





economies they can make a difference of two to three percent of the gross domestic product. This is substantial.

But the implications of this for us as a development committee and for us in the Bank is not only that we must invest in nutrition, but we must be more strategic in the way that we invest in nutrition. We must not only integrate it into the other areas of investment, we must not only build capacity in countries to address this issue in a much more effective manner, we must not only scale up knowledge, whether it be in research or in tools, in interventions that work, and as well as monitoring what works and scaling it up. But we must also ensure that it becomes pivotal to the other areas that are indicated by a lack of good security, such as the areas in trade and such as the areas in climate change that are currently very, very pivotal to development.

The undernutrition agenda, therefore, is increasing recognition of the importance, not only of addressing undernutrition and malnutrition, but the challenges such as those of obesity and related non-communicable diseases. There is a strong interest within the Bank to engage more activity with you as global partners and with our client countries in these areas in a multi-sector manner and in an integrated manner, making sure that we link research, social protection issues, gender, early childhood development, investments, environment and climate change investments with investments in nutrition. And we do agree with the conclusions that have been reached in the series: that they are huge implications for the architecture of the international nutrition system, and that these implications must be addressed effectively by all of us.

We must make up a more concerted effort to ensure that all the international organizations, whether they be academies, societies, private sector, or institutions that are currently fragmented and therefore are leading to a dysfunctional agenda in this area, come together and ensure that we establish a new global governance structure that can provide greater accountability and participation of all societies in order to ensure not only that we reach MDG One, but also that we also attain MDG Four and Five. But to some extent, we'll have to invest tremendously in MDG Two as well and, of course, there will be some benefits for MDG Six. So as the World Bank, we would like to associate ourselves with the recommendations that have been made by this group. We would like to commit to ensuring that we implement these recommendations and we would like to commit also to increase investments and collaboration and harmonization with you and the rest of the global community in this critical area. Thank you.