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My Vision, Vice President of IUNS

1. Network and Comparative Advantage

The network of professional and personal relations across the African Continent that was built over 30 years of nutrition work proved to be a valuable asset in the stewardship as Council Member of the Federation of Nutrition Societies of Africa (FANUS), as Board of Trustees member of the African Nutrition Society (ANS) and of the Africa Catalysing Nutrition Actions (AfriCAN). Having worked as Council Member for one term and later on served as Vice-President of the IUNS, I have had the opportunity to work closely with some of the outgoing and present key members of the IUNS Council, I have gained a better understanding of the IUNS mission, how it functions, and how I can continue to serve as the linkage within the IUNS Council to connect with and help nutritionists address the prevailing nutrition problems at the global level. On the African continental stage, in addition to serving as a resource person in high-level African Union expert consultations, I have been instrumental in mentoring countless number of individuals who have successfully benefitted from my knowledge and experience for advancing their careers in nutrition. I do hope I can bring this experience sharing to a wider level. Over the last four years, I have worked with FANUS to increase its membership within the African continent and succeeded in mobilising new African members to join the IUNS.

2. Unite nutrition at Global North and South

In my second term as Vice President for the IUNS, I plan to build on the ongoing ANS -ANUS-American Society for Nutrition ongoing negotiations to forge a collaborative partnership with African IUNS adherent and affiliated bodies for capacity building, sharing and transfer of knowledge and experience on ground breaking advances in nutrition sciences - that brings in new actors, disciplines, and technologies - and use this approach to advance and unite nutrition at Global North and South. The present digital age that is witnessing spectacular advances in the frontiers of nutrition sciences is identified as the beginning of a significant evolution in the ICN Durban 2005 New Nutrition Project. It is proposed to identify this period as, "The New Nutrition Project +20"*. This will necessarily involve mobilizing support to upgrade nutrition research methods and technology platforms of the Global South and to modernize education curriculums in all nutrition related sciences. This is expected to galvanise and cohesively unite all of the global nutrition fraternity with IUNS adhering bodies of the Global South to better address the nutritional challenges and maximize the global potential.

The continent of Africa continues to face a plethora of malnutrition challenges that include high anaemia and micronutrient deficiency levels, increasing levels of malnutrition, high consumption of low-cost foods that are nutrient deficient, as well as newly emerging nutrition challenges. This situation calls for a concerted effort to harmonise and maximize the returns on nutrition of the emerging splinter groupings and to develop synergies and complementarity in the execution of a common agenda for addressing nutrition challenges in Africa

3. My Pledge

Under the leadership of the incoming President, Professor Hyun-Sook Kim, I pledge to work assiduously with both the IUNS Officers and Council members to actively contribute to forging the IUNS agenda, to raise the impact of and bring visibility to IUNS work.

*With apologies to "Rio + 20 Conference".