

Promoting Global Utilization of Science, Technology and Innovation for Food Systems Transformation to Ensure the Health of People and the Planet (STEPP)

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Intertwined socio-economic-environmental issues go beyond borders as globalization advances, and all members of the international community need to work together to resolve them. Investing in measures to tackle hunger and malnutrition in all forms is key to saving lives, economic and social development, reducing inequality, and eradicating poverty. In addition to tackling hunger and malnutrition, it is necessary to promote food systems transformation that pays judicious attention to the Earth's natural systems, including through sustainable agriculture, forestry, and fisheries dealing with environmental problems and climate change rather than focusing only on productivity, and strengthening and optimizing food supply chains. These are essential for accomplishing the SDGs put forward in the 2030 Agenda, which pledged to "Leave no one behind", and for ensuring human security.

To that end, promoting global utilization of science, technology, and innovation (STI) is indispensable. We recall that various stakeholders such as governments, international organizations, academia, business sectors, and civil society organizations discussed at the UN Food Systems Summit in September 2021, and that the Secretary-General's Chair Summary and Statement of Action on the UN Food Systems Summit pointed out the way forward for transformative food systems and investing in STI as one of the solutions. For rapid delivery, scientific evidence based nudges may be used to enable formation of new behaviours related to healthy diet. Thus, the importance of STI is widely recognized. Since STI competition and cooperation exist simultaneously, it may be challenging to promote and strengthen international collaboration for leveraging the relevant STI globally. For addressing hunger and malnutrition and transforming food systems into more sustainable and resilient ones, all stakeholders must work together while having close dialogues and must further accelerate efforts in ground-breaking STI, including through relevant data measurement, prediction/projection, management, and utilization. This is also an opportunity for transforming public health, including through indigenously developed knowledge and advances in nutrition and metabolic research.

Against this background, the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit will be held on the 7th and 8th of December 2021, in order to accelerate global efforts to address malnutrition. The discussions will be centered around the five thematic areas of health, food, resilience, accountability, and finance. The Tokyo N4G Summit will lay out the directions of further actions by the international community, and commitments and pledges will be made in terms of financing and policy measures.

We, Science and Technology Advisers within Foreign Ministries/Diplomatic Services/Governments are committed to further engaging in advisory activities towards:

- 1) Promoting the active utilization of STI in international cooperation programs by each government on food security and nutrition for all, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and inclusive and equitable food systems that address the needs of vulnerable communities;
- 2) Promoting bilateral and multilateral STI cooperation while examining and integrating traditional and indigenous knowledge and while utilizing STI to meet economic and social conditions of each country/region, through close dialogues, with a view to leveraging STI in relevant sectors; and
- 3) Promoting interdisciplinary human resources development and personnel exchange for utilizing STI effectively and efficiently.

We count on all stakeholders to take revolutionary steps forward together for Food Systems Transformation to ensure the health of people and the planet.

Signed;



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