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Finland's pledge for Summit on Sport and Sustainable Development (S4SD)

Finland pledges to ensure access to school meals for all children and youth through the School Meals Coalition

As co-chair of the School Meals Coalition, Finland pledges to ensure access to school meals for all children and youth through the School Meals Coalition by 2030

School-age children and youth, both girls and boys, are at a pivotal stage in their lives. Schools serve as a critical entry point for supporting their health, nutrition, and overall well-being. By providing an integrated package of school health and nutrition support, including nutritious meals, alongside physical education, within school settings, we can not only support children and youths' immediate growth and development, but also reinforce the importance of a balanced lifestyle. These interventions ultimately foster well-nourished, more active, and healthier future generations.

Finland is committed to prioritising school-based health and nutrition interventions. We look forward to further highlighting the vital link between nutritious school meals, physical fitness, and overall well-being at next year's Nutrition for Growth Summit, which the French government will host.

To further signal our strong commitment, Finland has channeled 1 million euros to the school meals work at the end of 2023, which is still being implemented in 2024. Possible further allocation will be considered in the course of the year. Going forward, we are committed in continuing as co-chair and providing our technical support to any country that requests it for developing their national school meals programme. To facilitate this, we have developed a website with information on the Finnish school meals system and connections to Finnish stakeholders.

Finland encourages countries and partners to join the School Meals Coalition as a way to improve the global food security and nutrition.