



# COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

## SUB-COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK

### First Session

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### Livestock-related outcomes of the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit

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## I. Introduction

1. The 2021 UN Food Systems Summit was convened in the context of transforming food systems to get back on track towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Its expected outcomes were: improved public discourse about the importance of food systems; significant and measurable action; a set of principles guiding Member States and other stakeholders; and a system of follow-up and review.

2. This document gives an overview of the Summit process and presents livestock-related outcomes and the potential role of FAO in follow-up actions.

## II. Overview of the Summit

3. The preparatory process comprised five action tracks:

- ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all;
- shift to sustainable and healthy consumption patterns;

- boost nature-positive production;
  - advance equitable livelihoods; and
  - build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress.
4. Out of more than 2 200 innovative solutions submitted, 107 were developed and clustered thematically, resulting in a menu of 59 possible actions to support countries in the implementation of their specific pathways towards more sustainable food systems. From this process, 25 strategic coalitions emerged.
5. During the Summit process, governments and communities held dialogues on food systems. To date, 109 Member States have developed national pathways for food system transformation by 2030. Regional pathways are being developed to address regional focus areas and priorities.
6. Several structures supported the Summit process. A special envoy of the Secretary-General led the process, cooperating with governments and other strategic stakeholder groups. An Advisory Committee, chaired by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, comprised Member State representatives, senior officials of relevant United Nations organizations, international organizations, civil society and the private sector. A scientific group was responsible for the robustness and independence of the science underpinning the Summit and its outcomes. A United Nations task force was appointed to ensure that the United Nations system could deliver on the food systems agenda beyond the Summit. A champions network was encouraged to inspire and facilitate coordinated action before, during and after the Summit. The Summit Secretariat supported the special envoy and each of the Summit's support structures.
7. On 23–24 September 2021, the Summit brought together around 39 000 participants virtually. 165 Member States made statements and 103 Member States submitted national pathways for food systems transformation. Member States and other stakeholders presented more than 300 commitments and almost 30 coalitions, focusing on zero hunger, healthy diets, school meals, food waste, agroecology, sustainable productivity, aquatic foods, decent work and living income, nature-based solutions, resilience and the unlocking of finance and innovation, among others.
8. Strategic coalitions are now linked to five action areas that emerged from the Summit process<sup>1</sup>:
- nourish all people;
  - boost nature-based solutions;
  - advance equitable livelihoods, decent work and empowered communities;
  - build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses; and
  - accelerate the means of implementation.

### III. Livestock-related debates

9. Livestock issues were discussed in the Sustainable Livestock Solutions Cluster as well as in national dialogues. For the Sustainable Livestock Solutions Cluster, a moderator was designated alongside a member of the Summit's Scientific Group to ensure that economic, environmental and One Health aspects were addressed systemically and drawing on science. Many proposed innovative ideas were merged in three position papers:

- Fast scaling of best practices, technology and management: promotes experiences in animal industry and in technologies.
- Grazing for soil, climate and people: focuses on ecosystem restoration, global warming mitigation and food security.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit/news/making-food-systems-work-people-planet-and-prosperity>

- Aligning production and consumption: proposes four solutions for a significant reduction in the global consumption of meat and dairy.

10. These position papers referred to a common statement on the need for sustainable livestock solutions, aimed at easing the work between stakeholders following up on the Summit.

11. In national food system dialogues, livestock policy issues were covered in 90 out of 106 national pathways available online as at 18 October 2021<sup>2</sup>. A general concern was the need to increase livestock productivity as a way to address environmental issues and/or enhance food security and nutrition and healthy diets. Based on analysis of the national pathways, thematic areas that emerged include: in Europe, to further develop the One Health approach, support animal welfare and reduce consumption of meat, dairy products and eggs; in Asia, Africa and the South West Pacific, to endorse equitable livelihoods; and in Asia, to improve food safety and market access, especially international trade. The environmental issue covered a wide range of concepts, including actions towards resilience, nature-positive production, climate mitigation and adaptation, agroecology practices and an improved sustainable use of land.

12. Topics such as gender perspective, social protection, integration between livestock and ecosystems, lack of data and appropriate methodologies for environmental and economic analysis are not adequately reflected in the outcomes of the debates on livestock.

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<sup>2</sup> United Nations. 2021. Food Systems Summit Dialogues Gateway, Member State Dialogue Convenors and Pathways. Cited 18 October 2021. <https://summitdialogues.org/overview/member-state-food-systems-summit-dialogues/convenors/>