



HIGH-LEVEL FORUM “TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE, BIODIVERSITY LOSS AND LAND DEGRADATION THROUGH THE RIGHT TO FOOD”

Monday, 12 May 2025, 9.00-17.00h

FAO headquarters, Red Room + Zoom platform

Provisional Annotated Agenda

I. Objective

Climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation all pose significant threats to the realization of the right to adequate food, impacting its accessibility, adequacy, availability, and sustainability core elements. They form a feedback loop, where climate change drives biodiversity loss and both contribute to land degradation. In turn, land degradation weakens the land's ability to withstand climate impacts, making ecosystems less resilient to climate change while contributing to biodiversity loss. This cycle affects particularly persons and groups in vulnerable situations, especially those whose livelihood depends directly on agriculture and natural resources. As agrifood systems are weakened, communities experience greater food insecurity, malnutrition, and poverty.

While agriculture is not the preeminent emitter of greenhouse gas emissions, agriculture and food production and consumption influenced by, among others consumer behavior and food environments, contribute, amongst others, to the total of greenhouse gases and other environmental impacts, including on water quality, quantity and availability and biodiversity. Agricultural and forestry activities of sustainable food systems can contribute to the sequestration of carbon in the soil and to the maintenance of healthy ecosystems and biodiversity.

Addressing the interconnected challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation is crucial for realizing the right to adequate food for all. This is all the more valid in light of the current multiple crises. According to its Multi-Year Programme of Work, “CFS has a key role to play in strengthening coordinated global policy responses between relevant stakeholders to the multiple dimensions of food crises”.

The right to food framework provides a comprehensive, human rights-based approach focused on the structural causes and systemic factors of those interconnected challenges.

The High-Level Forum will contribute to leveraging the CFS's convening power to streamline the right to food framework in Rio Conventions processes.

A Chair's Summary Report on the High-Level Forum will be prepared to feed into the Rio Conventions processes in 2025 and thereafter as well as to inform CFS53. In the long run, further activities could foster the cooperation between CFS and the Rio Conventions, e. g. the

organization of side events at Rio COPs and/or CFS Plenary Sessions respectively or a closer alignment of work programmes.

II. Draft Agenda

09.00 - 09.10

1. Opening Remarks

- CFS Chairperson, *H.E. Ambassador Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile* (5')
- Moderator, *Mr James Stapleton, Senior Strategic Advisor, Bioversity-CIAT/CGIAR*(5')

09.10 - 10.45

2. Setting the Stage: Interlinkages between the Rio Conventions, Food Security and Nutrition and a Human Rights Perspective

- Presentation of note by High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition, *Akiko Suwa-Eisenmann, Chairperson of HLPE-FSN* (10')
- Perspectives from a significantly affected Member Country
 - o *H.E. Ms Maryam Mariya, Minister for Agriculture and Animal Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Welfare, Maldives* (10')
 - o *H.E. Ambassador Bassam Rady, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Rome-based UN Agencies* (10')
 - o *Pakistan* (10')
- Perspectives from a significantly affected constituency, *Ms Rochelle Diver, International Indian Treaty Council* (10')
- Rights-based action in the context of the Rio Conventions, *Mr Volker Türk, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights* (10')
- Q+A (30')

10.45 - 12.00

3. Nexus Building: Integrated Landscape Approaches to Support Rio Conventions and the Right to Food

- Bridging the three Rio-Conventions and the Right to Food through Agroecology, *Ms Madeleine Kaufmann, Senior Policy Advisor, Federal Office for Agriculture, Switzerland* (10')
- Innovation for better Food Security and Nutrition, *Mr A.G. Kawamura, Co-chair of Solutions from the Land* (10')
- Land tenure as a cross-cutting issue, *Ms Marcy Vigoda, Director, International Land Coalition* (10')

- Restoration of degraded agricultural lands, *Mr Lifeng Li, Director, Land and Water Division of FAO* (10')
- Outlook on nexus approaches at COP 30, *Ms Lilian dos Santos Rahal, National Secretary for Food and Nutrition Security, Ministry of Social Development and Assistance, Family and Fight against Hunger, Brazil* (10')
- Q+A (15')

13.30 - 14.00

Coffee break

14.00 - 15.00

Continued: Nexus Building: Integrated Landscape Approaches to Support Rio Conventions and the Right to Food

- Q+A (45-60')

15.00 - 16.00

4. Financing and Investment for the Right to Food in the Context of the Rio Conventions

- The role of International Financial Institutions, *Mr Juan Carlos Mendoza Casadiegos, Director, Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division, IFAD* (10')
- Perspectives of Member Country *Mr Tom Bui, Director, Food Systems and Nutrition Division, Global Affairs Canada*, (10')
- Perspectives of private donors, *Mr Matheus Alves Zanella, Senior Advisor, Global Fora, Global Alliance for the Future of Food* (10')
- Q+A (30')

16.00 - 17.00

5. Conclusion: Outlook on the Role of CFS and its Stakeholders for Strengthening the Right to Food in the Context of the Rio Conventions

- Summary of discussion by Moderator (10')
- Open round for interventions by delegations (30-60')
- Concluding remarks by CFS Chairperson (10')