

Minutes of the 9th Diet Caucus on International Maternal and Child Nutrition

Progress toward Tokyo Nutrition Summit 2020



Time and Date: 16:30–17:30, Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Venue: Meeting Room 1, B1F, House of Representatives Second Members' Office

Summary

Being established in 2015, the Diet Caucus on International Maternal and Child Nutrition (hereinafter referred to as “the Diet Caucus”), celebrated its ninth meeting on March 4, 2020. People from the Diet, relevant ministries and agencies, international organizations, businesses and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participated, and the venue in the meeting room of the House of Representatives Members’ Office Building became full of participants. This reflected people's interest in the issue in malnutrition and in the Tokyo Nutrition Summit 2020, which would be held in mid-December.

The significance of this meeting was, first, to see the progress towards the Nutrition Summit in more details. During the meeting, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs presented five themes to be discussed at the Nutrition Summit. In addition, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) talked about—in relation to the five themes—the health sector's efforts to achieving universal health coverage (UHC) and the food and agricultural approaches through the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA.) The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare announced its intention to share the knowledge and experience of Japan's nutrition policy with the world by running technical sessions at the Nutrition Summit. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries announced that it would approach to the food industry through NJPPP (Nutrition Japan Public Private Platform.) The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry would hold food-related panel discussions at the "Third Well Aging Society Summit Asia-Japan" that they would like to further link to the nutrition summit in December. Finally, the Ministry of Finance announced that it would be considering strengthening its collaboration with the trust funds, especially the SUN (Scale Up Nutrition) Trust Fund and the GFF (Global Financing Facility.)

The second significance of the meeting was that the Diet Caucus adopted the "Recommendations for the Tokyo Nutrition Summit 2020". The recommendations first corroborated the background issues leading to the proposal and the nutrition problems in the world. Then recommended the following three points: “Financial Commitment from the Japanese Government,” “Building Strategy and Strengthening System of Coordination,” and “Improving Monitoring and Reporting.” There was no objection, and the proposal was adopted with numerous applause.

I would like to add three points to the above recommendations. First, at the meeting, there was an emphasis on company's participation. The Ministry of Foreign

Affairs expected participating companies to the nutrition summit to announce a policy commitment. However, on the other hand, what about the return on investment in nutrition to Japanese companies? Because such return leads not only to funding but also to human development, it is applied to both profit and non-profit organizations. In this sense, “Financial Commitment from the Japanese Government” also becomes very important. I want to look forward to future developments on this. It should also be noted that the organizations participating the nutrition summit are expected to act responsibly in accordance with the “Principles of Engagement” announced by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Regarding “Building Strategy and Strengthening System of Coordination,” cross-sector or multi-sectoral approaches are important in tackling nutrition issues. This has been pointed out frequently and was also spelled out in the previous nutrition summit in Brazil and the SUN Kathmandu Declaration in the November 2019. One of the five themes presented this time by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is "Health: Integrating Nutrition into Universal Health Coverage (UHC)." The issue of nutritional improvement is essential to creating a healthy and strong nation and achieving all 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), said Ms. Akiko Santo, Chairperson of the Diet Caucus. Also, as Mr. Keizo Takemi, Acting Chairperson of the Diet Caucus, told, if Japan can play a role in linking nutrition to the whole goals of SDGs and to cross-cutting policy concepts, that will lead to very large policy initiatives. As Dr. Teiji Nakamura, the President of the Japan Dietetic Association, told, Japan is the only country in the world that has overcome both undernutrition and overnutrition. Is it possible to use Japan's experiences in line with the local situations of the counterpart countries / regions? It is desirable to develop a nutrition policy for sustainable growth according to the local situations—from emergency assistance to longer-term development. For example, in the countries, such as the member countries of IFNA, are the measures in food supply, nutrition education, nutrition human resource development, and others reaching every part/ village of the country? It may also happen that these measures alone are not sufficient in the first place. Depending on the local conditions, the coordination with other sectors (e.g., water and sanitation) would be needed; and, as Mr. Takeaki Matsumoto, Vice Chairperson of the Diet Caucus, said, we will bring those activities in a sustainable manner.

Thirdly, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare mentioned a policy process based on scientific evidence. Also from the perspective of “Improving Monitoring and Reporting,” the creation of evidence becomes important. For example, “the effect of taking malaria treatment drugs during pregnancy on the birth weight of the infants”

and “the intervention to the local people trying to achieve sustainable nutrition improvement by locally available food resources” may differ in the process of creating evidence. In any case, the cooperation with academia is especially expected in this field—and “Improvement of monitoring and reporting” is urgently required, so that Japan's efforts and support for nutrition improvement can be recognized worldwide.

This report was created in collaboration of Results Japan and the Save the Children Japan. According to Ms. Karen Makishima, Secretary-General of the Diet Caucus, the Diet Caucus was held after several meetings of the management members, confirming the progress towards the nutrition summit. I would like to thank all the members of the Diet, related ministries and agencies, and other people who made this meeting happen; and sincerely pray for the success of the Tokyo Nutrition Summit in December 2020.

Diet Caucus on International Maternal and Child Nutrition

General Meeting

16: 30-17: 30, Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Meeting Room 1, B1F, House of Representatives Second Members' Office Building
MC: Eriko Imai, Deputy Secretary-General, the Diet Caucus on International
Maternal and Child Nutrition

■ Opening by MC

■ Greeting from Akiko Santo, Chairperson, Diet Caucus on International Maternal and Child Nutrition

■ Agenda: Each ministry's progress toward the Tokyo Nutrition Summit 2020

Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA);
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and
Fisheries; Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry; Ministry of Finance
(Observer: Cabinet Secretariat)

< Ministry of Foreign Affairs >

Tamaki Tsukada, Ambassador, Director-General for Global Issues

<JICA>

Koji Makino, Director General, Rural Development Department

<Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare >

Fukue Seino, Director for Nutrition, Office of Nutrition, Health Service Division, Health Service Bureau

< Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries >

Yoshihiro Kanda, Director, Policy Division, Food Industry Affairs Bureau

Taku Kuroiwa, Deputy Director, Policy Division, Food Industry Affairs Bureau

< Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry >

Takeshi Nishino, Director, Healthcare Industries Division, Commerce and Service

Industry Policy Group

<Ministry of Finance>

Shuichi Hosoda, Director, Development Policy Division, International Bureau

Observer

< Cabinet Secretariat >

Masako Saito, Deputy Director, Office of Healthcare Policy

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Place: Meeting Room 1, B1F, House of Representatives Second Members' Office Building

Eriko Imai, Deputy Secretary-General, Diet Caucus on International Maternal and Child Nutrition

Thank you very much for making time in your busy schedule to attend this meeting. Today's chair will be Eriko Imai, Deputy Secretary-General of the Diet Caucus on International Maternal and Child Nutrition.

Today, from the relevant ministries and agencies, we would like to hear about the progress toward Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2020 that will be held in December this year—and kindly ask all of the organizations who gathered today to cooperate in raising momentum toward the Nutrition Summit. Also, in order for Japan's leadership to be more widely recognized by the world through the Nutrition Summit, we, the Diet Caucus would like to submit a recommendation to the Government of Japan, which will be discussed later.

We will now start the 9th Diet Caucus on International Maternal and Child Nutrition. To begin, the chairperson of the Diet Caucus, Ms. Akiko Santo would like to say a few words, please.

1. Greeting

Akiko Santo, Chairperson, Diet Caucus on International Maternal and Child Nutrition

Members of the Diet, in this busy time during the Diet session, and related organizations and all of the government offices, I am very grateful to all of you for your attendance today during such time.

I have heard that many people are preparing steadily for the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit that will be held in December this year, which the Diet Caucus has been actively working towards.

At the same time, the other day, at the Budget Committee (Third Working Group,) Foreign Minister Motegi stated that the Japanese Government would take responsibility and make financial and other supports in every aspects for the Tokyo Nutrition Summit. This is very encouraging.

Under these circumstances, it is the issues of nutritional improvement that are

indispensable to “build a healthy and strong nation” as this Diet Caucus has advocated, and to achieve all of the 17 goals of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In that sense, as the chairperson of this meeting has previously said, this Diet Caucus, in order to make the Tokyo Nutrition Summit successful by all means, would kindly ask everyone’s support—and would like it to be shaped properly, so that people will comment that “it was really successful. Japan is great after all.” I know there are a lot of difficulties for that, but would like to kindly ask for support of the experts who gathered here today. I look forward to a fruitful meeting. Thank you very much.

Eriko Imai, Deputy Secretary-General, Diet Caucus on International Maternal and Child Nutrition

Thank you, Councilor Santo. Next, from the ministries and agencies, we would like to hear about the progress toward the Nutrition Summit. Please also state your name and affiliation. First, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, please.

2. Report on the progress toward the Nutrition Summit by the ministries and agencies

Tamaki Tsukada, Ambassador, Director-General for Global Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

I think many of you know about the Nutrition Summit, but the first sheet of the document gives a brief explanation. It has become a practice that Nutrition Summits are hosted by the host country of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. It has been held in the UK and Brazil so far, and this will be the third time being held. The hosting of the Tokyo Nutrition Summit by Japan was announced by the Prime Minister Abe at the 2017 UHC Forum three years ago, and this was the starting point. The date and time is currently being finalized, but it will likely be decided to be held in mid-December this year. The venue is assumed to be in Tokyo near Marunouchi.

The outcomes have been divided into the following five themes, and we have been preparing with related organizations and agencies for almost two years so far. Specifically, the themes are 1) health; 2) food, especially food system; 3) resilience, measures against malnutrition in vulnerable situations; 4) accountability; and 5) finance. Japan hopes to utilize this opportunity to make known various efforts in nutrition that have been implemented in Japan.

Next, I will explain how civil society can be involved in the process of participating in the Tokyo Nutrition Summit. The material on the second page is summarized in a tabular format. There are basically three approaches. The first option

is to host events in government-sponsored venues. There will be one, or two to three rooms for medium-sized (50-100 people) and large-scale (100 people or more) venues. The venue fee (not including interpreters) is paid by the government. A 90-minute slot will be set up 4-5 times a day. Those who wish to apply will apply, and we will adjust and assign slots. Despite the merit that this will be in the center of the summit venue and at relatively large scale, of course, there is a limit to the number. When there are many applicants, there is a limit that we have to narrow them down. The second option is, we will prepare some venues outside of the summit venue, basically around Marunouchi. Venue fees will be borne by the organizers. The third option is holding events related to the Nutrition Summit, which can be held anywhere in Japan. We will have a certain form of sponsorship, for example, with the use of the Summit logo to hold the event as part of the Nutrition Summit. I think we have these three options. In terms of the application requirements, as described in the handout, we have prepared the principles of engagement, so we want people to follow their objectives. If you wish to apply, the application will be accepted from the middle of April and the allocation will be announced in July, as according to the application schedule shown in the handout material.

On the last page of the document, we would like to kindly ask you upon participating in the Nutrition Summit to announce your commitment. It may be difficult to understand what is regarded as a commitment, but we would like you to declare what you will do on the occasion of the Nutrition Summit. There are three kinds of commitments. One is policy - express something like the direction in your actions in the nutrition sector. The second is funding commitment - you will provide this much funding in this area in the future. The third is program - it is about expressing what kind of programs you will develop, and the contents. We hope that people will raise momentum for the Nutrition Summit by expressing commitments in these three ways. We would like you to consider your participation to the Nutrition Summit. That is all I have to say.

Koji Makino, Director General, Rural Development Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

I have prepared some sheets of documents. I will basically explain using the first cover page. The contents contain two points: JICA's efforts to improve nutrition in developing countries, and efforts for the Nutrition Summit. JICA has the following three approaches in multi-sectoral efforts. "Sufficient food availability at the household and individual level" based on the agricultural development approach, and "sufficient maternal and child health care and appropriate breastfeeding and complementary

feeding” from the maternal and child health approach. “Sufficient hygiene environment and access to health services” is under the approach to improve water and health sector. We are providing assistance in developing countries, combining these three approaches.

While I have included the 5 themes for the Nutrition Summit, which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has previously explained, we believe that we can contribute especially in the fields of food systems and UHC. At the end of the handout, we describe what JICA is working on in particular and how we think about the Nutrition Summit. JICA hopes to focus on IFNA (Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa) and UHC and multi-sector approaches, spanning over multiple areas, and collaborate with various donors and private companies.

As explained in the explanation for IFNA, it will be carried out in cooperation with international organizations and others, and the target year is 2025. Since it started in 2016, we aim to improve nutrition of 200 million children in Africa in about 10 years. At first, we designated 12 countries as pilot countries; but since last year's TICAD 7, we have extended our target to all African countries. The contents, at the macro-level, is the combination of developing an action plan for nutrition improvement of the target country and the specific pilot project on the ground with donors and private companies. Regarding UHC, we have adopted a life course approach to improve nutrition at each of the life stages, from pre-birth to pregnancy and the elderly. We have introduced a maternal and child handbook in 50 countries around the world and in doing so, considering nutrition as a focus.

I believe that such efforts in developing countries can contribute to Japan's development of commitments to the Summit. In our calculations, the amount of how much we JICA is doing (nutrition support), despite rough calculation, is about 150 cases of support as of 2016 and this number has increased to about 250 in 2018. Finally, we would like to hold some kind of event on the day of the Tokyo Nutrition Summit, and by the time of the summit we would like to disseminate information in public relations and at seminars organized by international organizations.

As a unique initiative of JICA, while agricultural development (usually) tries to improve calorie intakes, we try to do this with a focus on nutrition. We first investigate well on what kind of nutrition is lacking in the country at the national and community levels and start implementing agricultural policies. In addition, we dispatch about 1000 people to the world, including nutritionists and agriculture-related volunteers, which we call "nutrition improvement partners." I wish to disseminate the practice of Japanese-styled approaches in the communities. Thank you very much.

Fukue Seino, Director for Nutrition, Office of Nutrition, Health Service Division, Health Service Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare plays a central role in the nutritional administration of Japan. In order to contribute to international discussions by sharing knowledge and experience in nutrition policy so far, we plan to mainly hold the technical sessions at the Nutrition Summit and hope to contribute to the international support in nutrition.

As a system for conducting cross-sectional discussions within the ministry toward the Summit, we established the “Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare Preparatory Headquarters for Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2020” headed by the Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Labor and Welfare as the General Manager. In this headquarters, we will try to sort out nutrition issues and discuss about the direction of future nutrition policies, and consider the commitment of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare to be included in the outcome document of the Nutrition Summit. In addition, we have established a Preparatory Project Team under the Preparatory Headquarters and currently conducting specific discussions.

This fiscal year, we will be visualizing the nutrition policies that Japan has been conducting, and we are preparing documents so that these results can be used at the Nutrition Summit. Among them, three points are shown as appealing points of Japan's nutrition policy:

- 1) Nutrition policy focusing on “meal”
- 2) Training “human resources” and nationwide allocation
- 3) Policy process based on scientific "evidence"

In Japan, we have tackled a variety of nutritional issues, from undernutrition due to food shortages before and after the war to overnutrition associated with economic growth, as well as frailty of elderly people in recent years. We would like to conduct a review, including these issues, and make them public. In particular, in the nutrition policies centering on meals, we have developed nutrition policies that cover infants and the elderly—and from the sick and wounded to the victims of disasters.

As for human resources, training of managerial dietitians and dietitians—and the efforts to ensure that these professionals are active in the communities—and, in the communities, the “dietary improvement promotor” and others have been conducting grassroots activities as volunteers along with managerial dietitians and dietitians. We would like to disseminate these efforts as well. As a policy process, we are implementing policies based on the National Health and Nutrition Survey and dietary intake standards, and we would like to make these known as features of Japan's efforts so that other

countries can refer to them.

Next, I will explain about the budget plan for the next fiscal year. In addition to the cost of holding technical sessions at the Tokyo Nutrition Summit, we plan to conduct a research project for international contributions on the occasion of the Summit. In order for the developing countries to be able to formulate and develop their nutrition policies by themselves, we would like to investigate and analyze each country's nutrition policies, which will lead to our international contributions. Thank you.

Yoshihiro Kanda, Director, Policy Division, Food Industry Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

I will explain this in a one-page document called "Preparation for the Tokyo Nutrition Summit 2020". At the Nutrition Summit, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries plans to hold a side event. We will try to come up with specific contents in cooperation with related ministries and agencies. In encouraging participation of civil society at the Nutrition Summit, as the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is in charge of organizing the food industries, we would like to encourage more food companies to be able to consider and announce their own commitment at the Summit. From such a viewpoint, NJPPP (Nutrition Japan Public Private Platform), a public-private collaboration platform for working on global nutrition improvement projects, has been launched. Using this platform, we are disseminating information to the food industries on the progress of preparation of the Nutrition Summit, and the significance of our nation's hosting the Summit, as well as the roles expected on the food industries.

Specifically, we have exchanged information with the food industries in October of last year and in February of this year with the cooperation of related ministries and agencies. We will continue to disseminate information to the food industries at each milestone and hope to raise awareness of participation of the food industries to the Summit. Thank you.

Takeshi Nishino, Director, Healthcare Industries Division, Commerce and Service Industry Policy Group, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry held the "2nd Well Aging Society Summit Asia-Japan" in October last year in an attempt to participate in the Tokyo Nutrition Summit this year in the food and health fields. At the beginning of the Summit, we had a greeting from Councilor Hanako Jimi and conducted a panel discussion on "Activating health management and prevention through food in business." This was attended by Dr. Choji Nakamura, Chairman of the Dietetic Association, who is attending

today; President Masumi Niwa, Designer Foods, Co. Ltd; Dr. Keiichi Abe, Chief of the National Institutes of Biomedical Innovation, Health and Nutrition; and Director Kaminota of Health Service Division, Health Service Bureau, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare; Director Pauline Harper of the Consumer Goods Forum, a global organization in the consumer goods distribution industry; and President Takaaki Nishii of Ajinomoto Co., Inc., who was also a board member of the Consumer Goods Forum. We have tried to create contacts with companies, universities, and research institutions in terms of food and health—as a place for strengthening cooperation toward the Tokyo Nutrition Summit among companies, universities, research institutions, and government officials.

Also, in the second phase of the Health and Medical Strategy by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, under the fourth section of the New Business Creation Working Group, entitled “Healthy Food and Utilization of Local Resources,” an action plan is currently being developed. From the viewpoint of supporting the development of the healthcare industries related to food and health, to contribute to the Nutrition Summit, we are advancing discussions with the Dietetic Association, nutrition research institutes, companies, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and other related ministries.

Although it is not in the handout, we plan to hold the “3rd Well Aging Society Summit Asia-Japan,” and will hold a food-related panel discussion like last year and hope to make good connection to the Nutrition Summit in December. Also, at the Nutrition Summit, I have heard that the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries will gather people from the food industries, so we are considering participation from the companies as well. Thank you.

Shuichi Hosoda, Director, Development Policy Division, International Bureau, Ministry of Finance

I will explain using the handout on “Cooperation with Development Finance Institutions and Others for the Tokyo Nutrition Summit in the Nutrition Field.” The World Bank attaches great importance to the nutrition sector, for it is the formation of human capital as the foundation of sustainable economic growth. The Ministry of Finance also wants to further strengthen partnerships with these efforts by development finance institutions. For example, the World Bank has provided support in measures against malnutrition through Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Trust Fund, and with GFF (Global Financing Facility) to provide maternal and child health support, such as improving the nutritional status of women and children with the trust fund. We are

considering various kinds of cooperation in these areas. That's all.

Eriko Imai, Deputy Secretary-General, Diet Caucus on International Maternal and Child Nutrition

Thank you for your presentations. This time from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we heard about the three categories in the side events. I would kindly ask for your cooperation, concerned organizations and companies, according to your form of activity, to raise momentum for the Nutrition Summit in Japan as a whole.

Next, regarding the adoption of our recommendation for the Nutrition Summit, Chief Secretary Toshiko Abe, please, the floor is yours.

3. Adoption of the Recommendations for Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit by Diet Caucus on International Maternal and Child Nutrition

Toshiko Abe, Chief Secretary, Diet Caucus on International Maternal and Child Nutrition

Please refer to the “Recommendations for Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2020” in your hands.

The Diet Caucus on International Maternal and Child Nutrition has been asserting the importance of global nutrition issues since its establishment in 2015. In December 2017 at the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Forum, Prime Minister Abe announced that Japan will host a Nutrition Summit on the occasion of the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics in 2020. Efforts to improve nutrition are essential for achieving all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) promoted by the Government of Japan. Also, there is evidence that every \$1 invested in nutrition will provide an average return of \$16 in benefit. In order for Japan to demonstrate strong leadership addressing global malnutrition as the host country of the Nutrition Summit, the Diet Caucus proposes the following to the Government of Japan:

1) Financial Commitment from the Japanese Government

At the Nutrition for Growth Summit in London in 2013, Japan pledged US\$500 million in health ODA and committed \$100 million to the World Bank, including assistance to address undernutrition. However, Japan has not reported its figures to the Global Nutrition Report and Japan's contributions within the framework of the Nutrition Summit are recognized as “no financial pledge” by the international community. At the

Nutrition Summit in December 2020, we recommend that the Government of Japan announces its concrete financial commitment in the area of nutrition improvement.

2) Building Strategy and Strengthening System of Coordination

Prime Minister Abe has spoken at various international conferences on the importance of the Nutrition Summit and international nutrition improvement. Yet, the basics of UHC still lacks reference to the importance of nutrition. To this end, collaboration between government institutions as well as all stakeholders including private companies, NGOs, and academia must be strengthened. Ahead of the Nutrition Summit in December, we recommend that the Government of Japan strengthen the cross-ministerial strategy development and system of coordination for international nutrition, ensuring that Japan demonstrates further contribution for international nutrition to the rest of the world.

3) Improving Monitoring and Reporting

Lastly, improvement of monitoring and reporting. We recommend that the Government of Japan provides appropriate and accurate reporting to the OECD-DAC Credit Reporting System (CRS) and other reporting systems, in order to communicate widely Japan's contribution in the field of international nutrition.

I would like everyone to approve this.

Eriko Imai, Deputy Secretary-General, Diet Caucus on International Maternal and Child Nutrition

Would you all approve the recommendation? If you can approve it, please clap your hands. (Claps from the floor.) Thank you for your consent. Next, we would like to hear from the diet members participating today.

4. Comments by the diet members (in the order of appearance)

Keizo Takemi, Acting Chairperson, Diet Caucus on International Maternal and Child Nutrition

Thank you for your attendance today. I have been working mainly on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) within the SDGs. The main reason this (UHC) was included as a target of SDGs Goal 3 is the idea that we cannot achieve the many targets of SDGs by 2030 without a policy concept that enables multiple disciplines to be coordinated in cross-

sectional manner in promoting health.

Indeed, in this field of nutrition, we cannot solve problems without the collaboration of many disciplines. And by solving nutrition issues, the health of many people will steadily be improved. In the context of the SDGs, I have noticed that, like UHC, the "nutrition" aspect could actually have one important symbolic role linking many disciplines.

Once again, if our nation can take a major role linking the achievement of the goals of the SDGs as a whole and the policy concept regarding health like UHC in multi-sectoral manner, through this area of nutrition with the Nutrition for Growth Summit, Japan can take a very large policy initiative.

At the same time, it is important for the Tokyo Nutrition Summit 2020 to make such a policy arrangement and at the same time to have a wide variety of people to understand it. To do so, besides having important discussions at the Nutrition Summit meetings, many NGOs, NPOs, and companies should participate in the side events, and by doing so, that Marunouchi office area will be filled with the tempo (momentum) for nutrition —and to communicate to the world the understanding of such activities actually being carried out in our nation by news media and SNS. If we can do so, I think that the Tokyo Nutrition Summit will be a great success.

By all means, I would like to ask for your support so that we can have such great outcomes in every aspect, and I would like to make it my only comment.

Takeaki Matsumoto, Vice Chairperson, Diet Caucus on International Maternal and Child Nutrition

This is Takeaki Matsumoto, a member of the House of Representatives, who is also the Vice President of the Diet Caucus. I completely agree with what Councillor Takemi said. I think we are facing various issues, including the SDGs; and the sustainability of the earth, the environment, and the mankind. To solve such issues, it is very important that the movement itself is sustainable. Although I recognize a fairly broad solidarity in the framework through nutrition, and it is important to have much more participation from the private sector and, as Councillor Takemi said, to connect to the understanding of many people. I would like to support and hope that the (Tokyo Nutrition Summit) will be an event that does not just stay “in the box”.

Masaaki Taniai, Member of the House of Councillors.

This is Taniai of the Komeito Party. Thank you for today. We hope that Komeito will do our best for a great success of the Tokyo Nutrition Summit this December.

I am not very familiar (with nutrition), but on the other hand, while not familiar with it, one of the points I thought of was the SDGs implementation guidelines which were compiled at the end of last year. I have heard that there is some debate as to whether some issues, especially poverty and disparity in Japan, are not fully included. From the perspective of nutrition, I have the impression that people have put relatively more emphasis (weight) on international cooperation, but what is the current problem of poverty in Japan? In Japan, we currently have the issues such as children's cafeteria and others, so the diet members of Japan should work hard on these issues. The second point is that when we look around the world, it is extremely important to improve nutrition in those countries affected by conflicts. Considering this, countries receiving bilateral assistance may be well off, but how can we deal with conflict areas where support is not readily available? To solve this, the assistance through UN agencies becomes important. During the time of the approval of the supplementary budget, the budgets have been reduced for UNHCR, UNICEF, and WFP. So again, toward the Nutrition Summit, it is important to assert our nation's commitment to these humanitarian agencies—which may not be limited to financial aspects, but including human resources. That's all I have to say.

Eriko Imai, Deputy Secretary-General, Diet Caucus on International Maternal and Child Nutrition

Thank you. So, we would like to have opinions, comments, and questions about the Tokyo Nutrition Summit from the organizations participating today. What about UN agencies? I am sorry, but please speak briefly.

5. Questions and Answers

Yasumasa Kimura, Director, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Tokyo office

UNICEF puts great importance in the Tokyo Nutrition Summit, and we affirm the participation of our Executive Director. To raise momentum for the Nutrition Summit, along with the Government of Japan and the United Nations Permanent Mission, we will be organizing a high-level side event in early April. As Councillor Takemi said, UNICEF takes a cross-sectional approach to multidisciplinary areas of health, water and sanitation, nutrition, and education. In the field of humanitarian assistance, we are playing a central role as a cluster lead, and we look forward to contributing to this Nutrition Summit. Thank you.

Mitsugu Hamai, Government Partnerships World Food Programme (WFP) Japan Relations Office

We received updates from the ministries and agencies on the progress of the Nutrition Summit, and I felt that there was a rise of excitement toward its opening. WFP has steadily been preparing for it. We would like to make contributions in harmony with the Japanese ministries and agencies. In particular, it has been encouraging that the presentations by the related ministries and agencies have talked about what WFP is good at in international assistance, such as food and school lunches, nutrition, and the involvement of private companies and associated logistics improvements. We are trying to focus especially on the areas that create synergies among WFP activities and the Nutrition Summit, and are preparing for side events and participation on the high-level. Thank you very much.

Kae Mihara, Liaison Officer, Liaison Office in Japan, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

FAO places great emphasis on the Tokyo Nutrition Summit 2020, and the Director-General of the headquarters in Rome is considering participation. Of the five Nutrition Summit working group themes, FAO leads the “Food: Building a Healthy and Sustainable Food System”, along with the UK's Department of International Development (DFID). In addition, we are also supporting FAO member countries around the world to make sure to develop a commitment to the Nutrition Summit. Thank you.

Mihoko Kashiwakura, Head of Japan, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

The Gates Foundation is working closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Finance to prepare for the Nutrition Summit in December. We hope that the Tokyo Nutrition Summit in December will be successful, and we want to make the most of what we can do, so that a lot of commitments are made there. The Gates Foundation hopes to send an executive member to the event in December, and before that, in July, as a kickoff, the Foundation plans to announce a strategy and commitment for nutrition. We would like to raise momentum for the area of nutrition. Thank you to all.

Hiroko Hongo, Chair, Infant and Young Child Feeding Support Network in Japan

We are a network organization that specializes in infant nutrition. We translate booklets and others materials for infant nutrition in the event of a disaster, which I think that FAO, WHO and UNICEF would know. Today I also have documents that show that

all of the Sustainable Development Goals are related to breastfeeding, so if you like, I could hand it to you. In addition, organizations like Scaling Up Nutrition has an ethical code that they do not receive any funding in the nutrition field from companies that sell infant formula. This is because WHO has the international code for marketing of breastmilk substitutes. In Japan and other countries, I would like to remind you that it is very important to adhere to this international standard, so that those who want to breastfeed can do so. Thank you very much.

Eriko Imai, Deputy Secretary-General, Diet Caucus on International Maternal and Child Nutrition

Thank you. How about from the academia?

Teiji Nakamuteira, President, Kanagawa University of Human Services/ President, Japan Dietetic Association

In terms of an academic, I'm the president of a university, so I would like to talk about an academic issue. The study of nutrition has its origin in France in the late 18th century. Because people must die if they do not eat, the researches pursued a "source of life." (As a result) about 40 nutrients were found. Therefore, although human beings have various issues, such as health, welfare, and happiness, problems cannot be solved without life, and nutrition is the basis for that. So, as Councillor Takemi has said, it is obvious that nutrition relates to various areas, and we must first guarantee life.

To do so, we need to ensure proper nutrition. I believe this (Tokyo Nutrition Summit) is a great opportunity to eradicate malnutrition in mankind. Fortunately, Japan is a nation that very much values nutrition. This is a rare country that solved the problem of post-war undernutrition equally in a short period of about 10 to 20 years. After high economic growth has occurred, we have suffered from obesity and metabolism due to overnutrition, but obesity began to decrease several years ago, and diabetes has been decreasing. In other words, Japan is the only nation in the world that has overcome both "undernutrition" and "overnutrition" that the world is struggling with. So, we maintain the world's longest living nation.

I think that we are a nation that experienced a very important turning point. With the Nutrition Summit, I hope that Japan shares its experiences with the rest of the world, so that people of the world will become healthy and long-living, so that Japan will not be the only longest living nation. To do so, the Japan Dietetic Association wants to fully collaborate. Thank you very much.

Eriko Imai, Deputy Secretary-General, Diet Caucus on International Maternal and Child Nutrition

Everyone, thank you for the active discussions today. Finally, we would like to have closing remarks by the Secretary-General of the Diet Caucus, Ms. Karen Makishima.

6. Closing Remarks

Karen Makishima, Secretary-General, Diet Caucus on International Maternal and Child Nutrition

Thank you to all for your attendance today. As explained by the ministries and agencies, when we held this meeting last time, we confirmed how much progress had been made toward the Nutrition Summit in December, and after that we had several meetings with among the executive members afterwards. After confirming that we have enough progress for the preparation, we are pleased to welcome you today. The results are the handouts from the ministries and agencies today.

In particular, as explained by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we have official events in December, but sub-events can also be held. In response to your request, after you submit an application, you could put on the official logo of the Nutrition Summit in the venues arranged by yourselves, and the event can be held anywhere in Japan, and the event date does not have to be in December.

As early as next month, you and your partner organizations could propose to hold a sub-event anywhere in Japan. Details will be announced on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website from April onwards, so please have each group submit an application, and after the application has been accepted, please raise momentum for the events related to the Nutrition Summit. With that in mind—although not every organization could speak today—I would like to ask for your support.

Regarding financial commitment, we have also presented in the “Recommendation for the Tokyo Nutrition Summit 2020.” However, commitments are not limited to funding. Policy commitments could also be made. In particular, commitments required for the civil society is most likely to announce your intension on the policy aspects like "our organization will be proceeding this way. We will strive to improve nutrition towards these goals." This is why this Diet Caucus exists. I would like to ask all the organizations to please read the policy commitment part of the handout (by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and use it in your activities. I would be grateful if you could join as an actor of the Nutrition Summit.

During this time, we held this session in a limited time of 50 minutes. We thank you for your cooperation, and look forward to seeing every movement to be rolled out to December. And hope to hear about good practices (on nutrition) and about them expanding in a horizontal way. Thank you all for today.

Eriko Imai, Deputy Secretary-General, Diet Caucus on International Maternal and Child Nutrition

Thank you. The session is closed now. Everyone, thank you very much.

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