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ECOSOC Management Segment meeting**

Item 11: Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

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Virtual participation**

Role	Length of intervention	Total words
Introduction of the note by the Secretary-General submitting the report of UN-Nutrition (E/2022/48)	7 min	803

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Your Excellencies, delegates, ladies, and gentlemen.

I am speaking as Chair of UN Nutrition, the coordination mechanism for nutrition in the UN system to **fight malnutrition in all its forms.**

Thank you for the opportunity to brief you about the work of UN Nutrition in 2021 and our plans.

Detailed information about our achievements in 2021 is presented in the full report submitted to this committee.

Let me start by highlighting that planetary and human health are interlinked.

A key focus of UN Nutrition is to help ensure planetary and human health, through the promotion of healthy diets from sustainable and resilient food systems.

The year 2021 was not a gentle year for humanity.

Throughout 2021, the **COVID-19 pandemic** continued to affect hundreds of millions of people worldwide, impacting their health, livelihoods, food security and nutrition. It also accentuated inequities.

The year 2022 has not started any better.

The Russo-Ukrainian conflict has brought severe consequences for global food and nutrition security.

Russia and Ukraine together account for nearly 30 percent of global wheat exports and about 80 percent of global sunflower exports.

Food prices reached an all-time high in March, according to FAO. With energy prices rising in parallel, global consumers, particularly the poorest, are paying an extraordinary cost.

This situation will potentially result in even more undernourished people soon, indicating the fundamental importance of continuing working together with all partners towards **sustainable and resilient** food systems.

2021 was the first full year of activity of UN Nutrition. Throughout the year, UN Nutrition Members worked as a collective force to

support countries and the various key global processes that took place.

UN agencies in countries supported governments jointly, so that their support was strategic and effective, pursuing advocacy with one voice and deploying joint assistance whenever possible. UN Agencies in countries were also instrumental in supporting the formulation of smart commitments, creating feedback loops between global and country processes.

Collaboration between Members to ensure sustainable healthy diets and good nutrition were at the heart of the UN Food System Summit and COP26.

The Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit took place in December, galvanizing an unprecedented number of commitments from governments and other stakeholders, including financial commitments to improve nutrition.

This same year, the Committee on World Food Security endorsed its Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition. UN Nutrition supported this work, providing an efficient coordination platform for the UN to inform the negotiations with coherent UN System-wide technical and evidence-based advice.

In addition, UN Nutrition disseminated the CFS Voluntary guidelines to regional and country colleagues, encouraging its use in conjunction with evidence-based UN guidelines and recommendations.

The inter-agency collaboration of 2021 also led to the development of the UN Nutrition Strategic Plan 2022-2030.

The multi-year Plan will enable in 2022 and beyond, concrete, and consistent **joint support to governments** in meeting global targets, realizing the commitments made at N4G and UNFSS, and implementing national pathways for food systems transformation.

As 2022 is the African Union Year of Nutrition, UN Nutrition is enhancing its support to the continent.

In 2022, UN Nutrition will also give priority to work on the interlinkages between nutrition and the triple planetary crisis of pollution, biodiversity loss and climate change.

We already started advocating for these linkages by actively engaging in the Stockholm +50 and in the UN Convention to

Combat Desertification. We will continue doing so at the Biodiversity COP15 and the Climate COP27.

Let me finish by reminding us all the fundamental need for ensuring **two ethical stances** for planetary health and nutrition.

One: equity, and universal access to safe and nutritious food for all, including next generations.

A healthy planet is needed to secure access to food for everyone, especially children, women, vulnerable and marginalized populations, in line with human rights principles.

Another one is: Respect to nature and local cultures.

We need to respect local cultures. For instance, indigenous peoples protect 80% of the planet's biodiversity.

In 2022, UN Nutrition will continue to bring the UN agencies close together in support of Member States efforts to combat all forms of malnutrition.

To achieve this, we will continue to advocate for 3 approaches:

A One Health Approach.

Humans and animals share common ecosystems. We must translate this understanding into concrete and sustainable action.

A Systems Approach.

From producing to end consumption and waste management, food systems need to be designed and operated with sustainable manner.

A Greener Approach.

Less energy, less waste, less pollution, more biodiversity, more culture-sensitivity.

The countdown to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is ticking. There is a pressing need to bring nutrition action to scale and transform food systems to ensure access to healthy diets for all. UN Nutrition stands ready to support all efforts to make this happen.

I look forward to your remarks and questions.

Thank you.