

High Impact Initiative; Food Systems

17 September 2023, 1000-1130hours

Session Overview

The High Impact Initiative (HII) session will build on the outcomes of the Food Systems Summit 2021, the means of implementation that had been operating, and the UNFSS +2 Stocktaking Moment 2023, in consideration of remaining time to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The session aims to mobilize commitments from Members for prioritizing their journey of food systems transformation to ensure food security and healthy diets for all as well as that food systems work for people and the planet as described in the report of the United Nations Secretary-General "Progress on food systems transformation since the UN Food Systems Summit 2021". While calling on UN Agencies and all relevant partners to assist countries in this journey, it will build on and advocate for selected means of implementations that would help to accelerate national processes.

Under the agenda of food systems transformation, this HII will act as an overarching, active and inclusive means of implementation. Mobilizing finance, science, data (including geospatial platform), innovative solutions and a robust policy and governance mechanism in support of national needs and in line with the national transformation pathways.

In order to move this High Impact Initiative forward, the session would advocate for and the stakeholders would commit to:

- strengthen the national capacities for nationally owned, led and accelerated transformative processes for food systems.
- prioritize and reinforce selected Initiatives in close partnership with key partners that would advance this ambitious agenda, while bringing data, digital tools, innovation and mobilizing increased and targeted investment.
- take concrete steps on supporting the implementation of the SG's Call to Action for accelerated food systems transformation that was presented at the closing of the UNFSS+2.

Core Messages:

- 1) The Food Systems Summit has enabled a majority of UN Members to reframe their national sustainable development priorities in a holistic and ambitious national programme for food systems transformation.
- 2) The UNFSS+2 has provided evidence that countries are walking the talk of food systems transformation by integrating pathways into development plans, localizing the pathways, revising laws and regulations to support the pathways.
- 3) There are many ongoing initiatives that aspire to support the transition of food systems in line with the SDGs. However, it is necessary to ensure greater coherence, coordination and collaboration, and reduce duplication and burdens on country-level engagement.
- 4) Achieving the SDGs is only possible if we transform our food systems, which helps to accelerate the achievement of all 17 SDGs for people, planet and prosperity, leaving no one behind.

- 5) Food systems are highly context specific and require tailored solutions, targeted investment and evidence-based policy measures and governance structures.
- 6) We need not only focus on productivity gains, but also on reducing the tradeoffs so that we can achieve sustainable food systems. This implies that we need to reduce food loss and waste, understanding the true cost of food, resilience of value chains, the role of trade, the role of digital and space technologies, input markets and soil sustainability, and the importance of social protection with special emphasis on school meals programmes.
- 7) The need of the hour is to focus on capacity development, increased and targeted investment in support of implementation on the ground to obtain maximum returns in terms of poverty and hunger reduction and at the same time assuring the sustainability of our food systems.

Tentative Agenda for the Session

Section of Session	Speakers and Moderators To be confirmed (order of speakers will be defined based on UN Protocol)
<i>High-Level Opening</i>	<p><i>Moderated by Ms Redi Tlhabi</i></p> <p><i>Principals:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>Mr QU Dongyu, FAO Director-General</i> 2) <i>Mr Álvaro Lario, IFAD President</i> 3) <i>Ms Cindy H. McCain, WFP Executive Director</i> <p><i>Heads of State:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>The Honourable Sheikh Hasina, the People's Republic of Bangladesh</i> 2) <i>H.E. Paul Kagamé, the Republic of Rwanda</i> 3) <i>H.E. Leo Varadkar, Ireland</i> 4) <i>H.E. Giorgia Meloni, the Italian Republic</i>
<i>Ministerial Panel Discussion</i>	<p><i>Opening and Moderation by FAO Chief Economist:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>H.E. Suharso Monoarfa, the Republic of Indonesia</i> 2) <i>H.E. Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin, the Swiss Confederation</i> 3) <i>The Honourable Anxious Jongwe Masuka, the Republic of Zimbabwe</i> 4) <i>H.E. Eduardo Izaquarre, the Republic of Ecuador</i> 5) <i>H.E. Mariam Bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri, United Arab Emirates</i> 6) <i>H.E. Jutta Urpilainen, European Commission</i> 7) <i>Ms Agnes Kalibata, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa President</i> 8) <i>Mr Amandeep Singh Gill, UN SG Envoy on Technology</i>
<i>Intervention from the floor</i>	
<i>High-Level Closing</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4) <i>Mr Gerd Müller; UNIDO Director-General</i> 5) <i>Mr Ajay Banga; World Bank President</i>