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NUTRITION FOR GROWTH PARIS 2025

N4G Paris Commitment guide



Introduction

This document provides stakeholders (governments, donors, philanthropic organizations, United Nations organizations, civil society organizations, private sector, research institutions) with guidance on formulating commitments for the N4G Paris Summit. It addresses commitment-making, recording, registration and reporting for N4G Paris accountability purposes. It also describes criteria for making meaningful and SMART¹ commitments and outlines principles of engagement for stakeholders.

The document builds upon the commitment guide and lessons learned from the 2021 N4G Tokyo Summit and has been enriched by national and international consultations led within the N4G Paris governance. It reflects some of the high-level recommendations of studies implemented by the EU4SUN program, which aims to assess the status of implementation of the N4G commitments made for the Tokyo Summit in seven West African countries.²

The N4G Paris Commitment Guide is an umbrella document, intended to be read alongside the N4G Paris Vision and Road Map, which details the framing of the thematic areas envisioned for the Summit. The Guide will be complemented by the commitments recommendations produced by the six thematic working groups of the N4G International Advisory Committee. Together, the Guide and these documents should be used by all stakeholders interested in advancing the nutrition agenda as part of N4G Paris.

The N4G Paris Summit is a key stepping stone in 2025 towards galvanizing global and national nutrition actions to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Summit will announce **political and financial commitments**, deliver bold and innovative SMART commitments across thematic areas, and present high-level recommendations to mobilize the global and national community to achieve the renewed World Health Assembly (WHA) Global Nutrition Targets, the 2014 Rome Declaration on Nutrition, and accelerate achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The outcomes of the Summit will be endorsed in the Paris 2025 N4G Global Compact.

To meet the global challenge of ending malnutrition in all its forms, concerted and coordinated actions are needed by governments, civil society and the private sector, supported by the international community. While the N4G Paris Summit strives to consider potential conflicts of interest and address structural power imbalances among stakeholders, all stakeholders that abide by the principles of engagement presented in this document are invited to make commitments to step up their efforts. These stakeholders include specifically but not exclusively:

- Governments (through Ministries such as Finance, Planning, Health, Agriculture, Education, Social Protection, Environment, and Women’s Affairs, as well as the decentralization and coordination mechanisms located above sectoral level that are mandated to deliver multisectoral nutrition policies and plans);
- Bilateral and multilateral donors (donor governments and donor organizations) and philanthropic organizations;
- UN organizations (led by those with a mandate in nutrition and agriculture) and international financial institutions;

¹ Specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound.

² Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Civil Society Meeting, Abidjan, RCI, March 2024; presentation of the results of the “Evaluation of the implementation of N4G commitments in 7 Western African Countries”, Expertise France (EF), June 2024. Summary report for restricted diffusion available for the write-up of this document. The EU4SUN project is an international cooperation initiative funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the Spanish cooperation (FIIAPP) and the French cooperation (Expertise France). In total, EU4SUN aims to support around 26 SUN countries (across the regions) in assessing the progress of their Tokyo commitments and formulating additional commitments for N4G Paris.

↑ Cover photo 1: Guatemala, a girl (10) inspects chard in the school garden of the mixed school in the village of Juil, Quiche. © UNICEF/UNI484388/Flores

↑ Cover photo 2: Sri Lanka, prevention and Treatment of Child Wasting (2024) ©UNICEF Sri Lanka/2024/InceptChange

↑ Cover photo 3: Sierra Leone, maternal and Child Health Aide nurse Doris Lansana begins a health-talk session with a song about the benefits of breastfeeding. ©UNICEF Sierra Leone/2024

- Civil society organizations (including international and national non-profit organizations, including consumer associations);
- Private sector actors (companies and investors, including from the food sector; multilateral corporations; and small and medium enterprises);
- Research institutions (including academia and affiliated research bodies, national or international).

This Guide aims to support all stakeholders with the commitment-making process (Part I) and outline the principles of engagement that underpin commitment-making and overall N4G proceedings (Part II).



Myanmar: Farmers use a power tiller provided by French Food Assistance programme (FAP) to plow rice fields. © SI/2022

PART 1

THE COMMITMENTS

1. Preparing good commitments

There is still work to be done to close the gap between previous commitments – whether they have been met or not – and what remains to be done to achieve the 2030 WHA targets and the broader SDG agenda. The commitments being mobilized for the N4G Paris Summit will contribute to closing this gap, while also advancing nutrition-sensitive³ and nutrition SMART climate actions.⁴

Commitment-making at the Summit itself is central to its success. To ensure these commitments are meaningful, it is critical to take into account past commitments, namely, those made at Tokyo N4G Summit 2021, and embed all new commitments into existing accountability mechanisms for nutrition. This will ensure that progress can be tracked until the next Summit and beyond.

Thus, as a first key step, those entities who made commitments for N4G Tokyo should revisit them,⁵ assess progress made, and report on progress in the global platform dedicated to nutrition accountability or the “Nutrition Accountability Framework” (NAF) managed by the Global Nutrition Report (GNR).

a. Overarching recommendations driving commitment-making

N4G Paris aims to mobilize financial and political commitments. The latter encompass any non-financial commitment and thus range in type, from the enabling environment, to policy, to programmatic or impact commitments. These categorizations are further detailed in the Guide (see section “crafting a SMART commitment”, Table 1).



Two children smile while eating nutritious food prepared with the support of UNICEF as part of IYCF support for flood affected people, in Oudomxay camp, Attapeu, Lao PDR. © UNICEF/UN0232111/Nazer

³ See: World Bank revised Investment Framework for Nutrition – Shekar, Meera; Shibata Okamura, Kyoko; Vilar-Compte, Mireya; Dell’Aira, Chiara; eds.. 2024. Cadre d’investissement pour la nutrition 2024. Human Development Perspectives Overview booklet. © Washington, DC: World Bank. <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/42164>. License: CC BY 3.0 IGO.

⁴ See: proceedings of the United Nations Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP28), and related coalition efforts linking nutrition, food systems transformation and climate: I-CAN, HDSFS and One planet network for sustainable food systems.

⁵ Implementation progress from the N4G Tokyo commitments should be available in 38 SUN countries, serving as a baseline for N4G Paris commitment formulation, through the “EU4SUN project support to N4G Paris 2025” and technical assistance of Expertise France and FIIAP.

Recognizing the urgency for all countries to address all forms of malnutrition by tackling the direct determinants as well as root causes, N4G Paris encourages all stakeholders to put forward bold and comprehensive commitments that will accelerate the fight against malnutrition through multisectoral action.

To maximize resources and build upon the commitments made in Tokyo, N4G Paris will focus its efforts along three core thematic areas and three cross-cutting ones:

1. nutrition, health and social protection;
2. nutrition and transition toward sustainable climate-smart and resilient food systems;
3. nutrition and resilience to crisis;
4. nutrition and gender equality;
5. nutrition, data, research, artificial intelligence and innovation;
6. financing and accountability for nutrition.⁶

Governments, bilateral and multilateral donors, UN organizations, civil society, private sector and research institutions are recommended not to limit **political and financial commitment-making** to one thematic area, but rather adopt a holistic, comprehensive and coordinated approach that feeds into National Nutrition Plans (if applicable) and **integrates nutrition within different sectoral plans and investments as well as at different** geographical levels: global, regional, national levels and within those, decentralized levels.

A second overarching recommendation is for political commitments to be aligned with National Nutrition Plans (as applicable) and for nutrition to be **integrated within different sectoral plans and policies**. Similarly, financial commitments should align behind National Nutrition Plans and national development priorities wherever possible. This ensures that commitments meet national priorities, goals and targets. This recommendation is described further in section 2, below.

The institutional capacities needed to implement commitments – either political or financial – must be carefully considered to ensure they meet the dimensions of SMARTness (presented later in this document) and are sustainable.



A girl drinks from a newly installed standpipe in Dori, Sahel Region, northern Burkina Faso. © UNICEF Burkina Faso/2024/Mohamed



Medical professionals taking a certified course on breastfeeding in Ukraine. © UNICEF Ukraine/2024/Viktor Zavalniuk

⁶ N4G Paris Summit Vision document, 2024.

In summary, the 2025 N4G Paris commitments should:

- Build on past N4G Tokyo commitments, where they exist, and enhance them;
- Report progress on past commitments in the NAF platform to ensure visibility and accountability;
- Ensure that policy and financial commitments are coherent, respond to national priorities and align with national targets. Commitments should also align as much as possible with national budgeting and accounting systems to strengthen nutrition accountability (see section b on “accountability and future tracking”);
- Align with international targets⁷;
- Seek to align with the commitments of other stakeholders, including other constituency groups, to avoid isolated commitments and to foster greater impact through collaboration where suitable;
- Maintain and scale up nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive commitments, with a focus on commitments to integrate nutrition objectives within the interventions of other sectors to address direct, indirect and structural causes of malnutrition;
- Encourage innovative commitments that bridge nutrition-specific actions with those for promoting healthy, nutritious and sustainable diets through food systems transformation, with an aim to urgently address the dual challenge of the growing epidemic of overweight and obesity and persistent undernutrition;
- Drive progress on integrating nutrition across policies, interventions and investments in all sectors to maximize the use of resources and foster co-benefits across interdependent objectives;

b. Ensuring meaningful commitments aligned with national and international goals

The political and financial commitments that N4G aims to attract must be aligned with national priorities and internationally agreed goals.

National commitments should contribute to accelerating progress on national nutrition policies, strategies and targets. Where possible, commitments should be multisectoral and the formulation process should involve all relevant stakeholders. Existing multistakeholder and multisectoral nutrition coordination mechanisms can be used to discuss and agree on the national commitments. Stakeholders whose commitments will likely contribute to progress outside their jurisdiction (e.g., through official development assistance) should align with the national plans and commitments of other stakeholder groups to ensure maximum coordination and impact (see section on “accountability and future tracking”).

Stakeholders are also strongly encouraged to make commitments aligned with internationally agreed nutrition goals, targets, strategies and standards as a means of contributing towards their achievement.

In designing their commitments, stakeholders should embed all three elements of the human right to food – namely, that it must be *available*, *accessible* and *adequate* – as recognized by key international instruments and guidelines. States’ commitments in this area should reflect their obligations, specifically to respect, protect, promote and fulfill (through facilitation or provision) this right.

⁷ Refer to the 2025-2030 World Health Assembly global maternal, infant and young child extended nutrition targets and proposal for process indicators: <https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/online-consultation-2025-2030-world-health-assembly-global-maternal-infant-and-young-child-nutrition-targets-and-proposal-for-process-indicators>

Stakeholders should submit commitments that are proportionate to their roles and responsibilities: for example, national governments are encouraged to commit to the adoption of ambitious policies and strategies able to tackle the magnitude of their malnutrition problem in all its forms. Private sector companies are encouraged to review the adequacy of their commitments in relation to the company size and its market share, focusing on integrating good practices, in addition to any corporate social responsibility programs.

Stakeholders should respect the “do no harm” principle when making commitments, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

Earmarking sufficient funds for monitoring results and reporting on progress in the NAF is a good practice that should be adopted systematically.

Moreover, commitments must:

- **Abide by the N4G Paris principles of engagement**, described below in Part II, and align with the NAF in order to be registered and counted for and as part of the N4G Paris;
- **Be SMART**: specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound. The registration process in the NAF allows for the inclusion of all these SMARTness dimensions, which facilitates their monitoring and accounting through a common and unique platform;
- **Be monitored**, including through annual reporting, as part of the publicly available NAF tracking mechanisms,⁸ meaning that the commitment is accompanied by a dedicated section for detailing the process to monitor progress on the commitment.



Somalia, Baidoa. © UNICEF Somalia

⁸ To access the NAF commitment tracker, see: <https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/naf/tracker/>

c. Crafting a SMART commitment

Meeting the national and global nutrition targets requires converting commitments into clear and substantive actions for which commitment-makers can be held accountable. Commitments should be integrated into formal government strategies, with measurable actions and oversight, which is key to sustaining progress if and when there is change in political leadership, for example.

Commitments are therefore required to be formulated as SMART and to correspond to the NAF requirements. This will ensure a common nutrition accountability system for all stakeholders and, importantly, progress reporting between N4G Summits.

SMART criteria definitions:

1. **Specific:** commitment should clearly identify the commitment-maker and commitment-maker type, description, type/category of action, geographical coverage, and target population;
2. **Measurable**:** it should identify the primary indicator for measuring progress, the baseline level of that indicator, year of the baseline level, target level for the indicator, and monitoring plan for the indicator;
3. **Achievable:** it should consider factors such as total commitment costs, funders, funding mechanism, and amount of total costs secured;
4. **Relevant:** it should align with global nutrition targets and with N4G thematic areas. It is also important to reflect the nutritional priorities and challenges relevant to the context (at regional, national, or global levels) and be based on levels of progress achieved in the past;
5. **Time-bound:** Commitments should have a realistic timeframe for achievement and specify key milestones to be achieved within that time, including start dates and end dates.

*** Criteria requires commitment-makers to conduct regular monitoring through indicators that can be easily and regularly informed.*

Further guidance on SMART commitments and the NAF requirements is available on the GNR website: <https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/naf/about/smart-commitments/>. The SMARTness of each commitment will be assessed by the GNR through the registration process in the NAF platform, allowing commitment-makers to adjust them if necessary, with GNR support.

Table 1 illustrates the relationship between the Summit classification and the GNR's NAF Nutrition Action Classification System.⁹ Financial commitments are categorized in the NAF as enabling actions, while the political commitments may fall under enabling, policy or impact actions, depending on their nature. As these commitments are published in the NAF, the GNR will categorize each commitment according to the NAF Nutrition Action Classification System, specifying both the main category and relevant subcategory.

Summit commitment type and GNR NAF Nutrition Action Classification System

N4G Summit classification	Summit sub-categories	GNR NAF classification
Financial	Financial	Enabling: Financial
Political	Enabling	Enabling: leadership and governance; operational, research/monitoring/data
	Policy/Strategy	Policy: food supply chain; food environment; consumer knowledge; nutrition care services
	Programmatic/Interventional	
	Impact	Impact: diet; food and nutrition security; undernutrition; obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs)

⁹ For details on the NAF Nutrition Action Classification System, see: <https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/naf/about/classification-system/>

Table 2 presents examples of SMART commitments, illustrating the different types of commitments and commitment-makers, as well as highlighting their SMART characteristics. More granular examples by thematic area will be found in the thematic recommendations for commitment-making documents produced by the six thematic working groups of the N4G International Advisory Committee.¹⁰

The GNR will assess the SMARTness of the commitments, based on each commitment’s description and the other data collected in the NAF commitment registration form (Cf: chapter B “securing a commitment”, section “registration and validation”).

Examples of SMART commitments by stakeholders

Financial Commitment (#1)

The Ministries of Finance, Planning, Health, and Agriculture of [Country] commit to investing \$600 million over the period 2025 to 2030 in a targeted, multi-phase project focused on improving nutrition during the first 1,000 days of life and supporting vulnerable ethnic population groups throughout the country. The commitment includes specific annual allocations and disbursement milestones, with funds distributed across key line ministries and programmes within the dedicated nutrition budget. Progress will be monitored annually, with a mid-term review in 2027 to assess impact and reallocate resources if necessary.

Financial Commitment (#2)

Between 2025 and 2030, [food companies] institutional investors commit to allocate assets to food companies around the globe that publicly disclose the healthiness (levels of sugar, salt, and trans fats) of their product portfolio and that derive over 50% of their sales from healthier food products. Investors will increase investments (from a baseline of US\$ 5 billion in assets currently invested) in publicly listed food companies that demonstrate improvements in product healthiness and will divest from companies that do not make progress in this area. Annual evaluations will track portfolio health and inform investment decisions.

Political Commitment (Enabling #1)

With work starting in 2025, by 2033, the SUN Civil Society Alliance in [Country] commits to collaborating with the national government and stakeholders to promote healthier diets. This will involve public campaigns on reducing sugar, alcohol, salt, and trans fats; developing and distributing training materials on healthy diets; advocating for the adoption of nutrition-related food labels; and partnering with research institutions to model impact pathways for healthy diets. Progress will be evaluated annually, with key milestones set for each activity.

Political Commitment (Policy/Strategy #1)

Starting in 2025, by 2035, the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, and Ministry of Education, with input from National Industry Associations of [Country], commit to developing a comprehensive, multisectoral breastfeeding policy. This policy will align with the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes by strengthening existing policies and plans, establishing regional breastfeeding committees, adding a dedicated budget line, and implementing a strategic action plan.

Political Commitment (Policy/Strategy #2)

Starting in 2025, by 2030, [International large food and beverage manufacturer] commits to improve the healthiness of its product portfolios, aiming to increase the share of sales from healthy products (rated by Health Star Rating or Nutri-Score) from 30% to at least 50%. Annual reviews will assess progress, with targeted product reformulations designed to meet this 50% benchmark.

Political Commitment (Programmatic/Interventional #1)

Over the next 10 years, until 2035, [Donor], in partnership with the decentralized Ministry of Health, commits to treat all cases of acute malnutrition in children under five across [Country]. This will include equipping 100% of treatment centres with management kits and implementing a comprehensive communications plan in health centres and communities. Coverage and impact will be reviewed biannually to ensure complete accessibility and effectiveness of treatment.

Political Commitment (Impact #1)

The Ministries of Health and Agriculture of [Country] commit to reducing national levels of stunting in children under five from 28% in 2025 to 20% by 2035. This will be achieved through accelerated scaling up of the national nutrition action plan and expansion of nutrition-sensitive interventions. Progress will be monitored annually, with interim goals set for 2030 to ensure alignment with the 2035 target.

¹⁰ The N4G thematic recommendations for commitments will be concluded by late December and will be made available to all stakeholders to be used in conjunction with the present Guide.

Specific recommendations for national consultations on commitment formulation

To formulate commitments at national level, commitment-makers are encouraged to set up consultative processes with multiple stakeholders to review existing national nutrition policies, strategies and programs, balancing multisectoral and sectoral priorities. In SUN countries, in particular, the SUN platforms offer the ideal umbrella to run these multisector and multistakeholder consultations, ensuring that commitments are embedded in national nutrition policies and frameworks. The principles of engagement guiding the consultation processes are described further in Part II of this Guide.

It is important to analyze eventual barriers to progress in improving nutrition and review evidence on how to overcome them. It is equally important to take a holistic approach to nutrition action, addressing both nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive actions, encompassing health and food sectors, to ensure healthy diets for sustainable food systems.

The questions below can help guide the discussions:

1. Does the commitment contribute to the National Nutrition Policy, Strategy or Plan or to a national nutrition target?
2. Does the commitment help advance progress on current gaps or challenges in implementation?
3. Does the commitment improve the current policy and enabling environment for nutrition? In which ways?
4. Does the commitment allow for increasing the scale, scope, or ambition of current programming and nutrition actions?
5. Does the commitment make specific considerations for women and underrepresented groups (e.g., children and adolescents) and include specific plans to reach the most marginalized groups?
6. If the commitment includes a financial component, is this new financing (especially if a corresponding commitment was made for Tokyo)? Does the commitment include a plan to raise and disburse those finances?
7. If the commitment relates to a policy, is this a new or improved policy? Does the commitment include a costed plan to finance this policy? Does it consider mechanisms for disbursement tracking?
8. Is the commitment cost-effective – i.e., is it aligned with economic models and available evidence?
9. Does the commitment consider the differentiated impacts it may have on all individuals of all genders and the role that gender has in determining nutrition outcomes?
10. Is the commitment based on published evidence?
11. Is the commitment SMART: specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound?
12. Does the commitment include an accountability component?

13. Is the commitment aligned with:
- SDG targets 2.2 (malnutrition in all its forms) and 3.4 (NCDs); or any other SDG target nutrition;
 - WHA targets on undernutrition, breastfeeding, NCD, or obesity; or
 - The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) Framework for Action?

If the answer to many of the above questions is yes, then it is likely that the commitment can offer value at the Summit and contribute to reaching the global nutrition goals. It is likewise expected to contribute to national targets and priorities.

2. Securing a commitment: registration and accountability

a. Registration and validation

For commitments to be counted towards “N4G Paris”, they must be registered online in the NAF platform: <https://naf.globalnutritionreport.org/signup>.

The registration requires stakeholders to complete a registration form designed and made available by the GNR: <https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/naf/about/platform-guide/>.

For stakeholders already signed up, access will be granted to the NAF registration platform through their usual sign in credentials: <https://naf.globalnutritionreport.org/signin>.

The following will be attested through the NAF registration process when proceeding with the validation:

- Principle to “do no harm”;
- Alignment with national priorities, goals and targets;
- Alignment with internationally agreed goals, targets, strategies and standards;
- Meeting the **eligibility criteria** (see: *Part II – Principles of engagement, “Who can make commitments to N4G Paris”*).

Commitments should be registered in a timely manner to allow the GNR to perform a basic level of verification prior to the N4G Paris Summit. Commitments registered after 28 February 2025 may not be verified in time for the Summit. Any commitment registered in the NAF by 28 March 2025 may be considered for inclusion in the N4G Paris Compact Annex, if it is designated as being for N4G Paris and meets the requirements set out in the N4G Paris principles of engagement (see *below*).

Commitments registered in the NAF after the Summit up to the closing date communicated by the GNR will be counted towards N4G Paris, as long as meeting the requirements of the N4G Paris principles of engagement. This should enable the SUN Global Gathering to take stock of all N4G Paris commitments. Thereafter, resources allowing, the GNR intends to keep the platform open for stakeholders to continue to make commitments and respond to clarification queries from GNR, but those commitments shall not be linked to the accounting of the N4G Paris Summit.

Commitments that are registered and verified by the GNR will be publicly shared on the NAF Commitment Tracker.

For communications on these commitments, the verification process, and the eventual reporting of progress against these commitments after the Summit, the GNR will write to the commitment-making organization's main user of the NAF platform. Therefore, it is recommended that all user information be kept up to date.

For any information or assistance regarding updating the user information, or for any questions regarding the NAF registration process, please write to NAF@globalnutritionreport.org.

b. Accountability and future tracking

Registration of commitments in the NAF platform will help to hold stakeholders accountable. Entities that made commitments in N4G Tokyo should have reported on progress in the same NAF platform before registering a new commitment, and should commit to report on their N4G Paris commitment progress up to the next Summit. As such, all commitments should be budgeted for and financed, ensuring the accountability process is explained and funded. Data collection and accountability mechanisms should be built into all commitments to enable transparent progress tracking.¹¹

Where feasible, it is also recommended that commitment-makers register and track their commitments in other international accountability mechanisms to ensure accountability beyond N4G Summits. Such mechanisms include:

- The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Development Assistance Committee databases for accountability purposes. Donor financial commitments should be registered here: <https://web-archive.oecd.org/temp/2024-06-20/512309-data-collection-and-resources-for-data-reporters.htm>
- The UN Decade for Action on Nutrition repository held by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- National accountability mechanisms, where they exist.

Overall, commitments should be accounted for within national budgeting and accounting systems to strengthen nutrition accountability. This also concerns commitments from stakeholders outside of national jurisdictions. National nutrition-sensitive budgeting and accounting mechanisms should be considered – or developed if not yet in place – to enhance tracking and accountability of nutrition-sensitive actions into national systems. Government efforts to seal coordinated and concerted multistakeholders engagements in support of national policies, plans and targets in a dedicated document are welcomed.

Equally important is to spell out who is accountable for tracking over the duration of the commitment, as well as the periodicity of reporting and the reporting mechanism to be used. Commitments may vary in their duration; thus, periodic monitoring and accountability are critical. N4G Paris encourages such processes and mechanisms to be considered and set while developing the commitments. This supports the N4G Paris vision and ambition to strengthen continuity and joint accountability between Summits.

¹¹ Note that 38 SUN countries will benefit from EU4SUN technical assistance for progress implementation on their N4G Tokyo commitments and for formulation of their N4G Paris commitments. Refer to the "EU4SUN project support to N4G Paris 2025 leaflet", EU4SUN, EU, FIIAP (Spanish cooperation), EF (French cooperation), SUN. November 2025.



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PART 2

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT



World Food Program (WFP) school, Mphunzi Primary school, Dedza district, Malawi © MEAE

The success of N4G depends on the active participation of all stakeholders around a shared vision and within a common accountability framework. It also requires the careful management of potential conflicts of interest among stakeholders throughout the summit.

The Principles of Engagement¹² define the conditions under which stakeholders can make commitments and participate in the summit itself. They are designed to enhance stakeholders' mobilization and trust, engage in a constructive dialogue and identify solutions to achieve the Summit's objectives.

¹² The Principles of Engagement below build on those of N4G Tokyo. They have been revised and enriched through consultations with the N4G Paris National Steering Committee and they aim to reflect the current global context and nutrition challenges, four years after the N4G Tokyo Summit.

The fundamental principles described below are universal and apply to all. They were based on SUN's principles of engagement, as described in the SUN Movement vision and principles:¹³

- Be transparent about intentions and impact;
- Be inclusive;
- Be rights-based;
- Be willing to negotiate;
- Be predictable and mutually accountable;
- Be cost-effective;
- Be continuously communicative;
- Act with integrity and in an ethical manner;
- Be mutually respectful;
- Do no harm.

1. Who can make commitments to N4G Paris and take part in the Summit?

Contributing to and participating in the N4G Paris Summit requires all stakeholders – governments, bilateral and multilateral donors, UN organizations, civil society organizations, private sector and research institutions – to meet the criteria outlined below. Compliance with the criteria will determine eligibility to make a commitment to N4G Paris and to participate in the official governance of the Summit, the proceedings and the Summit itself.¹⁴

Failure to meet these criteria will result in automatic ineligibility.

- Respect human rights, including the rights to food, education, health, decent work that meets international labour conventions, protection from sexual exploitation or abuse, the right to clean drinking water, a healthy and protected environment, fundamental principles and rights at work and legitimate land rights;
- Not be complicit in human rights violations, including forced labor or the use of child labor;
- Not to be involved in the production and processing of tobacco, arms, alcohol or fossil fuels, or derive income from pornography or gambling;
- Not derive revenue from the production, sale and/or transfer of anti-personnel landmines or cluster munitions;
- Not be subject to United Nations sanctions;
- Not to appear on the United Nations list of ineligible suppliers for ethical reasons.
- Declare any potential conflict of interest incompatible with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda;

¹³ Refer to the SUN principles in the SUN website: <https://scalingupnutrition.org/about/what-we-do>

¹⁴ This includes any related event under the N4G logo – that is to say, the Village of Solutions for nutrition and all N4G official side events.

- For entities that produce, sell and advertise breastmilk substitutes: fully comply with the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes (the Code) and subsequent World Health Assembly resolutions,¹⁵ including those related to promotional practices on digital media;¹⁶
- For food and beverage industry companies: have less than 40% of sale/product portfolio derived from products high in unhealthy fats, sugars and/ or salt, as defined by any WHO nutrient profile model or other internationally recognized nutrient profile model (NPM)^{17 18};
- For the entities that market food and beverages: have policies in place to not market to children aged 18 years and under.

Business associations with members from excluded sectors or companies that do not meet the set-out criteria above may participate in the Summit but may not be represented by such excluded members or companies and may not make SMART commitments on behalf of those excluded members.

Companies that produce, sell and advertise breastmilk substitutes and have a track record of violating the Code are excluded from N4G Paris and any of its proceedings under N4G logo. However, they are encouraged to put a strict policy in place to support full compliance with the Code in all markets, ensuring no marketing of breastmilk substitutes or complementary foods and no Code violations of any nature by the next edition of the N4G. Each company must make a separate commitment on the Code. Business associations should not be used to make or claim umbrella commitments.

Food and beverage companies with more than 40% sale/products portfolio derived from less healthy products (high in unhealthy fats, sugars and/ or salt, as defined by any WHO nutrient profile model or other internationally recognized NPM¹⁹) are excluded from N4G Paris and any of its proceedings under the N4G logo. However, they are encouraged to put in place a strict policy to support improvements in sales portfolios, in all markets, ensuring less than 40% of sale/products portfolio from these foods by the next edition of the N4G.²⁰

Foundations and philanthropies led by entities deemed ineligible by the principles of engagement cannot make a commitment to N4G Paris nor participate in either the official governance of the Summit, the proceedings or the Summit itself.

¹⁵ Refer to the Code and any of the additional clauses endorsed as part of it: <https://www.who.int/teams/nutrition-and-food-safety/food-and-nutrition-actions-in-health-systems/code-and-subsequent-resolutions>; and <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/254911/WHO-NMH-NHD-17-1-eng.pdf>

¹⁶ Given the importance and role of breastmilk substitutes manufacturers in achieving the WHA's goal of exclusive breastfeeding, participating companies must be fully compliant with the Code in order to participate in the Summit. Manufacturers of breastmilk substitutes must publicly display progress towards compliance with the Code, based on previous action plans agreed in Tokyo, independently monitored progress and publicly displayed results, to be taken into consideration in initiating a dialogue in preparation for the Summit.

¹⁷ Such as Health Star Rating System (HSR), Nutri score or the United Kingdom Nutrient Profile Model. For reference, products with HSR < 3.5 or Nutriscore C, D, E are considered unhealthy.

¹⁸ Compliance with these criteria will rely on the ATNI (Access to Nutrition Initiative) monitoring system, data, and capacities. Refer to the Global Index 2024: <https://accesstonutrition.org/index/global-access-to-nutrition-index/> for detailed information.

¹⁹ Such as HSR, Nutri score or the United Kingdom Nutrient Profile Model. For reference, products with HSR < 3.5 or Nutriscore C, D, E are considered unhealthy.

²⁰ Strict policy should be linked to specific target, including a baseline, mechanisms for reporting on progress and a road map.



Palwasha, 6 year-old, a first-grade student in Posht-e-Road district of Farah Province, Afghanistan. © WFP/Hasib Hazinyar

2. Principles to guide the consultation process for drawing up meaningful commitments

a. Commitments should be guided by scientific and evidence-based approaches

- Ground public policy commitments in scientific and local evidence-based approaches that are, as much as possible, contextualized to the problem they are meant to address and draw on evidence generated from community engagement.

b. Commitment-making processes should be inclusive

- Derive commitment-making from a consultative process based on open dialogue and a spirit of collaboration with relevant stakeholders, allowing stakeholders involved to express their concerns about public policy proposals and other contributions, including non-state contributions, and to discuss how they can encourage rather than undermine nutrition goals and public health objectives.
- Seek to include a diverse range of stakeholders in order to create the best chance of arriving at a robust set of recommendations.
- Strive to take into account the views of people with different experiences and backgrounds, and from different population groups, especially those most affected by the problem and receiving nutrition support and services.
- Encourage the equal and meaningful participation of young people, women, indigenous groups, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups.
- Be comprehensive in accounting for the results of commitment-making consultations and in sharing those results as much as possible with all stakeholders.

c. Commitment-making processes must be protected from conflicts of interest and unwanted influence

- Consultations on public policy recommendations/commitments must take place in a safe space in which the integrity of different positions is respected, public policy options can be considered and concerns can be expressed. This safe space should motivate stakeholders to act in favor of common nutrition objectives, giving priority to the general and public interest.
- Consultations must be conducted in a way that is free from conflicts of interest and that protects public policy recommendations from unwanted influence or interference from special interests, in particular financial interests. Potential conflicts of interest involving stakeholders and their partners must be considered at all stages of formulation and implementation, including those related to the private sector, civil society and philanthropic organizations.
- Consultations must take into account the asymmetries of power and be protected from their consequences by the necessary safeguards. Participants must therefore be protected from any form of discrimination, with particular attention to gender-based discrimination. The members of N4G's governance, in particular its Secretariat and the chairs of the Steering Committee and International Advisory Committee, will pay specific attention to this matter.
- Consultations require participating stakeholders to be transparent about their interests and their positions. Thus, national governments can choose to invite stakeholders to participate in national public policy consultations based on stakeholders' willingness to share their inputs publicly via their organizations' websites and/or other transparency mechanisms.
- The results of consultations on public policy recommendations should be shared with other Summit stakeholders by the organizers of the consultations.
- National governments are ultimately responsible for finalizing public policy and financial commitments.



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Workshop to develop a nutrition advocacy strategy for members of ROJNAD-CI (network of youth organizations for nutrition, food and sustainable development in Côte d'Ivoire) - EU4SUN & UNICEF project. © Expertise France

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