

FORUM: Sustainable Development Sub-commission 2

QUESTION OF: Measures to maintain and improve dietary diversity

SUBMITTED BY: Malta

CO-SUBMITTERS: Human Rights Watch, Zimbabwe, Turkey, Romania, Philippines, Palestine, India, Mali, Cameroon, Economic Commission for Africa, Armenia, Belgium, Ethiopia, United Nations Women, Argentina, Sweden, Rwanda, Finland, Dominican Republic, World Health Organisation

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION,

Alarmed that an estimated 821 million people continued to go hungry in 2018, with levels of “extremely alarming” or “alarming” hunger in 16 countries,

Defining “Dietary diversity” as “a qualitative measure of food consumption that reflects household access to a variety of foods and is also a proxy for nutrient adequacy of the diet of individuals,”

Also defining malnutrition as a diet that either provides too much or not enough of certain nutrients or calories,

Noting that out of 815 million people undernourished, only 11 million come from developed nations,

1. Recommends the establishment of various education programmes in homes, public schools and the workplace through means such as but not limited to:
 - a) mobile education units in LEDCs, funded by the World Bank and working in conjunction with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and The United Nations International Children’s Fund (UNICEF) with the aims of educating youth and adults in professional settings such as schools and workplaces and educating people about sustainable and progressive farming and teaching proper hygiene and sanitation methods, the importance of a balanced healthy diet (which foods provide vital nutrients, correct portion sizes, food fortification with nutrients that are not too harmful after great consumption (such as riboflavin or vitamin B2), and more efficient cooking methods that retain larger amounts of nutrients to ensure reductions in over/under eating and greater consumption of nutrients by,
 - b) partnering with the FAO, specifically through applying the Education for Effective Nutrition in Action (ENACT) course, a course for professional development in nutrition education, to universities

2. Suggests the formation of a UN task force to be named the United Nations Task Force for Improving Dietary Diversity (UNTIDD) who will operate under the FAO, and work alongside the WHO and WFP, which will be composed of relevant representatives from relevant NGOs, UN Personnel and Specialists as well as officials from Health Organizations, who shall be subject to regular background checks, with the aim of developing a cohesive strategy to improve global dietary diversity through means such as but not limited to:
 - a) publish reports on the progress being made to their online website, as well as the launch of a mass media campaign in conjunction with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), through all available and regionally-specific mediums to raise awareness about:
 - i. the issues, rates and causes of malnutrition and hunger around the world today
 - ii. The health and nutritional benefits of breastfeeding an infant instead of processed alternatives
 - b) Creating a revised strategy in areas of recent conflict in conjunction with local governments, the Human Rights Watch (HRW) and regional government schemes to solve the problem of food insecurity by
 - i. Coordinating nationwide programs in conjunction with the WFP that enable citizens to apply for an emergency supply of food to be given to them in crises

such as famine, drought and disease, and for food supplements to be given to them if necessary

- ii. Helping families re-establish farms and livelihoods by providing them with necessary farming equipment and training them to become efficient farmers and growers
 - iii. Ensuring access to food resources is not restricted by establishing Regional Councils for Public Nutrition in member nations, to be overseen by the WFP and HRW who would ensure that roadblocks and checkpoints should not obstruct the citizens access to these services;
 - c) Implementing modern technical advancements, farming methods and sustainable practices in LEDCs so that more land may be cultivated using high yield crop varieties suited to regional fertility and climate
 - d) increasing small- scale agricultural business and farms' income and economic prosperity, by means of providing annual grants and machinery, overseen by the WHO and funded by the World Bank;
3. Calls for the creation of a Bureau for Distribution of Nutrient Supplements (BDNS) in association with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and working with the UN Sustainable Development Commission, which would provide relevant families and individuals with support by,
 - a) Enforcing the need for households to be scored in terms of quality and quantity of sustenance and Distributing nutrient supplements among households with HHS/ HDDS scores of 3 or less
 - b) Promoting the Household Hunger Scale (HHS) and Household Dietary Diversity Scale (HDDS) scoring processes established by the FAO
 - i. Establishing a system of self-reporting for undernourished families and Improving the efficiency and accuracy of this scoring procedure
 - c) Developing relationships with public primary and secondary schools to provide undernourished students with well-rounded meals every weekday;
4. Calls for the installation of Primary Health Care Units (PHCU) or Primary Health Care Centers (PHCC) in all major towns, at least 6 modern and advanced hospitals in all LEDC nations, and mobile health units, supported by and working in conjunction with the World Health Organization (WHO), with the aims of
 - a) giving treatment to help tackle easily curable conditions which impact on gut health and nutritional absorption, such as cholera, Rotavirus, E. coli, typhoid and parasitic intestinal infections in the form of tablets, vaccines and other medicines that will comply with the ethical beliefs of individuals
 - b) Providing developmental aid and support for children who have grown up experiencing malnutrition and hunger and Providing information on nutrition, sexual health and contraception, disease prevention and maintaining physical health;
5. Asks for the implementation of small-scale irrigation schemes with a focus on sustainability, such as drip irrigation, across drought risk regions in the Sub-Saharan Africa to be installed in order for the areas that are suffering the greatest to those less in need, through grants provided by the World Bank,
6. Emphasizes the importance that even in times of conflict, access to food resources is not restricted and Regional Councils for Public Nutrition should be set up in failed states to be overseen by the WFP and ensure that roadblocks, checkpoints and migration should not obstruct the citizens access to these services;
7. Invites all member nations to a biannual conference for improving global dietary diversity to be held in Geneva, Switzerland to discuss this rapidly changing and developing topic, which would discuss not only methods of maintaining these plans and programs in our changing climate as well as

reducing food waste, but also consider improved and alternative solutions when they arise and set targets that will be tailored to the individual needs of nations, based on their level of development, access to resources, and need.

8. Encourages the improvement of the accessibility to the trade market for Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs), by
 - a) Providing the LEDCs with Duty-Free Quota Free (DFQF) market access, limiting the adverse effect of Regional Trade Agreements on market access by LEDCs,
 - b) Physically connecting LEDCs to the international market through expeditious and effective implementation of the WFO agreement on trade facilitation
 - c) Targeting aid for trade to upgrade the productive and export capacity of LEDCs,
 - d) Helping LEDCs use their export growth to achieve sustainable development;

9. Encourages further the purchase of locally-produced food products from local farmers markets through the implementation of subsidies provided by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to these markets, for reasons such as but not limited to:
 - a) Reducing 'food miles' and the unnecessary carbon footprint of food,
 - b) Providing income for local farmers and encouraging the produce for fresh, unmodified food,
 - c) Promoting the consumption of seasonal produce

10. Notes that financial difficulties and unemployment lead to an insufficient income source which can perpetuate a vicious cycle of malnutrition and seeks to correct this, by
 - a) Implementing interventionist supply side policies which involve investment in human capital and research and development to provide the unemployed with access to skill development centers, consequently increasing their chances of becoming employed.
 - b) Improving equity in the distribution of income by adopting micro credit schemes and progressive income taxes which will provide the government with tax revenue which may be used to increase the provision of merit goods and transfer payments.