

Scientific Symposium at the International Union of Nutritional Sciences –  
International Congress of Nutrition (IUNS-ICN2025)  
**Advancing Nutrition and Sustainable Food Systems in the Nordic Region –  
Lessons learned for Regional and Global Impact**

**Concept Note**

Time is running out to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2 on zero hunger, SDG 3 on good health, SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production, SDG 13 on climate action, and SDG 14 on life below water. Especially SDG 14 is of high relevance as pollution and exploitation are threatening the use of aquatic food for human consumption. Success across all 17 SDGs requires stronger systems thinking, science-based policy translation, and promotion of best practices. The Nordic countries are leaders in health, nutrition, and sustainability, with newly developed dietary guidelines and environmental policies that serve as global models. However, challenges like climate change and resource constraints demand a closer look at how food systems can sustainably meet nutritional needs while also reducing environmental impacts. This symposium will bring together a diverse group of speakers/panelists including scientists, young voices, alongside policymakers, and key UN agencies, to discuss topics relevant to nutrition, climate change, and sustainable food practices in the Nordic region, exploring state-of the art science, possible solutions, and discussing how to scale them. This symposium is organized and hosted by the IUNS affiliated societies in the Nordic countries and the Global Action Network Sustainable Food from the Oceans and Inland Waters for Food Security and Nutrition, an Action Networks under the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition.



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PROGRAM	
Opening session	
<b>Welcome</b> by Chairpersons of the Nordic Nutrition Societies	Bryndís Eva Birgisdóttir, Iceland Niina Kaartinen, Finland Camilla T. Damsgaard, Denmark Maria Wik Markhus, Norway
<b>High level opening remarks</b>	Marianne Sivertsen Næss, Norwegian Minister, Norwegian Minister of Fisheries and Ocean Policy (video)  Lynnette Neufeld, President of the International Union of Nutritional Sciences UNS and Director, Food and Nutrition Division, UN Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Keynote	
Advancing Nutrition and Sustainable Food Systems	
<i>Harnessing Systems-Thinking for Sustainable Food System Transformation: A Nordic and Global Perspective</i>	Line Gordon, Director, Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University, Sweden
Balancing Safe Nutritional Adequacy and Sustainability: Lessons Learned from the Nordic Countries for Global Impact	
<i>Climate-Friendly School Meals: Challenges and Successes in the Generation Healthy Kids Study</i>	Camilla T. Damsgaard, Research Group Leader and Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
<i>Transforming Early Childhood Dietary Practices: Insights from the Nordic Model on Nutrient Intake and Sustainability in Diverse Diets</i>	Liisa Korkalo, University Lecturer, University of Helsinki, Finland
<i>Environmental, Health, and Risk Considerations of Aquatic Foods: Balancing Nutrition, Sustainability, and Safety</i>	Amund Maage, Head of Research, Institute of Marine Research, Norway
Panel discussion and Q&A with audience	
Moderated by Bryndís Eva Birgisdóttir, professor, University of Iceland	
Lynnette Neufeld, President of the IUNS & Director, Food and Nutrition Division, FAO  Line Gordon, Director, Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University, Sweden  Camilla T. Damsgaard, Research Group Leader and Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen, Denmark  Liisa Korkalo, University Lecturer, University of Helsinki, Finland  Amund Maage, Head of Research, Institute of Marine Research, Norway	
<b>Closing remarks</b>	Jutta Dierkes, Vice President, Norwegian Nutrition Society