

## **Changing the food system with the youth, for the youth**

Youth is facing a future shaped by our successful, or failed, collective action to tackle hunger, improve access to nutritious food, combat climate change and prevent biodiversity loss. The CFS work is critical for these global challenges, but young people struggle to have meaningful access to decision making platforms, at local to global level. The aim of the event was to facilitate a discussion between CFS stakeholders and young people about how youth can support the work of the CFS and how the CFS can better address the concerns of the young people.

During the event, six young people shared examples of how they are already taking initiative and working on the food system. With innovative tools feedback on questions about how youth can better be included and the key concerns from the youth for the CFS were discussed.

The following lessons came out of the event to:

- Encourage governments to meaningfully engage the youth
- Transparency in governments and sharing information is key
- Solicited input can go a long way towards having more youth involvement.
- Young people can be heard, if the right mechanisms are there
- We have to be intentional and be willing to work together
- Peer to peer learning and capacity building
- Engage young people and to diversify
- Engage with youth on social media
- Host more youth main events

All participants were invited to either support or take part in the [pledge to change the food system](#) by the #ACT4CHANGE, #ACT4FOOD campaign.

## **Quotes by the participants**

*Kervelle Baird: "Young people will feed our future but we must enable them to do that today."*

*Mike Khunga: "Ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for vulnerable populations should be at the heart of every decision-maker and prioritised by UN bodies especially in areas of war conflict and fragile state; Youths on the other hand should be seen as assets to promote sustainable consumption and wellbeing."*

*Pierre Momcilovic: "For adolescent girls the cost of meeting all her nutrients needs can be up to 3.5 times more expensive than the one for the adult man"*

*Jim "Addressing the digital divide by investing in digital infrastructure is crucial to connecting youth to virtual spaces. Doing so reduces any diverse impact of the digital divide on pre-existing socio-economic inequalities. It allows their voices and experiences to be heard and used to shape food systems policies that will benefit youth themselves and their future families."*

### Images to use


**CFS**

**CFS 48**  
 48th Session  
 4 June 2021

**SIDE  
EVENT**







**UN Women**


**Scaling Up  
NUTRITION**  
United Nations - World Food Programme


**Scaling Up  
NUTRITION**  
United Nations - World Food Programme


**Scaling Up  
NUTRITION**  
United Nations - World Food Programme

**SHAPING THE FUTURE  
OF FOOD SYSTEMS  
FOR THE YOUTH  
WITH THE YOUTH**

Our future depends on it!



Kervelle Baird



Mike Khunga



Jim Leandro Cano



Pierre Momcilovic



Dolço Muchanga



Maureen Muketha

Thursday 3 June 2021 - 16:00-17:30 (CEST)

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting window. The main content is a presentation slide titled "Go to www.menti.com and use the code 1332-6330". The slide features a diagram of the "Committee on World Food Security" structure, including boxes for "High level panel of experts", "Member states", "Business", "Advisory Group", "Observers", "Secretariat", and "Primary". A list of "Participants" is also shown, including civil society, Mechanisms, Private sector, Mechanisms, Philanthropic foundations, Research institutions, and UN institutions. Below the diagram, the text reads: "The big question - how to better engage young people in the work of the CFS?".

On the right side of the Zoom window, there is a vertical strip showing a list of participants in the meeting, including names like Maria Pizzini and Abhishek Khadka.

Below the presentation slide, the Zoom meeting controls are visible, including buttons for "Share", "Start Video", "Participants", "Chat", "Raise Hand", "Screen", "Feedback", and a red "Leave" button.

At the bottom of the screen, there is a Menti quiz interface. It shows the Menti logo and the text "Go to www.menti.com and use the code 1332 6330". The quiz question is: "What would you like to ask from the CFS and its stakeholders to help your country reach the SDGs?". There are five answer options, each in a colored box:

- How can we get social agreement for our activity ? (Blue box)
- Involve young farmers in the transition to sustainable food systems (Pink box)
- I suggest CFS partner with the national government youth council where youth can spread the messages of nutrition. (Red box)
- Capacity building for youth (Yellow box)
- We already have the youth who are ready.. funding from higher organisations would be helpful (Green box)

At the bottom of the Menti interface, there is a text prompt: "Press ENTER to pause scroll".