Geneva, Switzerland, 25 June 2018 (updated on 2 July 2018) – The World Food Prize Foundation today announced the award of the 2018 World Food Prize to Dr David Nabarro, Director of 4SD and Dr Lawrence Haddad, Executive Director of the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN).

The Prize was founded in 1986 by Nobel Peace Laureate Dr Norman E. Borlaug. It recognizes those who advance human development by improving the quality, quantity or availability of food.

World Food Prize Foundation President Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn said, "For their extraordinary intellectual and policy leadership in bringing maternal and child nutrition to the forefront of the global food security agenda and thereby significantly reducing childhood stunting, it is truly most fitting that Dr Lawrence Haddad and Dr David Nabarro join the list of illustrious scientists, policy officials and hunger fighters who have been named World Food Prize Laureates over the past 32 years."

Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, said: “Like Dr Norman Borlaug before them, Drs Haddad and Nabarro have dedicated their careers to reducing hunger and malnutrition. Their work has deepened our understanding of nutrition’s impact not only on individual health, but on human capital and economic growth – compelling leaders in countries across the world to invest in evidence-based solutions.”

“Great scientists like Dr Norman Borlaug, and the Laureates he has supported, have always said that wisdom lies with the people,” said Dr Nabarro. “As I react to the news of this wonderful award, I reflect on the many thousands of courageous women and men who are working at the local level to ensure that the food that people eat is produced in ways that are well-functioning, sustainable and just. I am constantly grateful to them for sharing their expertise and experience”.

A medical doctor, international civil servant and teacher, Dr Nabarro has focused on transforming food and health systems so that they work for people and the planet.

Between 1999 and 2017 Dr Nabarro held senior positions within the World Health Organization and the United Nations. He advised three Secretaries-General and coordinated the Scale Up Nutrition movement. Dr Nabarro said: “Throughout my life I have worked within networks of professionals, from many disciplines and multiple organizations, who apply their wisdom within the context of living systems. They constantly adapt the ways they think, act and organize – adapting to the needs of those who they serve“.

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WORLD FOOD PRIZE AWARDED TO DAVID NABARRO AND LAWRENCE HADDAD

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Dr Nabarro left the United Nations in June 2017 to lead 4SD, a Swiss social enterprise to mentor professionals working for sustainable development. He has a part-time position as Professor, Global Health, at Imperial College London.

He said “I have worked with Lawrence Haddad over a decade. He is a courageous leader with an unconditional focus on the wellbeing of all people who constantly demonstrates the power of interdisciplinary science and persuades leaders to prioritize good nutrition. I am honoured to be alongside him as the award is presented later this year.”

Ends.

MEDIA CONTACT: Simon Ruf: simon@4sd.info, +1 917 524 9049

BIOGRAPHY OF DR DAVID NABARRO: Dr David Nabarro secured his medical qualification in 1974 and has worked in over 50 countries – in communities and hospitals, governments, civil society, universities and in United Nations programmes. Between 1978 and 1989 he worked for NGOs and government initiatives in Asia and East Africa. From 1982 he had teaching responsibilities at the London and Liverpool Schools of Tropical Medicine. He served in the British Government in the 1990s, initially in the Foreign Office, and then as head of Health and Population and Director for Human Development in the Department for International Development (DFID).

Dr Nabarro joined the World Health Organization (WHO) in January 1999: his responsibilities covered Malaria, AIDS and TB, and responses to crises. He was then transferred to the office of the UN Secretary-General in 2005. Initially he was responsible for coordinating UN system responses to avian and pandemic influenza: from 2008 he coordinated UN system action on food insecurity and from 2010 he coordinated the Movement to Scale Up Nutrition.

In 2014 Dr Nabarro served as the former UN Secretary-General’s Envoy for the West Africa Ebola outbreak and became an Under-Secretary-General. From 2016 he worked as Special Adviser for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Cholera in Haiti in the office of the Secretary General. Dr Nabarro competed for the role of WHO Director General as UK candidate in May 2017: he left the UN at the end of June 2017.

Dr Nabarro has now joined Imperial College London part-time as Professor, Global Health. He leads a Swiss-based start-up social enterprise (4SD) to mentor professionals working for sustainable development. He advises the Food and Land Use Coalition and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) on food systems issues. He curates the Food Systems Dialogues initiated by EAT, the World Economic Forum and WBCSD.
ABOUT 4SD: Skills, Systems & Synergies for Sustainable Development (4SD Sàrl) is a swiss-based social enterprise providing advice and mentoring to help people change the ways they think, talk, act and lead on Sustainable Development.

ABOUT THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE: The World Food Prize is the foremost international award recognizing the achievements of individuals who have advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity or availability of food in the world. The Prize was founded in 1986 by Dr Norman E. Borlaug, recipient of the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize. Since then, the World Food Prize has honoured 48 outstanding individuals who have made vital contributions throughout the world. The World Food Prize annually hosts the Borlaug Dialogue international symposium and a variety of youth education programs to help further the discussion on cutting-edge global food security issues and inspire the next generation to end hunger.

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