

Report of the IUNS President's Task Force

Towards a sustainable financing model for scientific nutrition meetings, including the role of the private sector sponsorship

Dated 9 October 2024



IUNS
INTERNATIONAL
UNION OF
NUTRITIONAL
SCIENCES

REPORT OF THE IUNS PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE:

TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FINANCING MODEL FOR SCIENTIFIC NUTRITION MEETINGS, INCLUDING THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR SPONSORSHIP

A. Background on IUNS: mission, operations and financial structure

The International Union of Nutritional Sciences (IUNS) is the leading global nutrition-related professional association, as of 2024, made up of 84 national nutrition organizations (dues paying *Adhering Bodies*), and 15 nutrition-related organizations (non-dues paying *Affiliated Bodies*).

The mission and objectives of IUNS are:

- To promote advancement in nutrition science, research and development through international cooperation at the global level.
- To encourage communication and collaboration among nutrition scientists, as well as to disseminate information in nutritional sciences through modern communication technology.

Founded in 1947, IUNS has a long legacy of contributions towards the achievement of these objectives. IUNS selects and supports one Adhering Body to host the International Congress of Nutrition (IUNS-ICN) every 4 years and undertakes a variety of activities to support capacity development, and consolidation and dissemination of evidence. Through task forces, IUNS also contributes to the resolution of challenges in the field of nutrition that are new, underfunded, or complex in other ways.

A voluntary council, elected by Adhering Body representatives in good standing (i.e., with dues paid) during the IUNS-ICN meeting, leads IUNS. A small Secretariat supports the activities of the council. The Secretariat host is currently The Nutrition Society (confirmed with contractual arrangements through 2029).

The IUNS Council defines the agenda for its 4-year term and allocates its limited resources to cover activities, which include primarily:

- sponsorship for students and early career professionals to attend the IUNS-ICN
- IUNS organized symposia in regional meetings (FENS, FANS, SLAN, FONS, FANUS)
- small contributions to IUNS Task Force activities and symposia at IUNS-ICN
- competitive capacity-development activities (e.g., a reintegration grant once per council)
- IUNS awards at the IUNS-ICN meetings
- in-person council meetings (1-2 per year) and participation of council members in IUNS-ICN, and other relevant meetings.

Annual expenses of IUNS vary considerably, depending on the scope and scale of activities, defined primarily by available

resources. The estimated minimum budget of IUNS to cover Secretariat fees (40k USD annually in 2023), council meetings, successful support to the IUNS-ICN and all related activities, plus a modest additional investment in regional meeting, capacity development and/ or task forces, is approximately 400k USD per 4-year council term (or 100k USD per year based on 2022-2025 council estimates).

For financial support, IUNS relies primarily on Adhering Body fee contributions, and a portion of any surplus income from the IUNS-ICN congresses. While slight adjustments were made to the formula for their calculation in 2022, IUNS has not raised or inflation-adjusted Adhering Body dues for almost 20 years, implying a continued and important reduction in the real value of these contributions. Similarly, while IUNS has approximately 84 Adhering Body members, only approximately two thirds of all adhering bodies pay their dues regularly (based on the experience of recent councils), resulting in an annual income for IUNS of approximately 65k USD (or 260K USD over the 4-year council period).

Since 2013, and now by IUNS statutes, the IUNS-ICN congress surplus income is shared 40% to the hosting Adhering Body, 20% to the corresponding regional body, and 40% to IUNS. It is noteworthy that, as per statutes, IUNS holds no liability for any IUNS-ICN meeting deficit. Congress sources of income include participant fees, public sector contributions including governments, non-governmental organizations, United Nations, development and bilateral banks, among others through direct financial contributions, exhibit hall space purchase, sponsored symposia fees, and private sector contributions, similarly through direct contributions, exhibit hall space purchase, or sponsored symposia fees. In-kind contributions (e.g., direct support to participant travel, expenses) can reduce the expenses of the congress and increase participation, particularly for those who may otherwise have financial limitations. These do not however, directly contribute to congress income, as there is no financial contribution to the organizing committee, nor can such contributions be tracked directly. Income from the IUNS-ICN to IUNS (i.e., 40% of surplus income) has varied from approximately 500k in 2013 to 0 (operated at deficit) in 2022.

To date, and primarily considering its reliance on a *volunteer* council, with no paid professional staff, IUNS has had little engagement in other forms of resource mobilization and related proposal development. Bearing this in mind, and noting the current misalignment between expenses and income, IUNS remains dependent on surplus income from the IUNS-ICN meetings, which is largely dependent on contributions from sponsors, whether public or private sector.

REPORT OF THE IUNS PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE:

TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FINANCING MODEL FOR SCIENTIFIC NUTRITION MEETINGS, INCLUDING THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR SPONSORSHIP

B. Justification for a President's IUNS Task Force on private sector sponsorship of scientific meetings

As stated in its mission and objectives, IUNS is committed to advancing nutritional sciences through international collaboration with all stakeholders who share a common interest to improve nutrition and health. Private sector, including but not limited to the food and beverage industry can be important stakeholders in this regard, with many food and beverage, and non-food and beverage companies making commitments to actions related to nutrition (e.g., such as at Nutrition for Growth [N4G](#)). The private sector is also an important stakeholder for the nutritional sciences community for other reasons, for example, as a major employer of students trained in nutrition-related fields, and an initiator/funder of research in other relevant areas of investigation, including product development, reformulation and testing.

Engagement with the private sector, however, can have both real and perceived conflicts of interest¹. This is well recognized by IUNS in its [Principles of Engagement Policy](#) originally published in 2002 and updated in 2021. The 2021 policy sets out a series of criteria and processes to minimize, mitigate, and manage such conflicts of interest. The need for further safeguards to ensure monitoring and compliance with the policy became apparent during the 2022 IUNS-ICN congress (and several regional IUNS affiliate body conferences) where many of the principles under the current policy were not fully implemented. Actions are underway through the IUNS-ICN congress host selection and contracting process to address these monitoring and compliance gaps.

IUNS also recognizes the central importance of Principle 2.2 in the 2021 policy, which states:

IUNS will consider financial contributions from the private sector from entities that comply with established principles of corporate governance, including protection of children, respect for civil liberties and equality in the workplace, and a corporate public profile consistent with health promotion and disease prevention.

IUNS remains firmly committed to this principle but recognizes that it requires further operationalization to ensure consistent implementation and compliance. The sole objective of this Task Force, therefore, was to **develop an approach that operationalizes Principle 2.2 of the 2021 Private Sector Engagement Policy**, and by doing so, to provide clear and concise guidance concerning the types of private sector entities from which financial contributions can be received for the organization of scientific meetings under the auspices of IUNS.

This operational framework will form the basis for contributions to future IUNS-ICN meetings, beginning with Paris 2025. It is the expectation of the 2022-2025 IUNS Council that Adhering Bodies, regional organizations, and other non-IUNS scientific meetings in nutrition should adopt the approach as *minimum criteria for private sector sponsorship*, bringing a strong and consistent voice from the nutrition community for acceptance of private sector sponsorship of scientific meetings.

Task Force (TF) guiding principles and process

Four core principles must guide the process of operationalizing a framework for decision-making for acceptance of private sector financial contributions to scientific meetings. The approach must be:

1. Evidence-based
2. Implementable
3. Replicable (therefore fully transparent)
4. Independent

The TF was mandated to define a framework for inclusion of private sector sponsors in the short term (fully implementable by Paris 2025), and a longer-term vision for the role of private sector sponsorship that can ensure sustainability of the IUNS-ICN meetings. In this regard, the TF also provided reflections and suggestions for non-private sector funding mechanisms for IUNS-ICN meetings. TF discussions may also have provided insights to alternative funding sources for the continued work of the IUNS (beyond surplus income sharing from IUNS-ICN meetings).

The TF was led by the IUNS President (term 2022-2025) and included 6 individuals – without institutional representation – who hold a variety of perspectives related to private sector engagement generally, and sponsorship of scientific meetings specifically, and work in diverse areas related to nutritional sciences. The President, with input and suggestions from council, selected the members and chaired the TF. The composition of the TF was diverse, with representation from most world regions and gender balance (see Annex 1 below for TF membership). Each TF member was requested to complete a Declaration of Interests form ([Annex 2](#)), a summary of declared interest(s) for each member is provided in Annex 1.

The initial term for the TF was April to December 2023. The TF worked through a series of virtual meetings and document exchange and comment over email extending to 2024. The President of IUNS may continue to consult with TF members, depending on need.

1

Indeed, interests are not unique to the private sector. Experts and other professionals can also have interests in certain processes, discussions, or outcomes based on financial, patent / intellectual property, public statements, among others. Not all interests are inevitably conflicts, but transparency is a critical aspect of the management of interests. As such, declarations of interests should be common practice for all presenters in scientific meetings. IUNS is separately taking initiative to ensure this is a standard part of IUNS-ICN meetings and other IUNS activities. The broader issue related to interests, however, is not the mandate of this Task Force, which will focus only on private sector sponsorship of meetings.

**REPORT OF THE IUNS PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE:
TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FINANCING MODEL FOR SCIENTIFIC NUTRITION
MEETINGS, INCLUDING THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR SPONSORSHIP**

In recognition of the urgency to define the approach for the Paris 2025 meeting, the IUNS President proposed an approach for the short-term framework for comment and further development by the TF at the first meeting held in April 2023.

Participation in the TF was entirely voluntary and unremunerated and does not generate any commitment on behalf of IUNS to provide financial or any other support for participation in any up-coming IUNS-ICN or other meeting. Decisions made by the TF do not necessarily reflect the personal position of any or all its members, but rather, an agreed position of compromise to progress the IUNS discussion on private sector sponsorship of scientific meetings, based on the core principles outlined above.

Brief overview of the cost and financing of IUNS-ICN meetings²

As noted previously, IUNS selects and enters into a written contractual agreement with a national nutrition society for the use of the IUNS-ICN meeting banner, for the organization and conduct of each IUNS-ICN meeting. Meetings are organized in close collaboration with IUNS, and organizers are required to follow IUNS policies (as outlined in the contractual agreement). Many decisions about the meeting, however, including but not limited to the venue and level of sponsorship of speakers (e.g., travel, speakers' fees) are currently at the full discretion of the organizers. Organizers are fully responsible for any financial loss and share any financial profit after completion of the meeting, as per the arrangements described above.

Other meetings, such as regional Affiliated Bodies (e.g., Latin American Congress of Nutrition, Asian Congress of Nutrition) are organized under the auspices of IUNS, but have no contractual agreement with IUNS, and no profit/loss sharing arrangements are in place. While IUNS holds an understanding that IUNS policies will be followed when the IUNS name is used, without contractual agreements, at this time IUNS does not have recourse to hold organizers to account if policies are not followed.

Total audited expenses and income, and income from sponsorships for the 3 most recent IUNS-ICN meetings are outlined in Table 1. These data are presented for transparency and context. Notably, past reporting did not require separate accounts of private sector sponsorship, for which only total sponsorship amounts are available. It should be noted that the financial information provided below reflects only funds that were channelled through the host organization and does not capture direct support to participants or other conference related support that was not channelled through and managed by the hosts.

Based on available information from recent meetings therefore, with its current model, it has cost between 1.3 to 2.7 million USD to host recent IUNS-ICN meetings, translating into a range of 425 to 710 USD per registered conference participant. The cost per participant is a simple estimate made by the IUNS Secretariat based on the total audited expenses divided by reported number of registered participants.

Table 1. Brief overview of audited financial accounts (rounded to the nearest USD) from the past three IUNS-ICN meetings

Location	Year	Total expenses	Number of participants	Cost per participant	Total income	Sponsorship**	Profit (+) or loss (-)
Granada	2013	2,729,715	3896	701	3,388,027	2,343,842	+1,332,461
Buenos Aires	2017	1,291,753	3038	425	2,762,697	1,110,089	+1,470,944
Tokyo	2022	2,375,895	3345	710	2,250,758	1,696,390	-125,137

*All financial information presented in USD (as per accounts in the year of meeting, without USD value adjustment)

**Includes non-industry sponsorship, total exhibition income, satellite symposia, and other collaborations.

**REPORT OF THE IUNS PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE:
TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FINANCING MODEL FOR SCIENTIFIC NUTRITION
MEETINGS, INCLUDING THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR SPONSORSHIP**

From experience in conference organization, it is anticipated that the drivers of costs will vary primarily by cost of venue, extent of benefits included in registration fee (e.g., coffee, lunch, gala dinner, receptions), extent of participant travel financing, payment of speaker fees, among similar variable cost drivers. Unfortunately, available information does not permit a more detailed breakdown of these cost drivers from previous IUNS-ICN meetings.

C. Task force deliberations and recommendations for private sector sponsorship of the 2025 IUNS-ICN meeting

Task force deliberations:

1. As expected by the TF composition, members brought diverse perspectives related to engagement of/with the private sector generally, and, specifically, their role in sponsorship of scientific meetings.
2. There was consensus that it should be possible to include the private sector as sponsors for scientific meetings, but no consensus was reached on the long-term model for such sponsorship in the broader context of a sustainable financial plan. This was also anticipated and will be an important continued area of work for IUNS beyond the current TF, and the current IUNS Council membership.
3. The TF recognized that to-date, most of the private sector sponsorship of scientific nutrition meetings (including but not limited to IUNS-ICN) is from large food and beverages companies, and therefore the most urgent need is to identify a screening process for their inclusion.
4. The TF have agreed on a model for screening private sector food and beverage companies as sponsors for IUNS-ICN Paris 2025 that meets the 4 criteria laid out *a priori* by this TF, i.e., Evidence-based, Implementable, Replicable (therefore transparent), and Independent.
5. In addition to screening criteria, the TF has formulated a series of recommendations to 1) manage the need for private sector sponsorship (i.e., cost reductions), and 2) exploring options for financial contributions for scientific meetings that go beyond the food and beverage industry (examples below).

Screening criteria for the 2025 IUNS-ICN meeting

1. The TF reemphasized that the current [IUNS Private Sector policy \(2021\)](#), must be followed to **screen out** businesses that do not meet the currently indicated criteria (i.e., non-compliance with globally agreed principles, such as non-compliant breast-milk substitute producers), and that funds obtained must be managed according to the good practice guidelines cited in the Policy (e.g., full independence of the IUNS-ICN in the use of the funds, no link between individual scientific sessions and individual companies within the conference program, etc.)

2. Given the 4 criteria established by the TF, it was unanimously agreed to use an independent, evidence-based rating of businesses to **screen in** food and beverage industries from whom financial contributions may be accepted for IUNS-ICN 2025. While recognizing that there is no ideal index that would meet all needs at this time, the approved tool will use one index from the [Access to Nutrition Initiative \(ATNI\)](#).

3. The TF emphasized that the screen-in criteria are the minimum that the meeting organizers must use, but that it is at meeting organizers discretion to use more stringent criteria if deemed appropriate, noting that the decision to do so does not release them from the requirement that funding of the IUNS-ICN meeting is fully their responsibility.

4. The TF unanimously agreed that, given the absence of a preferable option, and for the purposes of Paris 2025, the ATNI product index reflecting the percentage of total sales that is derived from products with a [Health Score Rating \(HSR\)](#) at or over 3.5 would be used for screening ranked food and beverage companies from which funding could be accepted (Annex 3).

5. Using the percentage of sales at or above HSR 3.5 as the criteria, it was apparent that, currently, no food and beverage company ranked by ATNI is succeeding in enabling better choices for healthy diets and nutrition among its consumers. The comparative product portfolio indices from 2018 and 2021, illustrate that there has been little to no progress in this regard.

6. The TF therefore urges companies as a matter of urgency to set goals and clear targets for improving the proportion of their portfolios that meets and/or exceeds the HSR 3.5 rating.

Requirement of the application of the ATNI product index to screen-in potential sponsors of IUNS-ICN Paris 2025

1. Some TF members felt that only food and beverage companies with at least 50% (among some members) or 75% (one member) of total sales at or above the 3.5 HSR level should be screened in as potential sponsors. At this time, that would imply few food and beverage companies currently included in the ATNI Global Index would be approved (and none with a criterion of 75%).

2. As a temporary compromise to provide a way forward for the IUNS-ICN 2025 meeting, the TF agreed *that companies with at least 33% of their sales globally from products at or above HSR 3.5 based on ATNI 2021 product index could be accepted as potential sponsors for IUNS-ICN 2025*. See the figure below in which the corresponding screening criteria is illustrated, found [here](#) in the ATNI report for 2021.

3. Companies eligible according to the ATNI product index criteria are in the red square, but the TF emphasized that this criterion must be used in conjunction with the existing IUNS Private Sector Policy criteria (as noted above). Specifically, this implies that companies non-compliant with the WHO Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes cannot sponsor IUNS-ICN.

4. The TF members emphasized that the cut-off of a minimum of one third (33%) of total sales coming from products rated at or above the 3.5 HSR is an interim criterion, and nowhere near the aspirational recommended product portfolio that TF members expect companies to achieve if they are committed to enabling healthier and more sustainable diets.

5. The TF, therefore, proposed to endorse a sponsorship obligation, such that companies are asked to make a formal commitment to making progress towards healthier product portfolios and more appropriate marketing practices (as measured by ATNI) before the 2029 IUNS-ICN meeting, and that if they do not demonstrate progress towards their defined targets, they will not be eligible to sponsor IUNS-ICN in 2029.

6. IUNS-ICN 2025 organizers are recommended to use the 2021 ATNI product index as illustrated in Annex 3. This index will be updated late 2024, and the TF proposes that if additional food and beverage companies reach the current 33% minimum cut point, they could be added to the approved sponsorship list. Should any company which has already been enlisted as sponsor based on the 2021 rating slip below the current 33% minimum cut-off in 2024, the TF advises, for practical reasons (and recognizing that this is far from ideal), letting that sponsorship remain for the 2025 meeting.

Recommendations for potential sponsorship of IUNS-ICN 2025 from companies not ranked by ATNI

1. The TF strongly recommends that IUNS-ICN organizers use national rating systems, where they exist, to complement the ATNI product index screen-in. For Paris 2025, the TF urges the organizers to draw on the national Nutri-Score system and establish a cut-off point parallel to the that described above to screen-in non-ATNI classified smaller and national companies that may wish to sponsor IUNS-ICN. The organizing committee may consult published³ comparisons of Health Star Rating and Nutri-score to support this process.

2. The TF urges the organizers of IUNS-ICN 2025 to explore sponsorships from:

a. producers and retailers of un- or minimally processed foods such as fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables, legumes, nuts (considering the above criteria for producers and retailers with mixed product portfolios),

b. companies producing evidence-based nutritional supplements (e.g., those aligned with WHO guidelines) and micronutrient premixes for supplements and fortification (drawing on public rankings to ensure ethical pharmaceutical practices, for example [here](#)),

c. companies producing equipment essential to nutrition such as anthropometric and laboratory equipment,

d. essential services to the field such as publishing houses and scientific journals,

e. other non-food companies such as mobile technology companies, computer, and other equipment necessary for, but not unique to the nutrition field.

D. Task force recommendations towards sustainable financing for IUNS-affiliated scientific meetings

Specific recommendations related to private sector sponsorship

1. The TF noted that the 2021 ATNI product index includes just 25 large food and beverage companies, of whom only 9 pass the criteria of 33% of total sales from products >3.5 HSR (several of which are not eligible to sponsor IUNS-ICN given breastmilk substitute marketing practices). At this time, ATNI cannot be used to screen in smaller, national, and regional companies. The TF discussed the potential to create a new ATNI sub-index specifically for the purposes of conference sponsorship.

Such a sub-index may consider not only the quality of the food and beverage portfolio but also marketing strategies of unhealthy products to children, differences in product quality and marketing strategies between high- and low-income markets, lobbying activities, among other considerations.

2. The TF agreed that IUNS should work with ATNI to develop a proposal for such a scientific sponsorship specific ATNI sub-index and to actively seek resources for the development of a flexible and adaptable tool to permit its implementation wherever the subsequent IUNS-ICN meetings are held.

3. In November 2024, ATNI will be releasing its 2024 Global Index covering the 30 largest Food and Beverage Manufacturers. Then in mid-2025 it will release a ranking of supermarket chains. Once the format of that latter ranking can be accessed, the TF will establish screen-in criteria for IUNS-ICN meetings (including IUNS-ICN 2025 if opportune to do so).

4. The TF suggested that IUNS consider potential business/producer associations as sponsors, and if so, to develop the criteria for their acceptance.

5. Several TF members urged the consideration of criteria that would permit sponsorship from subsidiary companies that produce nutritious food but are separate from the parent company that may have an overall poor product portfolio according to the ATNI product index. The TF agreed that this requires further discussion.

6. The TF proposes that IUNS monitor the use of the IUNS logo to ensure that all meetings convened under the auspices of the IUNS abide by the IUNS private sector policy, and the updates amended in accordance with the recommendations in this document.

REPORT OF THE IUNS PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE:
TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FINANCING MODEL FOR SCIENTIFIC NUTRITION
MEETINGS, INCLUDING THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR SPONSORSHIP

*Additional recommendations from the Task Force for sustainable
conference financing*

1. IUNS in its contracting for the hosting of IUNS-ICN meetings, should include explicit requirements for cost reduction strategies, such as:
 - a. no payment of speaker fees,
 - b. speaker travel support/ registration exemption on a stated needs basis, rather than a universal offer,
 - c. gala dinner on a pay-per-use basis,
 - d. no print programs or materials,
 - e. others, as feasible on location of each IUNS-ICN meeting (e.g., reduced cost venue locations).
2. IUNS with others may wish to conduct further in-depth analysis of cost drivers of recent meetings organized and/or supported by IUNS and others and use this information to further explore potential cost-reduction strategies.
3. While the TF acknowledges and supports IUNS's commitment to in-person scientific meetings (see above), IUNS may wish to explore cost and potential benefit analyses of hybrid meetings, in collaboration with others who have implemented them.

Annex 1: Members of the IUNS Private Sector Task Force 2023 and summary of declaration of interests

**Lynette M Neufeld, President IUNS (2022-2025), Task Force Chair, Director,
Food and Nutrition Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Canada/ Italy)**

Declared: Other, specifically have more than five years ago participated in workshops and publications that were sponsored by a foundation funded by a private sector company.

Lindsay H Allen, Distinguished Research Scientist, USDA ARS Western Human Nutrition Research Center (USA)

Declared: No interests to declare.

Jane Badham, JB Consultancy (South Africa)

Declared: Have in the past five years, made public or positions statements related to the topic of private sector sponsorship of scientific meetings.

Elliot Berry, Professor (Emeritus), Hebrew University Jerusalem (Israel)

Declared: Other, specifically have more than twenty years ago, been a consultant and received research funding from a private sector company.

**Camila Corvalán, Director, Center for Food Environment and Obesity Prevention (CIAPEC), Institute of Nutrition and Food Science,
University of Chile (Chile)**

Declared: Have in the past five years, made public or positions statements related to the topic of private sector sponsorship of scientific meetings and interference of big food corporations on food environment policies.

Habiba Hassan-Wassef, Independent Expert in Health and Nutrition Policy in Sustainable Development (Egypt)

Declared: No interests to declare.

Andrew Prentice, Head, Nutrition & Planetary Health, MRC Unit The Gambia at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (The Gambia/UK)

Declared: Have in the past five years, received remuneration from a commercial business, industry association or other enterprise whose funding is primarily derived from commercial sources.

Annex 2: The Declaration of Interest form completed by each Task Force member before beginning deliberations

Declaration of Interests for IUNS Task Force Members

IUNS Presidents Task Force

Towards consensus in the role of private sector sponsorship for scientific meetings

The sole objective of this task force is to **develop an approach that operationalizes principle 2.2 of the 2021 Private Sector Engagement Policy¹**, and by doing so, provides clear and concise guidance concerning the types of private sector entities from which financial contributions can be received for the organization of scientific meetings.

The task force *must* define a framework for inclusion of private sector sponsors in the short term (fully implementable by Paris 2025), and a longer-term vision for the role of private sector sponsorship that can ensure sustainability of the IUNS-ICN meetings. In that regard, the task force *may* also provide reflections and suggestions for non-private sector funding mechanisms for IUNS-ICN meetings, and alternative funding sources for the continued work of the IUNS (beyond surplus income sharing from IUNS-ICN meetings).

The task force will be led by the IUNS President (term 2022-2025), and will include approximately 6-7 individuals – without institutional representation - who hold a variety of perspectives related to private sector sponsorship of scientific meetings, and work in a diverse set of areas related to nutritional sciences. The President, with input and suggestions from Council, will compile the task force. The composition of the task force will be diverse, seeking representation from most world regions and gender balance.

To ensure transparency and enhance credibility of the task force's work, it is critical that each of the members declare any interests that may represent a potential conflict of interest. For the purpose of this task force (and drawing on the [Declarations of Interests for WHO Experts](#)), interests are defined as any circumstance that may affect, or may reasonably be perceived to affect, the task force member's objectivity and independence. This may include financial, professional or other interests relevant to the subject of the task force's work, or any interest that could be affected by the outcome of the work of the task force.

This declaration of interests is collected primarily for the purpose of *transparency*. As noted above, the members of the task force have been purposefully selected to bring diverse perspectives and experiences, and as such, interests related to topics relevant to the task force's work do not constitute grounds for exclusion from any discussions and decision making. A summary of the declared interests of each of the task force members will be disclosed in an annex to the IUNS policy implementation document that will constitute the primary output of the task force.

Name and signature: _____

Date and location: _____

¹ Principle 2.2 states: *IUNS will consider financial contributions from the private sector from entities that comply with established principles of corporate governance, including protection of children, respect for civil liberties and equality in the workplace, and a corporate public profile consistent with health promotion and disease prevention. [Principles of Engagement Policy](#) (original 2002, updated 2021).*

REPORT OF THE IUNS PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE:
TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FINANCING MODEL FOR SCIENTIFIC NUTRITION
MEETINGS, INCLUDING THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR SPONSORSHIP

Declaration of Interests for IUNS Task Force Members

Please answer each of the questions below (YES/NO). If the answer to any of the questions is YES, please provide a brief summary in the space provided.

1. In the past 5 years, have you received **remuneration** (employment or consulting) from a commercial business, industry association or other enterprise whose funding is primarily derived from commercial sources? YES___ NO___

If yes, please explain briefly:

2. In the past 5 years, have you received any type of **research support** (including grants or sponsorships, equipment, paid travel to meetings, paid speeches or trainings, or others) from a commercial business, industry association or other enterprise whose funding is primarily derived from commercial sources? YES___ NO___

If yes, please explain briefly:

3. Do you have **current investments** valued >10,000 USD in a commercial entity that has or may have an interest to sponsor scientific meetings such as IUNS-ICN (excluding all types of funds on which you exercise no control, but including indirect investments such as trust or holding company, board memberships, joint ventures, and similar)? YES___ NO___

If yes, please explain briefly:

4. Do you have any **intellectual property rights** that might be enhanced by the outcome of the task forces deliberations? YES___ NO___

If yes, please explain briefly:

REPORT OF THE IUNS PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE:
TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FINANCING MODEL FOR SCIENTIFIC NUTRITION
MEETINGS, INCLUDING THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR SPONSORSHIP

Declaration of Interests for IUNS Task Force Members

5. During the past 5 years, have you made any **public or positions statements** (including publications, petitions, statements, policy reviews, and similar) related to the topic of private sector sponsorship of scientific meetings? YES___ NO___

If yes, please explain briefly:

6. During the past 5 years, have you received any **payments or gifts** (including travel costs, honoraria, and similar) for speaking publicly on the subject of private sector sponsorship of scientific meetings? YES___ NO___

If yes, please explain briefly:

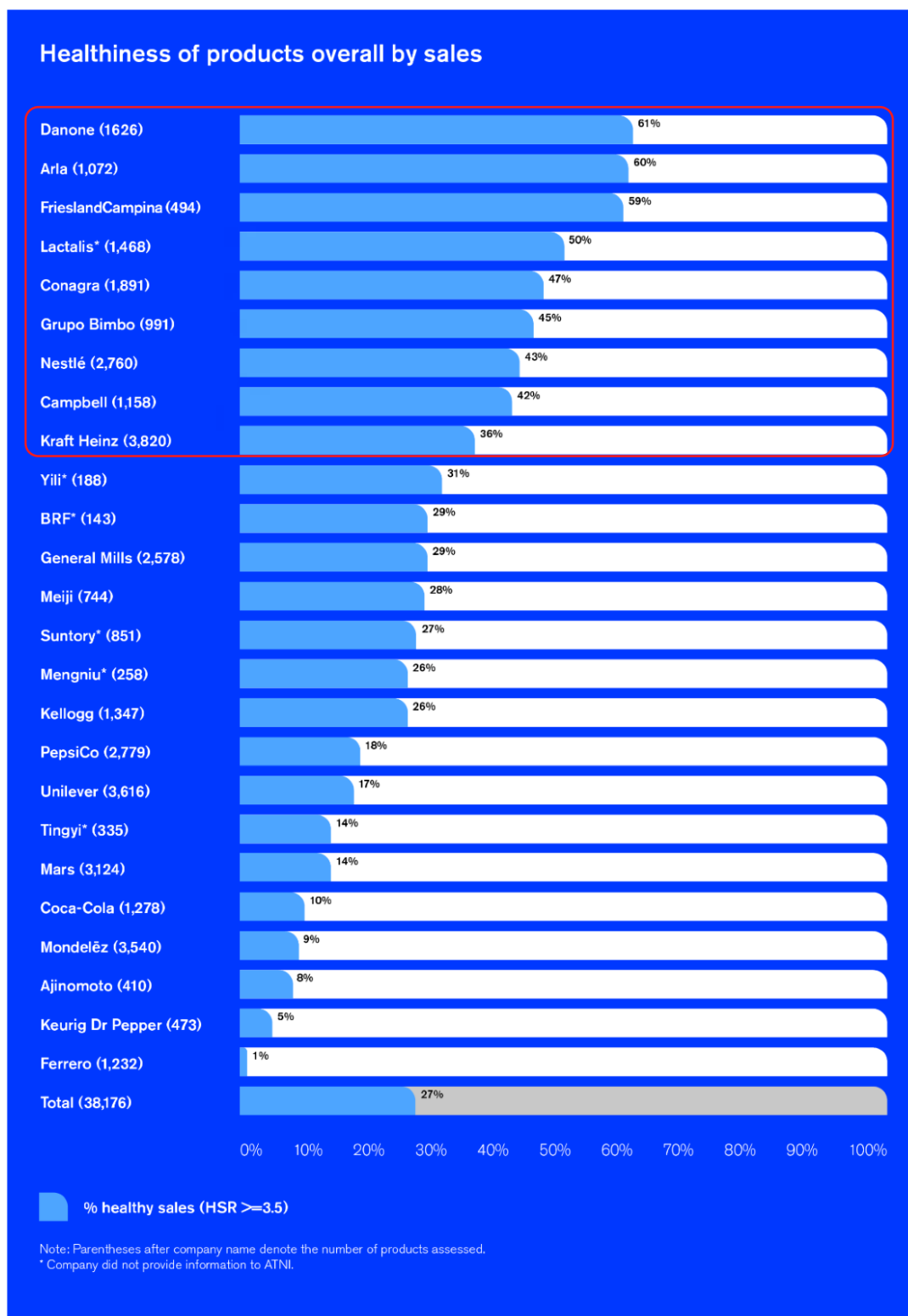
7. To your knowledge, would the outcome of this task force benefit or adversely affect the interests of others with whom you have substantial common personal, professional, financial, or business interests (including partner/ companion, children, siblings, close professional colleagues, administrative units or departments)? YES___ NO___

If yes, please explain briefly:

8. Is there any other aspect of your background or present circumstances not addressed above that might be perceived as affecting your objectivity or independence on the topic of private sector engagement of scientific meetings? YES___ NO___

If yes, please explain briefly:

Annex 3: The 2021 ATNI product index, ranking businesses for the percent of total sales from products meeting Health Star Rating ≥ 3.5 . Businesses reaching at least 33% of the sales from such products (the IUNS Task Force processed screen-in criteria for sponsorship) identified in the red square*



*To be eligible as sponsors, businesses must also comply with criteria laid out in the IUNS [Principles of Engagement Policy](#), including full compliance with the WHO Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes.



IUNS

INTERNATIONAL
UNION OF
NUTRITIONAL
SCIENCES

International Union of Nutritional Sciences

Boyd Orr House
10 Cambridge Court
210 Shepherds Bush Road
London W6 7NJ
UK

Tel: +44 (0) 207 602 0228
Email: office@iuns.org