

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

--

**REMARKS AT UN-NUTRITION STRATEGY LAUNCH,
SIDE EVENT NO. 3 AT THE THIRTEENTH COMMEMORATION
OF THE AFRICA DAY FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY**

31 October 2022

Excellencies,

Nutrition is central to the healthy development of all people, and of children in particular.

Investing in better nutrition yields benefits across a range of Sustainable Development Goals in Africa and beyond:

From supporting fair and equitable livelihoods by diversifying local agriculture...

empowering women and broadening access to education with nutritious school meals provided to all...

to tackling climate change and preserving biodiversity by developing diverse and nutritious products.

Nutrition is the foundation of good health and holds the keys to broad-based prosperity and sustainable development for societies.

The right to adequate food – a precondition for good nutrition – is a basic human right.

Yet today, a staggering 3 billion people cannot afford a healthy diet.

The most vulnerable communities – already battered by the COVID-19 pandemic – now face a worsening climate crisis, environmental degradation, conflict, and deepening inequalities.

We are seeing hard-won nutrition gains reversing.

We have a duty to act.

UN-Nutrition is crucial to mobilizing greater investments at country level.

It provides a mechanism to leverage the collective strengths of its members – including the technical expertise and knowledge of the entire UN System – to deliver cohesive support to governments at all levels.

United Nations, working together, developed the strategy that will shape the work of UN Nutrition during the final three years of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition and will catalyze critical momentum towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

At a time when the world is facing unprecedented challenges and countries confront numerous nutrition challenges – from hunger and undernutrition to overweight and obesity – this strategy could not be more timely.

I thank you and wish you best of luck for the journey ahead.
