

**The Honourable Lindsay Northover**  
**Deputy Minister for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great**  
**Britain and Northern Ireland**

Your Excellencies,

I am delighted to be here today, as we seek as a world to tackle the terrible challenge of malnutrition.

We have seen much encouraging progress since the first conference in 1992 and we should celebrate that.

But we also know that there is still much to do.

Millions of children are still suffering the terrible consequences of under-nutrition. We know the devastating effects this can have on both their physical and their mental health, lasting through their whole lives...

...destroying their ability to fulfil their potential...

...damaging societies and economies.

'Hidden hunger' caused by deficiencies in essential nutrients is rife at the same time as obesity continues to rise.

That's why we desperately need collective action and international cooperation to address these challenges.

The world is focused on what will replace the Millennium Development Goals and how we will ensure that we put behind us the terrible effects of poverty.

And that we leave no one behind.

And this is a rare opportunity for countries to meet and say with one voice that collective action is needed.

The Framework for Action builds on the actions and experiences of the 54 countries that are involved in the Scaling Up Nutrition movement, and brings them to a global audience.

The Framework for Action needs to ensure that an end to malnutrition remains a global aim for which we are all accountable.

The UK continues to be committed to playing our part.

We have also been working hard to support new global initiatives that will make an important difference.

In 2013 we hosted a major summit on nutrition, bringing together huge international expertise and commitment.

We have already scaled up our nutrition investments and we will announce more in the coming weeks.

At that summit, the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition was established.

That panel hosted an event here earlier today.

The panel is helping to equip governments with the evidence needed to ensure that policies, both on agriculture and food more widely, actively contribute to improving nutrition.

It used to be thought that increased agricultural productivity alone was the solution to food and nutrition security.

The production of more food is certainly necessary.

But is not sufficient on its own to ensure that we have strong food systems and healthy people.

The poorest people in the world cannot grow enough food to feed themselves.

They need to buy it – and the food systems we have may not supply what they need.

The UK has also supported the 2014 Global Nutrition Report, which will be launched here later today.

The report shows that malnutrition is truly everyone's business.

It also shows that whilst economic growth is vital for reducing malnutrition, growth on its own is not enough.

I hope that as many of you as possible will be there this evening for its launch.

It represents a vital step in strengthening accountability for nutrition. We expect future reports to include the commitments made here at ICN2.

These reports should help citizens to focus their action...

...help governments – including my own – to prioritise their efforts...

...and help us all concentrate support where needs are greatest.

If we work together, and deliver what we have promised, I am sure that we can improve the lives of millions of people so that future generations can be free from malnutrition.

Thank you.