

## 168<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council

### Item 4.1: Food Coalition

FAO appreciates the clarification requested by Australia and would like to confirm that the Food Coalition is a global voluntary alliance and coordination mechanism open to all stakeholders who are interested in supporting coordinated action to safeguard food security and nutrition and promote sustainable agri-food systems transformation in the wake of COVID-19. This flexible coordination mechanism is also suggested and endorsed by G20 for more coherent coordination with the aim to mobilize more financial and political support for response and recovery from the pandemic.

Members could indeed contribute to specific priority areas of work under FAO's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme, as well as to the Food Coalition, considering that one does not exclude the other.

FAO appreciates the comments and suggestions provided by Argentina, and would like to provide the following information in response to the questions:

- 1) The Food Coalition is led by a multi-disciplinary team with active participation of selected technical teams across the Organization for provision of policy and technical assistance support. The technical areas were selected during the G20 process and further include thematic areas under the Matera Declaration.
- 2) The projects promoted through a Call for Proposals (<https://www.fao.org/food-coalition/call-for-proposals/en/>) that was launched in June 2021 at the G20 Joint meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Development and was closed in Florence at the G20 Ministers of Agriculture Meeting. Priority areas of work, as well as the priority areas of the Matera Declaration, are:
  - i. Global Humanitarian Response Plan;
  - ii. Economic Inclusion and Social Protection to Reduce Poverty;
  - iii. Reduction of Food Loss and Waste; and
  - iv. Agrifood Systems Transformation.
- 3) FAO will provide technical and policy assistance support in addition to coordination function for successful implementation and delivery of the projects.
- 4) As a response to COVID-19, FAO launched a comprehensive Response and Recovery Programme designed around seven priority areas of work. The programme helped countries not only address the immediate effects of the pandemic, but also have laid the groundwork for recovery and building back better. The Food Coalition supports this programme by leveraging high-level political and financial resources and technical expertise, with a focus on country-level needs and demands around the above mentioned areas of work (4 out of 7 areas of the comprehensive programme).

The Food Coalition is considered a flexible coordination mechanism under the G20 as response to the pandemic and for improving Food Security and Nutrition, and it will be reporting on its activities to G20 under Indonesian Presidency in 2022.

FAO highly appreciates Japan's interest in the Food Coalition and its support to this initiative since January 2021. Currently, the Food Coalition is finalizing a portfolio of projects including the Members and countries that have submitted proposals, including detailed activities that will be communicated to Members in due course.

FAO appreciates the points raised by Spain and the words of encouragement.

The Food Coalition is a multi-stakeholder global alliance, to facilitate unified global action in response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Coalition aims to mobilize financial resources,

innovation and technical expertise, promote advocacy initiatives. Italy has announced EUR 10 million along with financial support from Israel to this initiative.

With regard to the implementation, on 29 June 2021 at G20 Matera's Ministerial Meetings, FAO launched an official "Food Coalition - Call for proposals" (<https://www.fao.org/food-coalition/call-for-proposals/en/>), which was closed at the G20 Agriculture Ministers Meeting. Through this call a number of interested Members and partners submitted proposals with the technical support of FAO to build cross-country coalitions. A portfolio of ten selected projects, including work plans and budgets, has been selected and will be presented to Members for their political, financial and technical support in response to concrete needs and demands on the ground.

With regard to the UN Food Systems Summit, the Food Coalition is suggested as a mean of implementation for coordination and support to the countries, which is the same for the Hand-in-Hand Initiative and other platforms.

FAO appreciates the comments provided by the European Union and for encouraging the Members to join the Food Coalition.