



MINISTÈRE  
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# NUTRITION FOR GROWTH PARIS 2025



# Introduction and global context

**Nutrition is at the core of human and social development issues in our countries.** It represents the strongest basis for preventing, mitigating and combating the consequences of the multiple and recurrent shocks the world is currently facing. Nutrition is enshrined in fundamental rights, including the right to adequate food and to a healthy, decent life. Nutrition is an important factor in economic growth, poverty reduction, resilience to climate change and other shocks, and other development goals. It is a critical building block for better health and well-being across the life course and it is essential to education and better development prospects. It is therefore directly linked to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 3 and has an impact on the achievement of 11 of the other 15 SDGs.

**Malnutrition is a global challenge all countries face.** Many of them are dealing with the double burden of malnutrition, with the co-existence of various forms of undernutrition (stunting, wasting, thinness, micronutrient deficiency), overweight and obesity at the national level, but also in a same household and individual.<sup>1</sup> Persons living in situations of vulnerability, including in fragile and conflict-affected regions are particularly at risk. In 2022, over 148 million children under 5 suffered from stunting and 45 million from wasting and 37 million were overweight, while 881 million people over 18 were obese.<sup>2</sup> Deficiency of essential vitamins and minerals also affects at least 1.6 billion women and young children with an impact over the short and long term on health and development.<sup>3</sup> The true burden of malnutrition globally is likely underestimated due to the low amount or lack of data, for example on vitamin and mineral deficiencies in school-aged children, adolescents, adult men, and the elderly.<sup>5</sup>

**Malnutrition remains a leading cause of death among infants, accounting for almost half of all child deaths, with the majority occurring in low- and middle-income countries.**<sup>4</sup> Noncommunicable diseases related to overweight and obesity are increasing everywhere and caused an estimated 5 million adult deaths in 2019.<sup>5</sup> Adolescents and the elderly are also highly vulnerable to malnutrition, including vitamin and mineral deficiency and underweight. However, in most countries, data to quantify this burden and to take appropriate actions are lacking. Although the overall trends over the past 20 years in the fight against undernutrition are encouraging, progress must be accelerated and the current trends in anaemia and obesity must be reversed by 2030 if we are to achieve the SDGs.

Many current trends are impeding progress against malnutrition. Multiple and prolonged conflicts, pandemics, and extreme climate events have expanded the scale and intensity of population displacement, directly interrupting health and other services and food production and distribution systems. Actions that address the underlying root causes of all forms of malnutrition, including poverty reduction and inclusive access to health, social protection, and education services, combined with effective and rapid response to crises of all natures are imperative.

<sup>1</sup> Sagastume D, Barrenechea-Pulache A, Ruiz-Alejos A, Polman K, Benova L, Ramirez-Zea M, Penalvo JL. Quantifying Overlapping Forms of Malnutrition Across Latin America: A Systematic Literature Review and Meta-Analysis of Prevalence Estimates. *Advances in Nutrition* 2024;15:100212.

<sup>2</sup> FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2024. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024 – Financing to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd1254en>

<sup>3</sup> Stevens, G. A. et al. Micronutrient deficiencies among preschool-aged children and women of reproductive age worldwide: a pooled analysis of individual-level data from population-representative surveys. *The Lancet Global Health* 10, e1590–e1599 (2022).

<sup>4</sup> Joint child malnutrition estimates report UNICEF/WHO/WB. 2022

<sup>5</sup> IHME, GBD compare accessed 15 October 2024

↑ Cover photo 1: On February 29th, 2024, in La Pistam Nebaj, Quiché, Guatemala, Juana Brito Corio (38 years old) eats lunch with her daughter Cecilia Guzmán (14 years old) and nephew Diego Brito (5 years old). © UNICEF/UNI569439/Willoccq

↑ Cover photo 2: Ukraine, 29 April 2024, Medical professionals taking a certified course on breastfeeding in Ukraine. © UNICEF Ukraine/2024/Viktor Zavalniuk

↑ Cover photo 3: Students bring different ingredients and food items from home to discuss their nutritional content and inclusion in the everyday meal, in Nepal. © UNICEF/UNI459620/Upadhayay

The cost of achieving SDG 2 by 2030 is considerable (around \$39-50 billion a year), but the potential economic and social gains from such investments could reach \$5.7 trillion a year by 2030 and \$10.5 trillion a year by 2050.<sup>6</sup> Indeed, investing in nutrition remains one of the most profitable investments in health and development worldwide: for every \$1 invested to address the various forms of undernutrition, the return on investment is \$23 on average.<sup>7</sup> While the assumptions underlying such estimates vary, the message is clear: the return on investment in nutrition is considerable and nutrition should qualify in development policies as a “development booster”. Moreover, the cost of inaction will be borne by society now and in the future.

**To complement the substantial financial commitment secured in Tokyo (\$27 billion), a qualitative and political shift is needed** from one-off increases in humanitarian funding for nutrition<sup>8</sup> to an effective, efficient, and sustainable long-term effort, based on scientific evidence, to prevent and control all forms of malnutrition. This means continuing efforts to implement a larger number of effective measures to help the most vulnerable people, as well as a substantial improvement of prevention measures and the introduction of fresh measures in the agrifood, economic, social, environmental and health sectors. As the end of the UN Decade of Action for Nutrition (2016-2025) grows closer, it is more urgent than ever, building on the knowledge and progress already achieved, to accelerate the mobilization of funds and the implementation of actions to improve nutrition to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Collaboration between public and private sector stakeholders will also be needed to achieve this objective. **We have five years to accelerate progress on nutrition through sustainable development measures and collectively strive towards significant progress in achieving good nutrition for all.**

<sup>6</sup> Understanding the Cost of Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, Policy Research Working Paper 9146, World Bank. 2020.

<sup>7</sup> Shekar, Meera, Kyoko Shibata Okamura, Mireya Vilar Compte, and Chiara Dell’Aira, eds. 2024. “Investment Framework for Nutrition 2024.” Human Development Perspectives Overview booklet. World Bank, Washington, DC.

<sup>8</sup> Results for Development tracking aid for the WHA nutrition targets: progress toward the global nutrition goals between 2015 and 2021. July 2023



# The vision: running the extra mile to 2030

**Since its establishment, the N4G process has mobilized political and financial commitments across multiple sectors, including health, food and social protection.** Against the backdrop of the multiple crises that challenge food security and nutrition, collective mobilization of governments, international organizations and civil society has demonstrated that progress can be made when a clear direction is given, and adequate investments are made. Notable examples include the strides made in the reduction of stunting and wasting and the improvement of breastfeeding rates. However, progress has not been universal and has not touched all forms of malnutrition.

Following the impressive mobilization achieved at N4G Tokyo, France aims to make N4G Paris a decisive moment in the political and financial mobilization of all stakeholders.

**N4G Paris will call for decisive and bold political and financial commitments to scale up our ambitions in the fight against malnutrition in all its forms and accelerate progress towards the achievement of global nutrition targets by 2030.**



Market gardening in Afomarahy, Madagascar, where women use a motor pump © Gret

## N4G Paris aims to:

- Put nutrition at the heart of sustainable development policies through coordinated action across sectors and across political processes.
- Make the fight against all forms of malnutrition a universal cause as nutrition is a fundamental human right and no one should be left behind.
- Create continuity between past and future N4G Summits and establish a continuous trend to expand commitments to good nutrition.
- Maintain a high level of political and financial commitment from multiple stakeholders at national, regional and global level.

**It will connect and build on several global development processes that are generating commitments to improve nutrition**, including the UN Food System Summit processes, the Climate and Biodiversity COPs, the Decade of Action on Nutrition, and other international initiatives such as the ones promoted by the G7 and G20 collaborations.

These processes aim, for example, to ensure that healthy and sustainable diets contribute to the transformation of food systems, that nutrition services are provided through universal health coverage, that the mitigation of climate change impacts include the preservation of nutrition and that social protection systems aim to reduce all forms of malnutrition.

**The Summit will generate a coordinated set of new commitments to integrate nutrition across multiple sectors**, aptly prioritized and adequately funded. N4G Paris is an excellent opportunity to accelerate action and expand the response in areas that have been left behind. The Summit process will steer the action towards action areas, population groups or geographies that have not been able to progress and ensure a good alignment between the investments and the policy priorities expressed by the governments and the broader nutrition community in all areas.

The Summit will highlight **collective and individual responsibilities** to achieve global nutrition goals and, more broadly, the Sustainable Development Goals. Concerted and coordinated action by all stakeholders is therefore required: governments, political decision-makers, donors, international organizations, civil society, youth, philanthropic organizations, parliament members, private sector entities and research institutions. The Summit process will be transparent and reasonable in ambition, and it will reinforce existing good accountability mechanisms.

## Preparing for the Summit: a year of political mobilization and heightened visibility

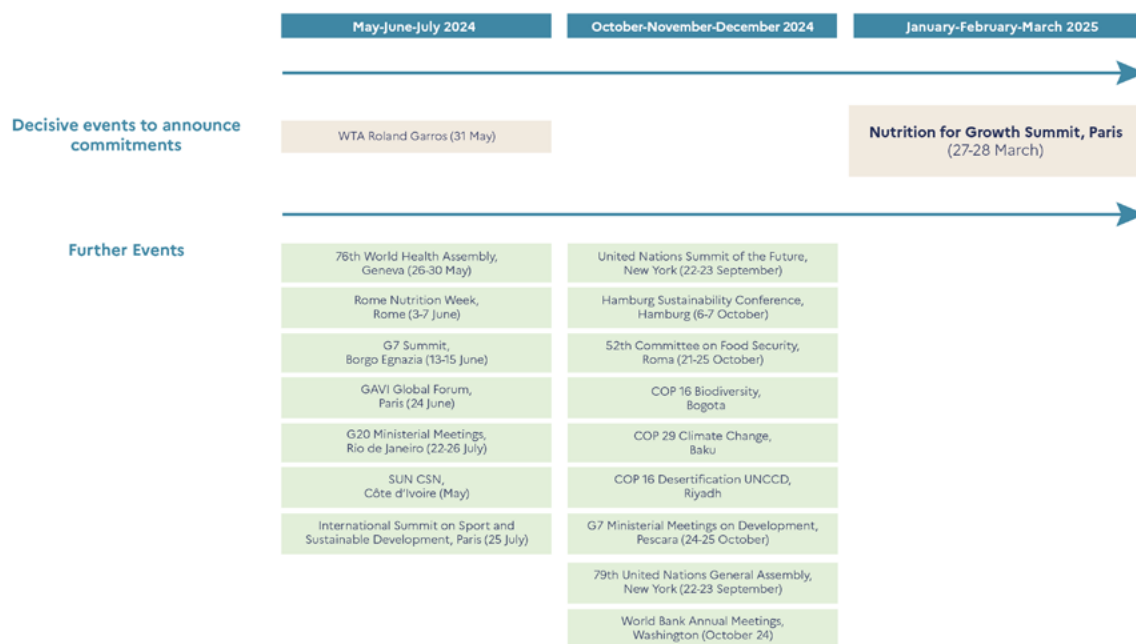
**Preparing for N4G Paris is a fresh opportunity for dialogue, consultation and coordination between stakeholders, under the leadership of governments.** N4G Paris will take place on 27 and 28 March 2025.

All stakeholders are already invited to contribute to mobilization efforts at major nutrition events. Relevant inputs include the report of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, WHO’s recommendations on the extension of global nutrition targets to 2030 and the preparatory processes for other 2025 events, such as the Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) Movement’s Global Gathering, the UN Food Systems Summit +4 Stocktaking Moment,<sup>9</sup> and the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Global Forum. Using 2025 events as a springboard, renewed efforts can foster a change in the trajectory tackling undernutrition and reversing the global epidemics of obesity and diet-related diseases.

**France will lead high-level political mobilization efforts to place nutrition at the heart of the development agenda.** To leverage its efforts, the French government will draw on the support of a Core group of States representing all regions to provide relevant political stewardship to the summit. Key international events for political mobilization have been identified, including the G7 and G20 summits in June and November 2024 respectively, the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2024, and the World Bank Annual Meetings in October 2024. France welcomes the establishment of the Task Force for a Global Alliance Against Poverty and Hunger promoted by Brazil at the G20.

Despite the need to postpone the SUN Movement’s Global Gathering, regional exchanges<sup>10</sup> under the SUN umbrella will also pave the way for SUN countries to embark on the N4G journey. Together these action-taking moments will deliver a complementary set of political and financial nutrition commitments and foster renewed efforts and accountability to change the trajectory on tackling undernutrition and reversing the global epidemics of obesity and diet-related diseases.

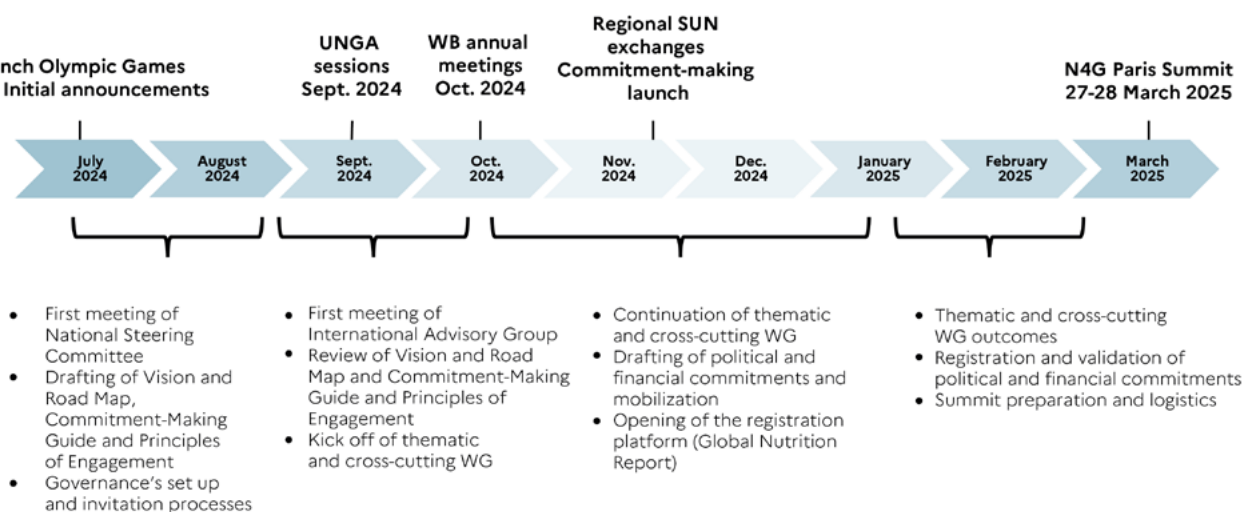
### Paris Nutrition for Growth Summit – Paris, 2025 – Road Map



<sup>9</sup> These include the preparatory work to the UN FSS+4 with updates on the Food Systems Solutions Dialogues, National Pathways and progress of the Coalition of Action, of which several hold direct relevance for the nutrition agenda including the Coalition of Action on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems for Children and All (HDSFS), the School Meals Coalition, the Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition (I-CAN) and the Zero Hunger Coalition.

<sup>10</sup> Those will be facilitated by the different SUN Technical Assistance providers and the GNR.

The different mobilization phases leading to the N4G Summit: preparatory and organization phase, awareness raising, mobilization and outreach campaign, commitment-making, and commitment registration phase, are described *in the timeline below*:



## Securing meaningful commitments: building on key areas of N4G Tokyo

France believes **it is necessary to ensure the continuity of nutrition commitments beyond the specific mobilization events by better anchoring the N4G summits in the global development ecosystem and the Olympic cycle.** In this respect, a "Troika" made up of the previous, current, and next N4G host countries of the Olympic and Paralympic Games will seek greater continuity between N4G summits. This proposal is developed *in the governance section hereinafter*.

While political efforts aim to make nutrition central to international development strategies and agendas, France calls on multiple stakeholders to join a global visibility campaign on the issue, consistent with the N4G Principles of Engagement.

The commitment and accountability frameworks to be used at N4G Paris will build on the legacy of N4G Tokyo and, subsequently, on the commitment recording and tracking mechanisms currently managed by the Global Nutrition Report (GNR). Ahead of N4G Paris, it is the individual and joint responsibility of stakeholders to assess the effective implementation and progress of their commitments submitted in 2021. SUN Movement countries benefitting from EU4SUN support could take stock of progress achieved ahead of N4G Paris. In this respect, N4G Paris action will be conducted with the aim of bridging the gap between past commitments and those still needed to achieve the WHA nutrition targets by 2030, and to intensify collective and individual action related to nutrition within the framework of relevant international agendas. The issue of the responsibility of all stakeholders is detailed in the N4G Paris Commitment-Making Guide.

Recognizing the need to tackle all forms of malnutrition (including undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity) by addressing their direct determinants and root causes, **France wishes to encourage all stakeholders to make new commitments** that address the multi-sectoral dimension of nutrition with a "through the life course" approach. N4G Paris aims to go beyond humanitarian and development issues as malnutrition affects all continents and all countries. It also encourages all governments, including donor governments to prepare ambitious domestic policy and financial pledges.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>11</sup> At N4G Tokyo, two donor government prepared domestic pledges.





On 1st March 2023, Jal Kuem, a UNICEF-supported social mobiliser and nutrition nurse, measures a child for malnutrition in Bieh IDP camp in Bentiu, Unity State, South Sudan. © UNICEF South Sudan/Mark Naftalin

Commitments should be evidence-based, drafted using the SMART method and aligned with contextual realities and the national strategies and priorities set by governments. They may relate to policy and/or finance, with particular emphasis on the need for coherence across multiple sectors. All stakeholders may communicate commitments already made in other contexts, and focus on the efforts made for their full implementation.

To facilitate the formulation and monitoring of these new commitments, we propose to work on the following **themes inherited Tokyo summit**:

- Nutrition, health, and social protection
- Nutrition, transition to sustainable food systems and climate
- Nutrition, and resilience to crisis

**Cross-cutting themes have also been identified:**

- Nutrition and gender equality
- Data, research, artificial intelligence, and innovation for nutrition
- Financing and accountability for nutrition

For each area, working groups will be created and chaired by one or two international organizations, with full participation and engagement of governments. Thematic groups will define the areas where priority action is needed, support the generation of new and/or scaled commitments in those areas and ensure that the overall Summit narrative adequately integrates the priorities expressed in the different themes. The working groups will make their recommendations considering evidence-based policies and programmes, also indicating opportunities for enhancing the evidence base where needed. The table below provides an initial framework for the Thematic Working Groups.



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## Core Areas

### Health and social protection

Commitments could be framed around the six pillars of the WHO health system, to include nutrition in health universal coverage: health service delivery, workforce, financing, health information systems, access to essential medicines, finance, leadership and governance. Focusing on approach to maternal, newborn and child health, particularly during the first thousand days of life, is vital for long time gains.

Attention to nutrition under the social protection agenda can pave the way to protect the nutritional needs of the most vulnerable, providing access to nutritious foods, improve child care practices and help reduce economic barriers in accessing services. Cash, in-kind transfers, school meals and social protection schemes should be considered from a nutrition standpoint (over & under nutrition) to achieve nutrition outcomes.

### Transition to sustainable food systems and climate

Commitments should focus on contributing to a better environment to secure healthy, nutritious and sustainable diets as part of the transformation of food systems, taking into account interconnections between different food systems concerned and their determinants (incomes, markets, agriculture and consumer environment). Increasing availability and accessibility of healthy, nutritious and sustainable food, prioritizing local and sustainable approaches to ensure diverse and accessible diets is paramount (ref. in foot note.<sup>12</sup>).

Considerations to integrated actions with both positive climate and nutrition outcomes should be encouraged in the different components of agri-food systems: agriculture and food supply chains, food environment, consumer environment and diets. as de page)

### Crisis resilience

At a time of multiple protracted crises, nutrition is to be considered a key input and outcome in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and needs to be protected in a crisis situation, whether it be man-made, economic or climate related. Resilience building and preparedness are key, requiring multi-year policies, planning and financing.

Commitments should aim to ensure continuity of care, protect children's development and women's diets, and support local communities and livelihoods against shocks. Nutrition services must be protected in all fragile contexts.

This track aims to bridge the gap between humanitarian and development efforts across governments, and affected populations to address all forms of malnutrition.



Pupils having their lunch at Siliga Primary School, Garowe, Puntland State, Somalia. 14 May 2024. © WFP/Lina Mustapha

<sup>12</sup> Biofortification versus diversification to fight micronutrient deficiencies: an interdisciplinary review. E Malézieu E. Verger E, Avallone S, Alpha A. Ngigi P, Lourme Ruiz A, Bazile D. Bricas N. Ehret I, Martin Prevel Y, Amiot M.J. Food Security 16(05). Décembre 2023. DOI :10.1007/s12571-023-01422-z

# Transversal areas

## Gender equality

Nutrition and gender are intimately interconnected. The biology of nutrition comes wrapped in the social norms and politics of how food is produced and consumed and how nutrition services are provided and used. Energy and nutrient requirements are informed both by sex, health and nutrition physiology on the one hand, and gender roles and responsibilities on the other.

This new track focuses on both empowering women throughout their life stages and addressing the gender nutrition gap, addressing disparities in access to services, education, livelihoods, and decision-making between men and women.

## Data, research, AI and innovation for nutrition

Nutrition continues to face immense challenges due to lack of quality data and limited capacity in tracking progress at the national, regional and global levels and lack of evidence for some areas of action.

Despite global improvements in reporting, fragmentation persists. Robust real time information systems are urgently needed for informed decision-making and accountability, aligning with global targets for nutrition and healthy and sustainable diets. Innovation, including social, economic, and technological advancements, is crucial for progress. Innovations are needed in data, research, delivery models, and technology to enhance cost-effectiveness of investments. Scientific research must be expanded to areas where robust evidence for effective action is still needed as is operational research to improve efficiency and effectiveness of actions according to contexts. Sharing best practices in artificial intelligence is encouraged for problem-solving and progress.

Commitments aim to improve data and evidence for timely and informed decision-making and improved accountability to maximize impact at all levels (global, regional, national and sub-national).

## Financing and accountability for nutrition

More financing and accountability are needed to tackle the combined challenges of multiple forms of malnutrition and achieve sustainable gains.

Finances need to be directed to the policy priorities and should not dictate the priorities. Both global and national levels require improved nutrition sensitive tagging, budgeting/spending to understand impact and better, more unified financial tracking (including connections between national and international accountability systems). Domestic financing is crucial, but commitments can involve matching funds and other innovative financing methods. Scaling up good practices is essential for efficiency and achieving impact. The World Bank revised Global Investment Framework will further guide financing recommendations, emphasizing the urgency for nutrition sensitive actions and nutrition SMART climate actions' financing. Finances should be sustainable and should be directed to both humanitarian and development contexts.

Improving accountability will enhance credibility, especially considering the Tokyo pledges. It should also contribute to N4G Paris' ambition to create continuity between past and future N4G Summits and establish a continuous trend to expand commitments to good nutrition fostering improved accountability of all stakeholders. Accountability systems should be directed both to financial and policy commitments and should be able to show the impact of those actions.

# N4G Paris Governance

**To ensure a multi-sector, multi-stakeholder dialogue and coordinated mobilization throughout N4G Paris, a governance structure, which builds on the experience of previous Summits while considering the needs of France, will be put in place.** The N4G Paris governance is a mechanism that France wishes to be flexible, nimble, and as light as possible, while embracing the multi-sectoral nature of nutrition and the diversity of stakeholders to be involved.

Accordingly, **two committees** will be set up: a **National Steering Committee**, chaired by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) and vice-chaired by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), and an **International Advisory Group** co-chaired by the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and the SUN Movement. Both will work in the run-up to the N4G Paris, for which it will define strategic guidelines. These fora will serve as key spaces for consultations, dialogue and communication within the nutrition and development communities. They will be made up of representatives of the main interest groups, including governments, donors, civil society, UN agencies, UN agencies, philanthropic organizations, the private sector and the realm of research at national or international level. Their terms of reference will be presented and approved at the initial sessions. Coherence between the two committees will be ensured through a common timetable enabling the two committees to deliberate in parallel.

The International Advisory Group will comprise a “Troika” made up of the governments of Japan, the United States and France, and a Core group of States (plus the European Union) and non-state actors supporting France in its efforts to put nutrition at the heart of the development agenda. The Core group will be formed under the aegis of the French MEAE.

*The N4G Paris governance scheme is presented in Annex 1.*





With generous funding from France, WFP provides nutritious fortified biscuits to children in the learning centres at the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. In this photo, Sufia is enjoying a delicious WFP biscuit, which she says makes her feel energetic.  
© WFP/Atanu Sarma

# N4G Paris Summit

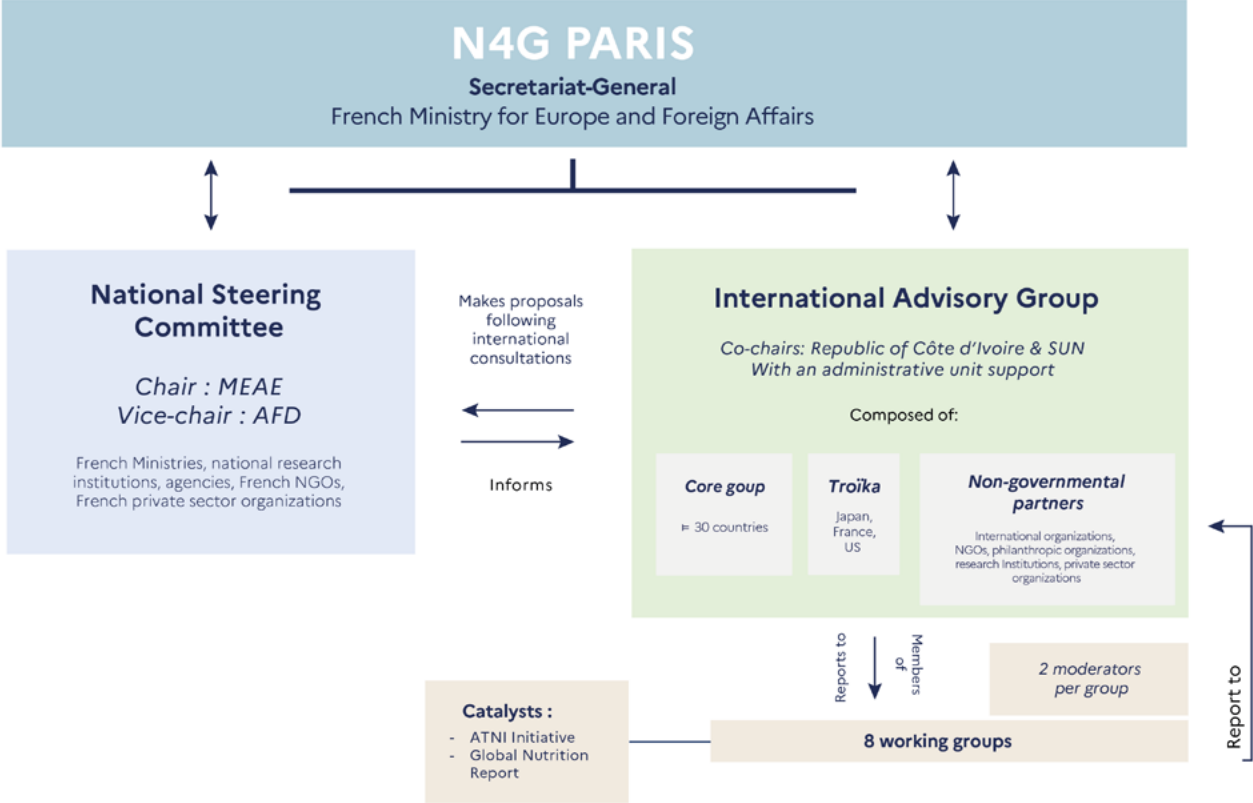
The two-day Summit will take the form of several thematic sessions, which will be defined ahead of the Summit by the N4G Paris governance bodies. The aim will be to highlight progress and continuity of commitments and to showcase the components that have helped achieve this:

- **Cross-cutting thematic meetings** in the abovementioned areas, a WFP Global Innovation Challenge, and a plenary engagement session accessible to all stakeholders respecting the principles of engagement will be held.<sup>13</sup>
- **The Village of Solutions for Nutrition**, which will take place with the support of Expertise France and the European Commission, and will enable stakeholders and groups from different backgrounds and with different interests (civil society, private sector, research, philanthropy, international organizations) to meet and share innovative ideas to make the fight against all forms of malnutrition more effective and efficient. The Village will be open to the public.
- The **“Finance in Common” side event** will be facilitated by the AFD and will bring together Public Development Banks in the “Finance in Common” global network that are interested in supporting and financing the fight against malnutrition. This side event will also be an opportunity to identify best practices and lessons learned to make financial support for nutrition more efficient and effective.

<sup>13</sup> The principles are detailed in the N4G Paris Commitment-Making Guide

# Annex 1

## N4G Paris Governance





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