Proposed by the Government of Italy and led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Food Coalition is a multi-stakeholder global alliance, a network of networks which facilitates unified global action in response to and recovery from COVID-19. The Coalition aims to mobilize financial resources, innovation and technical expertise, promote advocacy initiatives and establish a neutral space for dialogue among a diverse body of key stakeholders in support of countries most in need.

The Coalition also represents a strong commitment to the 2030 Agenda. The Coalition will support efforts to help countries get back on track to meet Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2 (end poverty and hunger), and in particular, work to transform agri-food systems, improve nutrition, increase agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale and family farmers, raise standards of living in rural areas, and address disruptions caused by the pandemic and its impact on vulnerable groups, especially women, youth, and indigenous peoples.
The Food Coalition is currently mobilizing support for FAO’s COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme, with operational requirements totaling USD 1.32 billion.

The technical support and policy assistance are designed around the following seven priority areas of work to help countries in the areas of response, recovery and building back better:

1. A Global Humanitarian Response Plan (integral part of the UN Overall Humanitarian Response to COVID-19);
2. Data for decision-making;
3. Economic inclusion and social protection to reduce poverty;
4. Trade and food safety standards;
5. Boosting smallholder resilience for recovery;
6. Preventing the next zoonotic pandemic zoonotic pandemics and a cross-sectoral, multi-actor One Health approach;
7. Food systems transformation.

The Food Coalition will activate high-level political, financial and technical expertise in support of the response and recovery programme, with a focus on country needs and demands.

On 5 November 2020, FAO officially launched the Food Coalition and its web-based hub,¹ which provides access to in-depth information on country needs in the form of Action Sheets.

More than 100 Action Sheets are being developed by FAO’s Country Offices and COVID-19 teams, in close consultation with national governments, decentralized offices and key stakeholders.

Proposals should be multilateral, multi-stakeholder, country-owned and thematic focused, as detailed below:

- **multilateral**: proposals should be presented by a minimum of TWO countries, of which one is a G20 country;
- **multi-stakeholder**: participant countries should ensure that one Non-State Actor (e.g. academia, private sector, civil society, etc.) from each country is included in the inception phase or the implementation phase of the project;
- **country-owned**: the proposals should reflect the need and demand on the ground;
- **thematic focused**: the proposal should focus on one of the four selected priority areas of work listed above.

From April to June 2021, FAO will carry out an assessment of needs, interest and country situation in anticipation of the call for proposal.
MEMBERSHIP

The Food Coalition is open to a broad range of partners, such as national governments, international organizations, civil society organizations, academia and private sector entities.

FAO leads the alliance, facilitates exchanges of knowledge, mobilizes support and acts as a neutral convener for open and transparent dialogues among the Coalition's members.

In order to actively participate as a member, an official letter/email should be addressed to FAO Deputy Director-General, Beth Bechdol, and submitted to the following email address: Food-Coalition@fao.org.

The request for membership will be reviewed by FAO Senior Management, and an official response will be provided.