**Scaling Up Nutrition Business Network Membership Overview**

**What is the SUN Business Network (SBN)?**

The SUN Business Network is the world’s leading private sector focused nutrition initiative:

* Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) is a global movement which unites governments, civil society, the United Nations, donors, businesses, and researchers in a collective effort to improve nutrition.
* SUN is not one organization, nor a development programme, but through the combined action of all members contributes to the effective implementation of nutrition plans and programmes.
* At present 62 Countries and four Indian states in Asia, Africa and Latin America have joined SUN and are committed to developing national nutrition strategies that involve the private sector.
* SBN is a component of SUN Movement which aims to support businesses in growing the role they play in nutrition – and support SUN Countries to develop national business engagement strategies. Similarly, the other networks under SUN Movement are the ‘Donor, Civil Society, United Nations and Academia’.
* SBN is facilitated at a global level by the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) and the World Food Program (WFP).
* In Nepal, National Planning Commission (NPC) leads role in effective functioning of multi-sector and multi- stakeholder platform which includes MSNP sectoral ministries, departments, all networks of SUN Movement and other relevant stakeholders that are associated with nutrition.
* It complements Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan-II (MSNP - II) in achieving the initiatives to improve nutrition in Nepal catering to achieve SDG 2 target of zero hunger.
* It commits to grow network and membership at a global and at national level with a focus on enabling and furthering the engagement of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), large national and multi-national companies (MNCs) to act, invest and innovate in responsible and sustainable actions and operations to improve nutrition and increase consumer demand for nutrition.
* It commits to strengthen business-to-business (B2B) linkages between national companies with investors and MNCs, facilitating technical assistance partnerships, and enabling investment opportunities that members require to advance the nutrition agenda.

**Benefits of joining SBN as a Member**

* Become part of a **dynamic global, regional, and national community of national and multi-national companies** committed to improving nutrition.
* **Learn and share best practices** that will support and guide sustainable corporate investments into nutrition.
* Engage in **a platform that facilitates effective dialogue between** the business community, government, UN and civil society on addressing national nutrition priorities.
* **Explore partnership opportunities** with other private sector members, NGOs, government, professional associations, and other interested organizations that help facilitate and support private sector investment and consumer demand creation for safe and healthy food.
* Receive **support to design workplace nutrition policies** and access best practice advice and tools at global, regional, and local level.
* Contribute to the global, regional, and national discussion on tackling the **triple burden** {coexistence of undernutrition, micronutrient deficiency along with overweight, obesity or diet-related Non- Communicable Diseases (NCDs)}including inidentifying and sharing actions and policies on the double burden.

**Process of joining SBN membership**

Organizations looking to join the SBN as an advocate and supporter of improved nutrition status of the society must sign a membership form which asks you to acknowledge the following principles of engagement.

**Principles of Engagement of the SBN:**

In signing up to be an SBN member, organizations must adhere to the following principles of engagement:

* Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.
* Businesses should comply with UN guidance on health and nutrition and the International Code on Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes (BMS Code) \* and World Health Assembly (WHA) resolutions related to maternal, infant and young child nutrition.
* Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining.
* Businesses should uphold the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour; the effective abolition of child labour; and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.
* Members of SBN and their subsidiaries cannot engage in the production of armaments, tobacco or pornography.
* Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges; undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.
* Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.
* Businesses should engage in national SBN surveys to assess their business development, technical assistance and finance needs (or support they can offer in these areas).
* Businesses should support targeted actions and/or policies to address malnutrition in all its forms of (food insecurity, undernutrition and obesity/overweight) and diet related NCDs.
* Businesses should assess the potential to introduce workplace nutrition commitments (including breastfeeding support).

**\*International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes**

The SBN supports the BMS Code and the importance of its articulation and effective enforcement in SUN country national legislation to promote and protect optimal infant and young child nutrition. SBN recognizes the importance of early initiation of and exclusive breastfeeding, as well as age appropriate complementary feeding while continuing breastfeeding for at least 2 years in the promotion of optimal nutrition in early life and reduction of child mortality, and the important role the private sector can play in providing breastfeeding support to its workforce. SBN actively supports its members to implement programs to support maternal health and breastfeeding in the workplace.

***All prospective SBN members are asked to disclose any production or promotion of food products or beverages for children under 36 months of age and declared compliance with the provisions of the BMS Code and appropriate promotion of complementary foods as defined by the WHA.***