

ICN2 Technical Preparatory Conference Plenary Statement

November 15, 2013

Ambassadors, Ministers, Excellences, Friends and Colleagues....

My name is J.B. Cordaro a consultant for the Mars Company, where I focus on global food and nutrition security and food safety. I am here as the chair of the Private Sector Mechanism's Nutrition Committee under the auspices of the International Agri-Food Network.

The Network is the unique, focal point for the food value chain from farmers to small and medium entrepreneurs, to large multinational companies, national associations and co-operatives. IAFN seeks to represent members in 135 countries.

We congratulate WHO, FAO and the experts who labored in the run up to prepare for this technical meeting.

We also thank the participants who offered their thoughtful and candid interventions and commentaries over these two days.

Likewise, we offer special thanks for the consideration that allowed all participants from the Civil Society and the Private Sector Mechanisms to be included in these final deliberations.

As we go forward together, we are committed to offer our tools and capabilities in robust partnerships with other stakeholders that seek to launch nutrition solutions for country driven programs and initiatives.

We seek to help build on the game changing achievements of the past 5 years through a network of these partnerships that identify, prioritize and implement initiatives and programs in areas that can make a real difference.

The private sector recognizes the unique values it can leverage through public- private partnerships among key drivers to help:

- support programs and initiatives to achieve the Zero Hunger Challenge;
- fulfill the recommendations and guidance directions of the 2013 Lancet Series;
- participate in the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement;
- strengthen the policy dialogue and advocate for relevant UN Committee on World Food Security (UN CFS) guidelines;
- shape the sustainable agricultural productivity and nutrition targets in the Post-2015 Development Framework; and

- fulfill the mission of the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) to build a new nutrition policy framework.

We believe the following two principles are absolutely essential to help fulfill the mission of building a new nutrition policy framework.

- Embed nutrition in multi-sector strategies within national and local government plans and initiatives, stressing the valued roles for nutrition with health, agriculture, education, environment, finance, gender, diversity, and other development factors.
- Recognize achieving Zero Hunger Challenge depends on collaborations among stakeholder partners to implement mutually shared, purpose driven goals and aspirations

Finally, to our partners at FAO and WHO, we respectively offer that the 2014 ICN2 planning body would be well served to establish and maintain open, transparent interactive platforms and mechanisms for the civil society and private sector mechanisms and other interested stakeholders to fully participate as the process and events move ahead over the next 12 months

And to our friends and colleagues at FAO, WHO and the Civil Society Mechanism, we express our interest and desire to work together to help create the environment for building trust as we seek to demonstrate the effective value of leveraging our capabilities in these partnerships. If we do this, we can achieve the win-win that Professor Anderson noted in his summary overview.

Thank you.