



Paris Peace Forum – November 11, 2023

Roundtable – Preparing for Nutrition for Growth Summit in France: addressing the root causes of nutrition insecurity

Moderator:

- **Adrien Abécassis**, Chief Policy Officer, Paris Peace Forum

Speakers:

- **Aïcha Koraïchi**, Director General, Action contre la faim
- **Karen Lorena Brugés Solórzano**, Director General, Women Economic Forum Colombia
- **Leonard Mizzi**, Head of Unit, Sustainable Agri-Food systems, and Fisheries (DG INTPA), European Commission
- **Marcy Vigoda**, Director, Scaling Up Nutrition
- **Christophe Guilhou**, Director of Sustainable development, Ministry of Europe and Foreign affairs, France
- **Agnes Soucat**, Director of the Health and Social Protection Division, Agence française de développement (AFD)
- **Federico Bonaglia**, Deputy Director, OECD Development Centre

Replay: [Preparing for Nutrition for Growth Summit - YouTube](#)

SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION

The roundtable highlighted the significance of the upcoming "Nutrition for Growth Summit" in France two years after the Tokyo Summit and emphasized the need for extensive consultations and discussions to shape the summit's agenda. Key points discussed include:

- **Global Recognition of Nutrition:** Despite its importance, nutrition has historically been overlooked in global health and development sectors, receiving less than 1 percent of international aid. However, this is poised to change, especially with the upcoming "Nutrition for Growth" summit in France. The roundtable aimed to review the current state of global nutrition and initiate discussions on the summit's agenda. Participants reiterated that nutrition is not a technical issue, but a political one.
- **Challenges are huge and were exacerbated by recent crises:**
 - **Critical 1,000-Day Window:** Poor nutrition contributes to almost half of child deaths under the age of 5 and hinders the physical and mental development of millions of children. The crucial 1,000-day window from pregnancy to a child's second birthday is identified as pivotal for ensuring survival, optimal growth, and cognitive development.
 - **Access to Nutrition and Healthy Diets:** Over a billion women and children lack access to the nutrition and healthy diets necessary for survival and thriving. Poverty exacerbates this issue, with many children being deprived of adequate food, let alone a balanced diet.
 - **Challenges Exacerbated by COVID-19 and Climate Change:** The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened hunger and malnutrition by disrupting food systems, reducing incomes, increasing poverty, and affecting health services. Climate change poses additional threats to food security and agricultural production. Investing in addressing malnutrition is

identified as a smart investment, with every \$1 invested in nutrition returning \$16 to the local economy.

- ⇒ **Therefore, systemic changes are needed:** While investments in the agricultural sector can improve nutrition outcomes, the current food system falls short in delivering good nutrition for all. Improving nutrition and diets requires systemic changes across the entire food chain, from production to consumption. The transformation of agricultural systems in Africa, the integration of African markets, and the development of food storage and transport infrastructures were all mentioned as priorities.
- ⇒ **A Multipronged Approach to Nutrition:** As nutrition is a cross-cutting issue, addressing nutritional needs requires a comprehensive approach, encompassing improvements in food systems, maternal and child nutrition, and food fortification. This strategy should consider the impact of climate change, socio-economic disparities, and conflicts, requiring integrated tools for effective implementation. The participants also pointed out that the problem of nutrition affects not only low- and middle-income countries, but also the richest ones. For example, obesity affects 39% of the American population. Therefore, all countries are concerned.
- ⇒ **Substantial and adequate funding:** Several speakers stressed the urgent need to allocate more funding to nutrition. The economic benefits of investing in nutrition for jobs and livelihoods were highlighted. To this end, agricultural subsidies have been highlighted as excellent instruments, which need to be strengthened but adapted to each context.

Next steps:

- The Scaling-Up Nutrition Movement will be holding its Global Gathering in Kigali from June 24 to 28 ([SUN Global gathering 2024 | Scaling Up Nutrition](#)).
- The representative of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs recalled France's commitment to the subject of school meals (with the first meeting of the international coalition taking place in October 2023) and indicated that **the N4G Summit should take place in early 2025**. A special envoy for this summit should be appointed before the end of 2023, and guidelines given for the organization of the summit. Gender equality, health, the promotion of agroecological agriculture and the issue of school meals will be some of France's priorities for the summit.