



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Eightieth Session
Virtual, 13-21 January 2021

MATTERS ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO – PART II

Prepared by FAO and WHO

In 2021, UN Secretary-General António Guterres will convene a Food Systems Summit as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The Summit will launch bold new actions to deliver progress on all 17 SDGs, each of which relies to some degree on healthier, more sustainable and equitable food systems. More details are available here: <https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit>. FAO and WHO are heavily involved in the preparation and would like to share the current state with Codex members.

Food Systems Summit

1. The outcomes of the Summit have been defined as:
 - a) Significant action and commitment to action, with measurable outcomes and impact that enable achievement of the SDGs by 2030. This will include highlighting existing solutions and celebrating leaders in food systems transformation, as well as calling for new actions worldwide by different actors, including countries, cities, companies, civil society, citizens, and food producers.
 - b) Dramatically elevated public discourse about the importance of food systems leading to the achievement of the SDGs and reforms implemented for people and planet.
 - c) A high-level set of principles developed through the process that will guide Member States and other stakeholders to leverage their food systems capacity to support the SDGs. Distilled through all elements of the preparatory process, these principles will set an optimistic and encouraging vision in which food systems play a central role in building a fairer, more sustainable world.
 - d) A system of follow-up and review that will drive new actions and results; allow for the sharing of experiences, lessons and knowledge; and incorporate new metrics for impact analysis.
2. In order to deliver on the outcomes of the Summit, several structures have been put in place including Action Tracks and Food Systems Summit Dialogues.
3. The Action Tracks are tasked to create synergies and solutions at local, national, regional, and global levels and to scale up and to accelerate existing initiatives which align to the Summit Vision and principles. To support this work, the Action Tracks will identify challenges, opportunities, and barriers, with the goal of reaching a multi-stakeholder alignment on actions for transforming food systems. The Action Tracks are:
 1. Ensure Access to Safe and Nutritious Food for All
 2. Shift to Sustainable (and healthy) Consumption Patterns
 3. Boost Nature Positive Production at sufficient scale
 4. Advance Equitable Livelihoods
 5. Build Resilience to Vulnerabilities, Shocks and Stress

- Each Action Track is expected to develop exemplary aligned game changing and systemic solutions and mechanisms that foster, encourage and allow the alignment of initiatives and actions. The implementation of these actions are enabled through policies, institutions, finance, incentives, data, innovation, advocacy, education, and empowerment.
4. Diverse and multistakeholder membership of the Action Tracks is constituted by the Chairs and Vice Chairs. Each Action Track is supported by a UN Anchor Organization.
 5. Member States have been encouraged to engage in the five Action Tracks and are expected to provide on the ground expertise for the direction of the Action Track, promote and advocate for the work of the Action Tracks at governmental level and ensure participation and dialogue across government, host inclusive dialogues for the Food Systems Summit at national level bringing relevant findings into the work of action tracks and leading mechanisms to drive implementation of proposed changes post-Summit.

Table 1 – Action Track Chairs, Vice Chairs and UN Anchor Organizations

	Action Track 1	Action Track 2	Action Track 3	Action Track 4	Action Track 5
	Ensure Safe and Nutritious Food For All	Shift to Sustainable Consumption Patterns	Boost Nature Positive Production	Advance Equitable Livelihoods	Build Resilience to Vulnerabilities Shocks and Stress
Chair	Lawrence Haddad, GAIN (Europe)	Gunhild Stordalen, EAT (Europe)	Joao Campari, WWF (Lat. America)	Michelle Nunn, CARE (N.America)	Dr. Saleemul Huq, ICCCAD, (Asia)
Vice Chair	Godfrey Bahiigwa (Africa)	Ajay Vir Jakhar, Farmers Forum (Asia)	Tosi Mpanu-Mpanu (Africa)	Shakuntala Thilsted, WorldFish, (Asia)	Sandrine Dixon, Club of Rome (Europe)
Youth Vice Chair	Janya Green, 4-H (North America)	Lana Weidgenant Real Food Systems (Latin America)	Lavetanalagi Seru, Alliance for Future Generation (Pacific)	Mai Thin Yu Mon, UN Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (Asia)	Mike Khunga, Scale Up Nutrition Youth Movement, Malawi (Africa)
UN Anchor Organization	FAO	WHO	UNCCD	IFAD	WFP

6. Three iterations of Food Systems Summit Dialogues will take place at three levels between October 2020 and May 2021.

Member State Dialogues:

Organized by National Authorities, involving leaders of food system stakeholder groups, the dialogues will allow participants to explore options for the future of local and national food systems and shape the national pathway to sustainable food systems by 2030. The findings of the Dialogues will be posted on a Dialogue Gateway website and synthesised for input to the work of the Action Tracks towards the Summit.

Global Dialogues:

Organized on behalf of Summit Secretariat a set of dialogues will be convened at high-level international events. They will be an opportunity to explore interconnections of food systems with global action for good nutrition, climate action, biodiversity, the ocean, finance, against desertification, and more.

Independent Dialogues:

Organized by anyone, these dialogues will use toolkits accessed by individuals and organizations to establish multi-stakeholder dialogues. When dialogues follow the Summit principles their findings will be posted on the Dialogue Gateway website.

7. FAO continues to provide its full support to the Special Envoy in the preparatory process towards the Food Systems Summit. The Organization is fully represented in the Governance Structures outlined above with the Director-General a member of the Advisory Committee, the Chief Economist an ex officio member of the Scientific Group, FAO being the UN Anchor Agency for Action Track 1, and the Director, Food Systems and Food Safety Division representing the Organization on the UN Taskforce as well as

(partly) seconded to support the Food Systems Summit Secretariat. WHO is represented by the Assistant Director-General Healthier Populations in the UN Taskforce.

8. FAO hosts the Rome-based part of the Food Systems Secretariat which is focused on ensuring the provision of evidence and knowledge as inputs to the Action Tracks and to the country level Food Systems Dialogues.
9. FAO directly supports Action Track 1 on “Ensuring access to safe and nutritious food” as the UN Anchor Agency. FAO will also support to the remaining Action Tracks through its involvement as a support UN Agency within individual tracks coordinated by the respective UN Anchor Organization, drawing in the extensive knowledge generated by its technical divisions. Similarly, WHO directly supports Action Track 2 on “Shifting to Sustainable (and healthy) Consumption Patterns”.
10. A Scientific Group, with FAO support, is developing a series of papers on, inter alia, definitions and concepts and the modelling of trade-offs intrinsic to food systems.
11. FAO will support the provision of data and evidence on food systems to inform the country level food systems dialogues and through its extensive country office coverage, will provide support the coordination and conduct of the Dialogues.
12. WHO is committed to work with the Action Track 2 members as well as across Action Tracks to ensure that food systems deliver healthy and safe diets and improve people’s health and wellbeing. WHO offers its guidance and guidelines, implementation tools and databases to inform the food systems transformation. WHO will encourage stakeholders to use a health lens when formulating game changing solutions and assessing impact.
13. FAO and WHO jointly lead the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and as such aim to connect, align and leverage the Nutrition Decade’s action networks, accountability frameworks and commitment making process with the Food Systems Summit.