, it must continue to prepare such documents as the Report on the World Nutrition Situation, SCN News and the State-of-the-Art Series, whose preparation requires a certain level of staffing; the exact level depends on the size, frequency of issue and complexity of those publications, as well as the manner in which new or additional tasks are carried out, including the new responsibilities resulting from ICN.

### Publications

33. SCN has always given priority to disseminating information, with increasing emphasis over the last several years (e.g., following the informal consultation in October 1985). In addition to the priority of reporting on the world nutrition situation and assessing flows of external resources, the objective of producing two state-of-the-art reviews per year (in line with the original terms of reference, see para. 2 (f) above) was put forward at the time (ACC/1986/PG/10, para. 85), and a newsletter was decided on in 1987 (ACC/1987/PG/6, para. 68 (e)). Information dissemination is central to coordination, which may be defined as the outcome of the availability to all parties of information, involving the collation, integration and interpretation of data as well as the interchange of programme experience. c/ A similar point was stressed by the bilateral agency participants at the twentieth session of SCN. d/

34. Publications currently prepared and issued by the SCN secretariat (see list in annex II) consist in the main of the following:

(a) Report on the World Nutrition Situation. After issuance of the First Report on the World Nutrition Situation in 1987 and an update in 1989, financial support was secured for a five-year period, enabling issuance of the Second Report, which consisted of two volumes: volume I, issued in October 1992, covered global/regional trends and special issues, such as women's nutritional status and micronutrients; volume II, issued in March 1993, presented selected national data, methods and statistics. An update of the Second Report is planned for 1994 and a full Third Report on the World Nutrition Situation for 1995. The work is carried out partly at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Washington, D.C., where the responsible SCN staff member is based. The continuation of the series under the auspices of SCN can proceed if there is agreement on its usefulness and financing;

(b) SCN News was launched in 1988 and is intended to be issued twice a year; Number 10 is currently in press. Its distribution is some 6,000 copies (and increasing), mostly to readers in developing countries, with some 1,500 being distributed through SCN member agencies. SCN News ensures that the information on international nutrition now available to those involved with SCN is also available to a large group of people, notably in developing countries. A readership survey carried out in 1992 showed that 95 percent of its readers find SCN News interesting and useful overall and an average of five people read each copy; it thus reaches around 30,000 readers. Preparation of copy for SCN News is done largely by short-term staff and consultants. The cost has been shared approximately 50/50 between governmental donors and the SCN budget. SCN News is not an in-house magazine but a technical publication, the quality of which has been favourably commented upon on several occasions, most notably in the above-mentioned readership survey;

(c) The State-of-the-Art Series (titles listed in annex II) consists of publications disseminating the results of SCN deliberations in symposia, seminars and SCN-sponsored meetings. Books or reports have been published on a wide range of topics since 1985, two per year, on average, with a print run of some 5,000 copies each. The cost of producing the publications has generally

been shared between the SCN budget and Governments or institutions hosting the seminar or meeting concerned.

35. Several questions arise in connection with the continued production of the above-mentioned publications:

(a) Publications are prepared under the authority of the Technical Secretary and Chairman as SCN documents. When reports on meetings are published, some form of consensus clearance by participants normally takes place. In the case of contributions by individual organizations to SCN News or other publications, those are generally accepted without further clearance unless the Technical Secretary feels further verification or clarification is necessary. That procedure has been followed by analogy with the issuance of technical publications by the United Nations system, in which committee, council or board members do not carry out prior reviews of technical publications issued by their secretariats. The issue of the clearance of SCN News has only recently been raised. However, preliminary inquiries indicate that agencies in general do not wish to have their material cleared by others, nor to clear others' material. With more than 20 contributors to each issue from United Nations agencies and bilaterals, such a clearance process would entail an astronomical number of exchanges, which would not be feasible. Indeed, the purpose of having a focal point or node to a network is precisely to prevent such logarithmic increases in communications;

(b) As discussed by SCN at its twentieth session, formal SCN statements should continue to be carefully reviewed and subject to prior approval by all members, which is the current practice. Other documents, such as symposia reports and state-of-the-art reviews, should continue to be agreed in principle in advance by SCN and reviewed by the Advisory Group on Nutrition and any agencies with a specific responsibility for the particular topic. The job of the secretariat is to harmonize sometimes conflicting views, which has generally been achieved by the careful incorporation of comments, often with the help of additional informal discussions. A good case in point has been the recent formulation of a consensus statement on addressing vitamin A deficiency. On the other hand, formal clearance for such documents would risk being excessively time consuming and could thus hinder the flow of timely information. On no occasion have differences of view not been resolved by the existing methods;

(c) There does not appear to be a practical alternative to current procedures; it is therefore recommended that they continue. However, it may be useful to include on the inside front page of each publication a standard disclaimer as follows: "This publication is issued on the general responsibility of the secretariat of the ACC Subcommittee on Nutrition; the material it contains should not be regarded as necessarily endorsed by, or reflecting the official positions of the Subcommittee and its United Nations member agencies. The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Subcommittee or its United Nations member agencies concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries." SCN News already carries a disclaimer along those lines;

(d) As to the question of charging for publications, currently the broad policy is to charge recipients in developed countries but to send complimentary copies to developing countries and United Nations agencies. As a result, revenue from the sale of publication is small;

(e) Some guidance would be useful on the volume and frequency of such publications as the Report, SCN News and the State-of-the-Art Series. All publications are issued in English only; the extent to which other languages should be used for particular publications or articles in SCN News is a matter for consideration.

#### Budget procedures

36. The SCN budget was around \$450,000 per annum throughout the 1980s, thus declining significantly in real terms over the decade. In 1986, it was decided to divide activities into core and programme sections (ACC/1986/PG/10, para. 120). With an expanding agenda but still no increase in resources, in 1989 the Subcommittee decided on a long-term plan, aiming for an income/expenditure of \$750,000 per annum in 1990/91 and \$950,000 per annum in 1992/95 (ACC/1989/PG/2, paras. 113-116), including three or four Professional posts. Resources were to be mobilized from United Nations member agencies, bilateral donors, foundations etc.; those goals were achieved.

37. A revised system of financing was agreed in 1991 by CCAQ(FB). The budget for the biennium 1992-1993 was thus prepared and approved for a two-year period by SCN in executive session and subsequently by CCAQ(FB). As part of the presentation, a method for sharing expenses among United Nations member agencies was developed for some 60 per cent of the budget, constituting the core or regular budget, leaving the balance to be raised by supplementary or extrabudgetary contributions from United Nations agencies, Governments and others. Those supplementary funds were successfully raised. A similar approach has been followed for 1994-1995.

38. The issue of funding assurance is a difficult one and has caused some concern. Thus, the approved 1992-1993 budget of \$1,908,000 was partly financed by participating organizations' regular contributions totalling \$1,131,000. For the balance of \$776,000, an amount of \$756,000 was raised, thus virtually closing what at the time of approval appeared like a substantial gap. In respect of 1994-1995, a budget of \$2,052,000 has been adopted and regular contributions from participating United Nations agencies are likely to total some \$1,200,000, leaving a financing need of \$850,000 for which pledges of some \$200,000 are currently in hand.

39. A distinction must be made between the question of the assurance of participating United Nations organizations' regular contributions, on the one hand, and the approval of an overall budget that is 40 per cent funded from supplementary funds, much of which have to be raised during the biennium, on the other.

40. Regarding the first question, a percentage scale of contributions from participating United Nations organizations to the regular or core budget was

arrived at in the course of 1992 and 1993, which takes account of the individual organizations' interest in nutrition matters. The development of and concurrence in the scale was considered useful in that it would enable forward planning by both the SCN secretariat and contributing agencies and would thus provide stability in so far as core SCN activities are concerned. In respect of those regular contributions, it would seem reasonable that CCAQ(FB), acting on behalf of ACC, accept United Nations organizations' intentions to contribute in the year preceding the budgetary period, it being understood that those contributions are subject to legislative approval in many of the participating organizations.

41. Regarding the second question, it should be noted that the approval process of many United Nations organizations takes place during the year preceding the budgetary period. Funding for supplementary activities by United Nations and bilateral agencies is thus not assured at the time the SCN budget is reviewed and that lack of assurance has led to reluctance in approving the total proposed SCN budget, which is financed by both core and supplementary funds. In order to clarify both the budgeting and contribution processes, in future, i.e., from the biennium 1996-1997, it may be desirable to draw a clear distinction between core activities financed by regular contributions based on an agreed percentage scale and supplementary activities financed by United Nations organizations, bilaterals and other organizations. On that basis, the budget would present all activities that the SCN might carry out during the budget period, but formal approval by the SCN and the ACC machinery would be sought only for core activities. Core activities consist of the SCN secretariat, the Advisory Group on Nutrition and a contribution to SCN programme activities; their total cost is some \$1,200,000 in 1994-1995. In future bienniums, that figure would be maintained in real terms. As to proposed supplementary activities, they would be shown for the information and comment of SCN and would be noted; they should be consistent with the terms of reference of SCN and its current priorities. That process would constitute endorsement, subject to the availability of funds for activities to be covered by supplementary funds. If those funds became available, some or all activities would be carried out; if not, they would not be carried out. Formal budget approval for those activities would therefore not be necessary.

42. It is believed that the clarification of the above-mentioned aspects of SCN methods of work will both facilitate the coordination of nutrition matters and improve cooperation between agencies under the aegis of ACC.

#### Notes

a/ International Conference on Nutrition, Final Report of the Conference, Rome, December 1992 (Rome, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and World Health Organization, 1992), Part II, p. 52.

b/ That principle is recognized, for example, in the report exploring the feasibility of establishing the proposed joint and co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS (WHO/EB93/INF.DOC/5).

c/ See "Ending hidden hunger, follow-up to Montreal: UNICEF's position" (October 1991), para. 9.29.

d/ See "Report of the Organizational Committee of ACC on the future role of the ACC Subcommittee on Nutrition" (19 March 1993), annex I; the report was available at the twentieth session of SCN (see ACC/1993/5, para. 4).



Annex II

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS OF THE ACC SUBCOMMITTEE ON NUTRITION,  
JANUARY 1994

First Report on the World Nutrition Situation, November 1987.

"Supplement on methods and statistics to the First Report on the World Nutrition Situation" (ACC/SCN(02)/N8), December 1988.

"Update on the nutrition situation: recent trends in nutrition in 33 countries" (ACC/SCN(02)/N8), January 1989.

Second Report on the World Nutrition Situation, vol. I, Global and Regional Results, October 1992.

Second report on the World Nutrition Situation. vol. II, Country Trends, Methods and Statistics, March 1993.

ACC/SCN State-of-the-Art Series Nutrition Policy Discussion Papers:

Hornik, Robert C., "Nutrition education: a state-of-the-art review", No. 1 (January 1985).

West, Keith P., Jr., and Alfred Sommer, "Delivery of oral doses of vitamin A to prevent vitamin A deficiency and nutritional blindness", No. 2 (June 1987 and June 1993).

Hetzel, Basil S., "The prevention and control of iodine deficiency disorders", No. 3 (March 1988 and June 1993).

Holmboe-Ottesen, Gerd, Ophelia Mascarenhas and Margareta Wandel, "Women's role in food chain activities and their implications for nutrition", No. 4 (May 1989).

Tomkins, A., and E. Watson, "Malnutrition and infection: a review", No. 5 (October 1989).

McGuire, Popkin et al., "Women and nutrition", No. 6 (October 1990).

Beaton, G., A. Kelly, et al., "Appropriate uses of child anthropometry", No. 7 (December 1990).

Jennings, Joan, Stuart Gillespie et al., eds., "Managing successful nutrition programmes", No. 8 (October 1990).

Gillespie, Kevany and Mason, "Controlling iron deficiency", No. 9 (February 1991).

Gillespie and Mason, "Nutrition-relevant actions: some experiences from the eighties and lessons for the nineties", No. 10 (October 1991).

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Huffman, S., R. Martorell et al., "Nutrition and population links: breastfeeding, family planning and child health", No. 11 (May 1992).

Ingram, Katona-Apte et al., "Nutritional issues in food aid", No. 12 (August 1993).

Beaton, G. H., R. Martorell et al., "Effectiveness of vitamin A supplementation in the control of young child morbidity and mortality in developing countries", No. 13 (December 1993).

Gillespie and Mason, "Controlling vitamin A deficiency", No. 14 (January 1994).

Annex III

THE WORLD FOOD PROBLEM, HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

In the two decades since the World Food Conference of 1974, the questions of how much food the world grows and how that food is distributed have rightly remained at the centre of international debate and concern. For most of that time, the main emphasis has been on access to food and on distribution, rather than on supply. We believe that emphasis was correct. It directed discussion to questions of food entitlement, household and individual food security, and matters related to the quality and safety of food for human consumption. Those concerns have been prominent in international statements, most recently the World Declaration and Plan of Action on Nutrition adopted at the International Conference on Nutrition in 1992. International policy commitments have in turn been associated with modest increases in resource flows to nutrition and related fields, not just to save lives in famines but also to help achieve food and nutrition goals in the longer term.

Currently, a number of different concerns have re-emerged that have begun to direct attention back to food supply. Rising population, increasing urbanization, doubts about the sustainability of intensive farming and irrigation systems, and an apparent slow-down in the rate of increase of yields of the major food staples are factors that have led some observers to argue for a higher priority to be given to agricultural research and to investments designed to increase agricultural productivity and production. The case is said to be strengthened by structural changes in the world economy, including the changes in eastern Europe and the former USSR and the effect of the GATT agreement on world food trade.

Our continuing concern about undernutrition and household food security leads us to conclude that agricultural research and investment will have their greatest impact on reducing hunger if they are planned specifically to take account of both the changing geographical and socio-economic characteristics of hunger in the world and poor people's perceptions of their malnutrition-related problems. In the immediate future, that will mean paying increased attention to the production potential of poor people living in resource-poor areas, to the promotion of secure and sustainable livelihoods in Africa, to the needs of female-headed households and peri-urban populations, and to measures that will mitigate the appalling effects of severe drought and conflict on food supply, food prices and the command over food by poor people.

Because it is imperative to assure a sustainable and sufficient world food supply, it is necessary to keep under review investments in agricultural research, agriculture and other components affecting supply. We believe that increased investments in those areas are entirely in concert with the massive programmes of action required to achieve the goals set by the International Conference on Nutrition. At the same time, in a world in which aid resources are increasingly scarce the additional resources required to address issues related to world food supply should not be sought at the expense of resources needed for strengthening the effective demand of the deprived for food, health and household care. In the present analysis of the world food problem,

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household access to food remains one of the most urgent food problems for the foreseeable future.

Annex IV

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

1. Symposium: implications of emerging problems of diet-related chronic diseases in developing countries.
2. Report on the world nutrition situation.
3. Report on resource flows.
4. Breast-feeding and complementary feeding: report of the Working Group.
5. Micro-nutrients: progress in the control of vitamin A, iodine and iron deficiency.
6. Nutrition of refugees and displaced people: report of the Ad Hoc Group.
7. Nutrition, ethics and human rights: report of the Ad Hoc Group.
8. Household food security: meeting report.
9. School nutrition and health: progress reports.
10. Behaviour and nutrition programmes.
11. Report on the Bellagio meeting on research, training and funding needs in nutrition.
12. International Dietary Energy Consultative Group (IDECG), International Food Data Systems project (INFOODS) and International Food Intake Directory (INFID).
13. Follow-up to the International Conference on Nutrition:
  - (a) Progress reports of participating agencies;
  - (b) Report of workshop on eliminating famine-deaths, etc.;
  - (c) Report of assessment in eastern, central and southern African countries;
  - (d) Report on the implementation of the World Declaration and Plan of Action for Nutrition for submission to ACC, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly (see Plan of Action for Nutrition, sect. V2f).
14. Programme and budget for 1996-1997.
15. Any other business.

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Annex V

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON BEHAVIOUR AND  
NUTRITION PROGRAMMES

1. Discuss behaviour issues in nutrition programmes and the plans and programmes of SCN agencies, specifically as they relate to realizing the intermediate family and community practices that will assist in achieving the goals of the International Conference on Nutrition.
2. Guide and review a best practices paper on behaviour that will assess the current situation and identify gaps and how to fill them.
3. Take up issues of training and curricula development, reviewing the promotion of regional training as a first step and participating in the broader discussion of training in nutrition.
4. Report to SCN on progress in incorporating behaviour in nutrition programmes.

Annex VI

AD HOC GROUP ON BREAST-FEEDING AND COMPLEMENTARY FEEDING:  
PURPOSE AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose

The purpose of the Ad Hoc Group on Breast-feeding and Complementary Feeding is to provide a forum for an exchange of information on breast-feeding and complementary feeding, particularly with respect to the goal contained in the World Declaration on Nutrition of substantially reducing within the current decade social and other impediments to optimal breast-feeding, thereby reducing malnutrition and infections in young children.

The Innocenti Declaration on the Protection, Promotion and Support of Breast-feeding, together with the World Declaration and Plan of Action for Nutrition, will form the framework for reporting on progress towards achieving the goal of facilitating exclusive breast-feeding, sustained breast-feeding and appropriate and adequate complementary feeding for children 0-2 years old.

Terms of reference

1. Review the current situation and trends, as far as possible country by country and/or region by region.
2. Provide a forum for reviewing the plans and programmes of participating agencies that are related to exclusive and sustained breast-feeding and complementary feeding for children 0-2 years of age. Receive reports of specialized groups and experts.
3. Identify gaps and needs and determine actions required for meeting the goals and activities of the International Conference on Nutrition, especially those relating to breast-feeding, as set out in the World Declaration and Plan of Action for Nutrition and the four operational targets set out in the Innocenti Declaration.
4. Report on progress towards the above-mentioned goals.
5. Suggest programmatic priorities for the ensuing biennium.
6. Address specific issues and concerns relating to breast-feeding, complementary feeding and the use of breast-milk substitutes during emergencies.

## Annex VII

### WORKSHOP ON ELIMINATING STARVATION, FAMINE AND FAMINE-RELATED DEATHS BY THE YEAR 2000 AND CONCURRENT MEASURES FOR FAMINE PREVENTION IN AFRICA

#### Background

The World Declaration and Plan of Action for Nutrition pledges to make all efforts to eliminate famine and famine-related deaths, as well as starvation and nutritional deficiency diseases in communities affected by natural and man-made disasters before the end of the current decade; it also pledges to substantially reduce starvation and widespread chronic hunger within the current decade.

There have been considerable advances in the capacity of both countries and the supporting international community to respond to emergency situations, particularly those due to drought, in the areas of, for example, early warning systems and urgent resource mobilization. Thus, in the recent major drought in southern Africa, which affected 10 countries, there were few if any deaths attributable to famine caused by drought. The present proposal focuses on famine and drought not related to conflict.

However, a substantial number of countries in sub-Saharan Africa are still prone to drought and famine, which tend to recur cyclically, and there are at any one time up to 40 million people affected by or at risk of famine. Drought and famine bring dreadful human suffering and also severe social, economic and environmental consequences. Moreover, potential causes of famine other than drought - such as large-scale migrations, agricultural or economic disasters and warfare - can erupt almost anywhere in the world. Prevention against famine from all causes should be an item of great importance on the world development agenda.

The general purpose of the workshop is to agree upon appropriate strategies, resource requirements, and sources for meeting the goal adopted by the International Conference on Nutrition of eliminating famine-deaths by the year 2000. That will involve a combination of relief and prevention measures through development for vulnerable populations. Relief efforts should themselves be designed to reduce future vulnerability (e.g., through emergency public works).

#### Specific objectives

1. To review the main causes and contributing factors of large-scale famines, particularly in the last half century in Africa.
2. To reach agreement among major agencies on how to ensure the availability of adequate and timely resources in the event of future famine.
3. To review country and institutional experience in famine prevention, including timely warning systems (their organization), the range of

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responses needed (food aid, water/sanitation, health, public works etc.), and the adequacy of responses when warnings are given (credibility issues etc.), in order to reach agreement on how resources can best be used for relief.

4. To identify appropriate strategies for strengthening national capacities to:
  - (a) Ensure rapid and effective relief measures in communities, with the support of all necessary sectors and through effective national policies and strategies, urgent relief measures and resource mobilization at all levels;
  - (b) Overcome or minimize the causal factors of famine, at national, regional and global levels, especially through linking relief to national development and emergency preparedness/training programmes;
5. To review and agree on the best ways of linking relief to development, especially in using relief resources to reduce future vulnerability.

Annex VIII

RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE AD HOC GROUP ON NUTRITION,  
ETHICS AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NUTRITION

The Ad Hoc Group on Nutrition, Ethics and Human Rights recommends to the Subcommittee on Nutrition the following:

1. The Ad Hoc Group on Nutrition, Ethics and Human Rights should be maintained and strengthened, with the overall objective of assisting SCN in its further work of promoting nutrition as a human right.
2. SCN should facilitate the establishment of a working group on monitoring and reporting the status of nutrition rights activities and achievements, and should include a section on that subject in future issues of the Report on the World Nutrition Situation.
3. The SCN secretariat should facilitate the preparation of a paper on the nutrition rights of refugees and internally displaced persons.
4. Action should be taken to explore with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, WFP, UNICEF and other relevant bodies the prospects for more effective international obligations to protect and promote the nutrition rights of displaced persons.
5. SCN should arrange for a systematic study of the ways in which both developing and developed nations currently provide nutritional safety nets for their people.
6. SCN should review guidelines for international assistance to estimate the extent to which human rights considerations are or can be included.
7. SCN should request the creation, revision or strengthening of guidelines for reporting on nutrition rights.
8. SCN should bring information on nutritional stress caused by sanctions to the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
9. SCN should propose to the Secretary-General that relevant agencies be consulted on the possible negative health and nutrition effects of proposed embargoes and sanctions.
10. SCN and relevant agencies should monitor the nutrition consequences of embargo and sanction situations.
11. SCN should establish an expert group to examine the policy considerations involved in protecting nutrition rights in situations

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of armed conflict. The terms of reference for the group would include examining:

- (a) The obligations of the parties involved in the conflict with regard to the delivery of food and health services;
- (b) Laws and principles relating to the delivery of food and health services;
- (c) Guidelines for negotiating consent for the delivery of food and health services, including the establishment of non-combat zones or sanctuaries;
- (d) Ways of arranging safe passage of food and health services;
- (e) Ways of dealing with situations in which national Governments do not consent to the delivery of food and health services;
- (f) Other considerations relating to the alleviation of malnutrition in situations of armed conflict.

Annex IX

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chairman: Dr. A. Horwitz

Technical Secretary: Dr. J. B. Mason

United Nations agencies

United Nations	A. Rogers J. Zhu
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	R. Bhatia
United Nations University	N. Scrimshaw
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World Food Programme	J. Katona-Apte
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	S. Van der Vynckt
United Nations Development Programme	K. Springer
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World Bank	A. Berg J. McGuire
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the United Nations

M. E. Buyckx  
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R. Parr

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K. Bailey  
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R. Heyward  
J. Jervell  
S. Maxwell  
J. Tagwireyi  
G. Beaton

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V. Elliot  
M. Garcia  
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Bilateral agencies

Canada

S. Rabeneck

Germany

F. Bellin

Italy

A. Ferro-Luzzi  
G. Riva

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N. M. Leemhuis-de Regt

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A. Oshaug

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T. Greiner

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L. Loutan

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P. Payne  
J. Stuppel

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Non-governmental organizations

International Union of Nutritional  
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A. Valyasevi

International Council for the Control  
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B. S. Hetzel

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H. Bouis

International Development Research  
Centre

J. Johnston

International Dietary Energy  
Consultancy Group

B. Schurch

Micronutrients Initiative

J. Cervinkas

Consultants

S. Burger  
G. da Cunha  
J. Dedring  
J. P. Greaves  
M. Fisher  
E. Hurtado  
G. Kent  
K. Larsen  
M. Latham  
V. Laukaran

B. Lundquist  
A. Naylor  
S. Morch  
C. Olaya  
A. Oshaug  
W. Smith  
F. Trowbridge  
F. van der Haar  
J. Vella

Annex X

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Item	Background material	Code
SCN 20	Summary report on the twentieth session of the Subcommittee on Nutrition	SCN 94 SCN20 Rep
AGN	Report on the Meeting of the Advisory Group on Nutrition (Geneva, WHO, 10-12 February 1993)	SCN 94 AGN A
AGN	Report on the Meeting of the Advisory Group on Nutrition (IDRC, Ottawa, 26-27 July 1993)	SCN 94 AGN B
SCN executive session	Minutes of the SCN executive session at the twentieth session of SCN (Geneva, WHO, 15 and 18 February 1993)	SCN 94 EXEC to Exec. Session Members
SCN executive session	Budget document	SCN 94 Budget to Exec. Session Members
SCN executive session	Nominations for Advisory Group membership	SCN 94 AGN.CVs to Exec. Session Members
Iodine deficiency	Material for Working Group also relevant to session	SCN 94 IOD
Iron deficiency	Material for Working Group also relevant to session	SCN 94 Iron
Vitamin A deficiency	(a) Material for Working Group also relevant to session (b) Ottawa meeting report	SCN 94 Vit A
Reporting on the world nutrition situation	Recent data	SCN 94 RWNS
Ad Hoc Group on Nutrition of Refugees and Displaced People	(a) RNIS report No. 1 and No. 2 (b) December 93 Ad Hoc Group Meeting report (c) RNIS report No. 3 (d) Famine Mitigation Resources	SCN 94 Refugees

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Item	Background material	Code
Reports from participating agencies and bilaterals	Reports will be compiled as available, to focus on ICN follow-up	SCN 94 Reprs
Country programme review	Draft discussion paper "How nutrition improves", background paper for the ACC/SCN Workshops on "Nutrition-relevant actions in developing countries: recent lessons", at the XV IUNS Congress, (Adelaide, September 1993)	SCN 94 CPR
Resource flows and action in ECSA	Preliminary results from Kenya, Tanzania and Zimbabwe	SCN 94 ECSA
SCN methods of work	Discussion paper prepared by SCN secretariat	SCN 94 Work
Assessment of flows of external resources for nutrition	Report on 1987-1991 data	SCN 94 Resources SCN 94 Res. Sum SCN 94 Res. Add
Nutrition and human rights	Material for Working Group also relevant to session	SCN 94 HRights
Infant and young child feeding	Infant and young-child feeding: a global approach and plan of action (WHO, Jan. 94)	SCN 94 Inf Fdg

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