

The 50TH Union World Conference on Lung Health

**THE 50TH
UNION WORLD
CONFERENCE
ON LUNG HEALTH**

30 OCTOBER – 2 NOVEMBER 2019
HYDERABAD, INDIA

**ENDING THE
EMERGENCY**

SCIENCE, LEADERSHIP, ACTION

**50th Lung Conference;
Science, Leadership
and Action to end TB**

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Delegates from world convened at Hyderabad India for the 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health between the 30 October-2 November 2019. The Conference themed 'Ending the Emergency: Science, Leadership, Action', follows one year after the first ever United Nations (UN) High-Level Meeting on tuberculosis (TB) and the third UN High-Level Meeting on non-communicable diseases, both geared towards strengthening commitments to end TB. KANCO was represented by the Executive Director, Allan Ragi and the Campaigns Manager Rahab Mwaniki.

The Union conference will host discussions, presentations and debates focusing on what is needed to ensure commitments become action, and that lifesaving targets are met. The discussion span beyond TB, Looking at lung health holistically and the threats including TB, air pollution, tobacco and many more, emergencies that science, leadership and action needs to meet head on.

India, which is hosted the conference paradoxically it is the country with the highest TB burden, but at the same time has set the most ambitious targets to eliminate TB by 2025.

For Kenya this conference comes when there is as strong push for Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and amid effort to profile investment in people centered TB services as important building blocks for realization of UHC.

To follow and/or contribute to the conversation at the Union Conference 2019 you can follow the youtube live stream <http://youtube.com/TheUnionNGO> or follow the discussion on social media through the hashtags **#TBScience #UnionConf**



Delegates following the discussion during the conference hosted in Hyderabad India between the 29th-2nd November 2019

Stakeholders Consultations Ahead of the SUN Global Gathering



CSOs , Ministry of Health and Parliamentary representatives during the consultation meeting

KANCO in partnership with the SUN-CSA hosted a parliamentary and nutrition stakeholder's consultative forum ahead of the SUN Global Gathering to be held on the 4th October –7th November 2019. The stakeholders forum took place on the 24th October 2019 at the Intercontinental hotel Nairobi Kenya. The meeting brought together the Ministry of Health, CSOs representatives and Member of Parliament who would be attending the SUN Global Gathering, at Kathmandu, Nepal.

Addressing the forum the SUN coordinator Edgar Okoth, reiterated on the importance of increased political commitment, investment in terms of financial and resource allocation to nutrition and policy coherence. 'There is need to strengthen multi-stakeholder engagement for nutrition, be proactive in tracking commitments to nutrition made at the national and Global levels and continue to engage towards securing political and financial commitments made for nutrition, he stated.

Navneet Meetal-SUN Business Network, echoed these sentiments saying as a business community committed to enhancing nutrition outcomes their ask to the government through the MPs was for the "MPs to advocate for commitment from large corporate entities and similar stakeholders towards supporting nutrition strengthening in the country'.

Allan Ragi-Executive Director, KANCO making his remarks, commended the representation of the Members of Parliament saying their Leadership was critical to realizing sustainable investments for nutrition. He reiterated on the importance of linking nutrition and the disease burden in the country and the ripple effect this has on development.



Navneet Meetal-SUN Business Network, making remarks during the forum

Stakeholders Consultations Ahead of the SUN Global Gathering



Allan Ragi, Executive Director KANCO making remarks during the forum

He stated that “2025 will see Kenya importing roughly 52% of its food from other countries and in the next few years, food prices in Kenya will become the second highest globally and therefore we must start the pertinent discussion of what this means in terms of development.’

Stating what needs to be done Mr. Ragi observed, ‘ The governments needs to make investment for nutrition a priority, with a government led cultural shift in agriculture, change in policy and in this journey everybody must be involved’

Betty Samburu-Ministry of Health sated that Kenya faces huge disparities in stunting and is generally food insecure. ‘We must

realize that the effects of failure to invest in the first 1000 days window results are seen 40 years later. We must therefore embrace nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive actions towards eliminating malnutrition in all its forms.’ She further noted that the biggest challenge in Kenya is working in silos where the where nutrition stakeholders actions are largely uncoordinated. she impressed on the need for multi-stakeholder collaboration, investment in strong monitoring and evaluation systems and better coordination at all levels.

Gladys Mugambi-SUN, Ministry of Health Focal Point Person, briefed the members on the gathering and the structure. She mentioned that it was the first time Members of Parliament from Kenya would be attending thus the forum to consolidate a common country position ahead of the deliberations. She added that the gathering provides an ideal platform to share, learn, track progress as well as strengthen partnerships and commitments for nutrition



Betty Samburu-Ministry of Health, Department of Nutrition and Dietetics



Benjamin Magut, Kenya National Assembly

Benjamin Magut Kenya National Assembly representative, thanked the organizers for the forum and underscored the importance of such engagements to improve nutrition outcomes, He underscored that information’s sharing with the parliamentarian is critical in strengthening the political good will and investment for nutrition, saying nutrition is not well understood. Through his office he committed to organize a forum between the CSOs and the MPs after the SUN Global gathering to learn and share more with the legislators on nutrition and its alignment to the greater UHC agenda, the gaps, challenges and linkage to development.

Profiling the Right to Food at the UPR In Country Pre session, ahead of the Geneva session 2020



Far right KANCO representatives among other delegated during the in country engagements

KANCO Participated in the 3rd cycle Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in country pre session, in line with pre-session Programme developed by the non-governmental organization (NGO) UPR Info in 2012.

Pre-sessions are conferences on human rights by country, held at the country level and in Geneva one month before the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The pre-sessions seek to provide civil society with an international platform to advocate directly to state delegations prior to the UPR session and to assist diplomatic delegations in obtaining information on the human rights situation of countries, prior to the Geneva event. At the national level, the

sessions provide a national platform for local civil society to inform the resident diplomatic community and the media about urgent human rights issues. These national human rights conferences reinforce the message that CSOs will convey in Geneva during the actual session.

In Kenya CSOs under the UPR stakeholder steering committee, organized a host of activities ahead of this engagement to held in January 2020, including: a CSO preparatory workshop that took place on 15th of October 2019, a half-day seminar on the role of Recommending States with the aim to equip local embassies with tools and knowledge on how to successfully engage in the UPR and a day in-country pre-session followed by an informal discussion event called a “Human Rights Café” on 23rd of October 2019.

For the 3rd Cycle KANCO is the country convener for the Right to food sub-thematic area. During the in country pre-session, KANCO and Action Against Hunger represented the right to food managed to have a dialogue with 8 embassies namely:-USA, Swiss, Netherlands, Norway, Germany, EU delegation, Belgium and Denmark.

In the last 2 cycles, Mr. Gilbert, the Africa Regional coordinator UPR info, shared that the 2 last cycles had a huge and the impact on human rights situation in the country. In regards to the right to food, some of the two cycles recommendations for the two cycles included enhanced equitable distribution of water and food to the entire population, especially during times of drought. In the second cycle, the government was asked to implement specific standard and regulations ensuring food security and nutrition for the most vulnerable groups and the barriers and challenges to poverty alleviation are properly addressed. In implementing these recommendations, the government adopted the National Nutrition Action Plan 2012-2017 and the 2018-2022 action plan awaits launching, all agriculture research institutions were consolidated to one KARLO, livestock breeding bill was enacted into legislation in May 2015 and fisheries and management development act was assented to on the 3rd September 2016. He noted that the UPR process has brought great achievements in the human rights field.

Going forward the CSOs made 7 recommendation in regard to advancing the right to food as follows:

- ♦ Government of Kenya should establish an Agency in the office of the president to facilitate coordination and implementation of Food and Nutrition Security.
- ♦ National and county governments of Kenya to increase domestic resource allocation in order to realize food and nutrition security (Allocate 10% of the national budget to Agriculture in line with Malabo and Maputo declaration on Agriculture and Food security)
- ♦ Government of Kenya should increase the number of modern strategic food reserves in the country that shall accommodate other critical foodstuffs such as sorghum, millet, rice, pulses, milk, meat, fish, root crops, fruits, nuts and livestock feeds.
- ♦ Government to build on the capacity of the Pest Control Products Board and other related regulatory agencies to continually review the allowable chemical inputs in the country and enforce existing regulations on the use of prohibited and harmful chemicals
- ♦ The ministry of health should allocate adequate resources for nutrition including employing more nutritionists
- ♦ The government of Kenya to re-invigorate provision of farmer extension and advisory services to promote reliable and sustainable farming
- ♦ Government of Kenya should fully implement all existing policies that support food and nutrition security.

KANCO appreciated by WACI Health Director for continued support

Rosemary Mburu, the Executive Director WACI health and a global health advocate, shared a cake with KANCO in appreciation of KANCO's continued support and partnership. Rosemary has had a long working relationship both as a former employee at KANCO as well as in her current capacities.

Both WACI Health and KANCO are partners under the ACTION Partnership, a global advocacy network working to end poverty and often carry out many joint advocacy ventures towards the realization of better health outcomes.

I wanted to say thank you for the continued support accorded by KANCO in particular the Executive Director Mr. Allan Ragi who has been one of my mentors along the health advocacy journey. KANCO has a huge stake in who we are today and I look forward to many more collaborative ventures in the future' she stated.



L-R, WACI Executive Director, Rosemary Mburu and KANCO Executive Allan Ragi, cutting a thank you cake presented by the WACI health Director, Right-KANCO staff after the engagement

Upcoming Events:

- ♦ SUN Global Gathering Conference– 4-7th November 2019
- ♦ Sensitization of CHMT, CHEWs and CHVs on Immunization in Wajir, Nakuru and Tana River County– 28th October -1st November 2019
- ♦ CSOs Learning and Networking meetings on Immunization Advocacy– Wajir and Tana River — 28th October -1st November 2019
- ♦ Malaria Routine Data Quality Audit (RDQA) in Nandi County–Under the GLOBAL Fund Malaria Grant

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