

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON NUTRITION: THE ROLE OF THE G20

Jointly organised by the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) and the ACTION Global Health Advocacy Partnership

20 MAY 2021, 15:00-17:00 CEST

AGENDA

15:00 – 15:20 WELCOME REMARKS

- Dr. Nathalie Tocci, IAI Director
- Dr. Joanne Carter, Executive Director, RESULTS Educational Fund
- Dr. Maximo Torero, Chief Economist of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

15:20-16:05 ROUNDTABLE 1: ASSESSING THE MAIN IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON NUTRITION

Chaired by Mr. Daniele Fattibene, Research Fellow, IAI

- Remarks by Francesco Branca, World Health Organization (WHO)

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- What is the main impact of COVID-19 on food and nutrition security?
- What are relevant lessons learned for the G20 decision making process?
- How can the Italian G20 Presidency effectively link its policy agenda with the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Year of Action, which includes this year's UN Food Systems Summit and Tokyo N4G Summit?

16:05- 16:50: ROUNDTABLE 2: WHAT SOLUTIONS CAN BE IDENTIFIED FROM THE G20?

Chaired by Dr. Vineeta Gupta, Secretariat Director, ACTION Global Health Advocacy Partnership

- Remarks by Cristiana Mele, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- How can the G20 ensure that nutrition is included as an essential component in pandemic preparedness?
- What are the main deliverables the G20 is planning to achieve with regards to food security and nutrition?
- How can the G20 help in mobilizing resources for ending hunger and nutrition, for instance by supporting the IDA replenishment?
- How can the G20 members implement some existing tools (e.g., the OECD nutrition policy marker) to improve tracking of all global nutrition financing?

16.50-17:00 WRAP UP AND NEXT STEPS

Dr. Ettore Greco, IAI Executive Vice President; Head of the Multilateralism and global governance programme

This event is by invitation only. Discussions will be under the Chatham House Rule

CONCEPT OF THE EVENT

Nutrition is the first line of defence to infectious diseases and chronic illness; it supports the functioning of a healthy immune system. However, estimates pre-COVID-19 showed that more than 690 million persons suffer from malnutrition and 3 billion individuals still cannot afford a healthy diet. Over the last year, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted food systems and revealed the weakness of health systems in many low- and middle-income countries (LMICs); school closures have denied at least 300 million children access to school meals, a critical source of nutritious diets for so many. This global crisis could add more than 100 million people to the total number of undernourished in the world and, by 2022, cause an additional 168,000 child deaths from undernutrition in LMICs. Achieving the SDG2 targets and building back better after this pandemic requires that people have access to enough food and a nutritious diet. Therefore, urgent and scaled-up global efforts toward safe and adequate nutrition for all, including new and increased financial resources for nutrition, is essential and cannot wait.

The Italian G20 Presidency should boost efforts to launch a G20 Call to Action for a global mobilisation towards addressing the current food emergencies and building resilient and sustainable food systems that ensure equitable and sustainable nutrition outcomes for everyone, with the aim to reach a world free of hunger by 2030. Moreover, the G20 should identify solutions to catalyze investments on food security, nutrition and sustainable food systems, as part of the substantial COVID-19 emergency funds and recovery packages. In this sense, the G20 Matera Declaration should build up strong synergies with the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Year of Action, which includes this year's UN Food Systems Summit and Tokyo N4G Summit, to achieve effective and scalable solutions at the local and global level. Therefore, the aim of this closed-door workshop is to assess the impact of COVID-19 on global food and nutrition security, as well as identify potential solutions that the Italian G20 Presidency could bring forward to promote sustainable food systems that build back better and leave no one behind.

FORMAT

The workshop is designed to facilitate an interactive exchange of knowledge among experts, decision makers and practitioners, which will feed into a IAI briefing paper dealing with the impact of COVID-19 on food and nutrition security and how to bring the topic within the action priorities of the Italian G20 Presidency. Before the workshop, IAI will circulate a background note as well as a set of key guiding questions. All participants are invited to provide their input addressing one or more questions. It will be possible to send the Chair a request to take the floor either by using the "raise hand" feature, or by writing in the chat. Speaking time is up to (and no longer than) 3 minutes. We kindly ask participants to keep their interventions concise and to the point, and directly related to one of the questions raised by the Chair. After the event, participants will have a possibility to provide additional comments by filling a confidential "input note".

CONTACTS

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