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Statement submitted by organization-name Yayasan Pendidikan Indonesia in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statements, which are being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

*The present statements are issued without formal editing



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Statement

Transformative School-Based Nutrition : Advancing Indonesia's free Nutritious Meal Programme (MBG) for Sustainable Development Goals 2, 3, and 4

Introduction

As a non-governmental organization, Yayasan Pendidikan Indonesia (YPI) underscores the vital connection between quality education (SDG 4) and nutritional security. We reaffirm our strong and continued support for Indonesia's Free Nutritious Meal Programme (MBG), recognizing its importance to SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) ahead of the 2026 in-depth review of the SDGs.

Key Issues

One year after its launch in January 2025, the MBG programme has made remarkable progress. It has reached more than 60 million beneficiaries, including schoolchildren and pregnant mothers. Student attendance has increased, learning outcomes have improved, local economies have benefited through community kitchens, and early signs of stunting reduction have emerged.

However, the programme's extremely rapid rollout has also revealed significant challenges. Several incidents of mass food poisoning have occurred due to inadequate kitchen standards, insufficient hygiene training, and weak sanitation. These issues have triggered public criticism — some constructive, others politically motivated — which risks eroding public trust. Despite these setbacks, the MBG programme remains essential for advancing quality education and developing high-quality human resources in Indonesia.

Way Forward

To ensure the programme becomes more effective, equitable, and sustainable, we recommend the following concrete improvements:

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1. Establish a clear legal framework that defines institutional roles and includes independent oversight mechanisms to prevent commercialization and corruption risks.
2. Strengthen local and innovative solutions by providing professional training for kitchen managers, enforcing strict food safety certification, and prioritizing fresh ingredients from smallholder farmers to build resilient community-based food systems.
3. Integrate nutrition literacy and Education for Sustainable Development into the school curriculum to raise awareness of healthy eating, hygiene, and environmental responsibility.
4. Enhance equitable access through real-time digital monitoring, transparent procurement processes, and targeted support for remote areas.
5. Improve accountability via regular independent audits, open budget reporting, and constructive feedback mechanisms that protect the programme's integrity.

YPI remains committed to supporting the MBG programme through community-based education activities, teacher training on nutrition awareness, and grassroots engagement. We call upon all stakeholders to treat school-based nutrition programmes as a strategic investment for inclusive and sustainable development.

By addressing current weaknesses through coordinated and innovative approaches, the MBG programme can become a successful global model for achieving Zero Hunger, quality education, and a brighter future for all Indonesian children and future generations.