



Expert Group Meeting on Progress in Achieving SDG 2 in preparation for the 2017 HLPF

Background notes for discussion sessions

DAY ONE

End hunger (SDG 2.1) 12 June 10:00-11:00, UN Conference Room 12

SDG 2.1 by 2030 end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

The proportion of undernourished (hungry) people in the world, as measured by the prevalence of undernourishment (POU) indicator, declined from 15 per cent in 2000-2002 to 11 per cent in 2014-2016, but more than 790 million people worldwide still suffer from hunger. Another measure, the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) provides estimates about the adequacy of people's access to food. The FIES snapshot in 2015 shows that 1 in 5 people in the world is experiencing moderate or severe food insecurity. Food insecurity rates appear to be slightly higher among women than men. People in conflict affected states are up to three times more likely to be undernourished than those who are living in more stable developing countries.

Harmful effects of climate change as well as persistent political instability and conflict result in increased food insecurity and malnutrition. Africa suffers from the highest levels of food insecurity, with close to half the population experiencing moderate or severe levels of food insecurity and more than one in five reporting experiences that indicate a condition of severe food insecurity. Without dedicated efforts to improve access to food, including through inclusive governance and shock-responsive social protection systems, climate and conflict risks could undermine global progress in achieving SDG 2.

Severe food insecurity and malnutrition due to different combinations of environmental stressors, conflict, displacement, and competition over scarce natural resources has affected and will continue to affect many millions of people around the world. The persistent nature of these drivers of intensified food insecurity, and their associated impacts, weakens households' capacity to cope and undermines their resilience. This constitutes today a major humanitarian challenge.

At the core of SDG 2.1 are collective efforts to end hunger and ensure food security and access for all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round. Research demonstrates that hunger can be ended rapidly with a combination of increases in support to small-scale food producers, who are themselves among the most food insecure and vulnerable to crisis, and social protection programmes designed to overcome food access bottlenecks. Supporting countries in strengthening their shock-responsive social protection systems and disaster risk reduction, prevention, preparedness and response capacities in the face of crisis will be of crucial importance, along with a focus on recovering and improving local production among the crisis-stricken and crisis-prone populations.

Building resilience to crisis-related risks and reducing vulnerability must be viewed as both a humanitarian

imperative for saving lives more effectively and a development necessity in ensuring progress towards achieving the SDGs.

Effective collective action to end hunger should support country-led efforts, and must be built on a common understanding of the contexts of hunger in a country and agreement on priority actions to address these contexts. Local contexts provide the parameters for national needs and priorities and for strategic engagement and partnerships in the country.

A lack of dedicated efforts to improve access to food, including through inclusive food security governance, could undermine global progress in achieving SDG 2. Multi-stakeholder partnerships, in particular to strengthen national food systems, are required to achieve SDG 2.1. Enhanced governance and multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms should include inter-sectoral dialogue and support institutional development that encourages stakeholders to work together to develop common solutions towards shared objectives.

Discussion Points

- While the percentage of people suffering from hunger is declining, the absolute number—nearly 800 million people—is unacceptably high. What are the required game-changer actions?
- How can efforts be urgently accelerated to end hunger and malnutrition together (achieve SDG 2.1 and 2.2) by 2030?
- How are the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including displaced and conflicted-affected populations being prioritized so that they are not left behind?
- SDG1 and SDG 2 are intrinsically linked: over 70 per cent of the world's extreme poor live in rural areas and nearly two thirds rely on agriculture as their main source of living, struggle to access productive resources, and are highly vulnerable to climate and other shocks. How can we better integrate policies and actions to address both poverty and hunger (SDG1 and SDG 2)?
- With increasing frequency, millions of women and men have been placed in conditions of severe food insecurity by different combinations of environmental stressors, competition over scarce natural resources, conflict, and displacement. In April 2017, the international community confronts major humanitarian challenges that require urgent attention. What can be done to respond to these current crises in ways that reduce the risk of future food security crises, including the prevention of famine?

Format

One hour of moderated discussion among all participants, with two selected speakers kick-starting the discussion (5 minutes each).

Ending malnutrition (SDG 2.2) 12 June 11:00-12:00, UN Conference Room 12

SDG 2.2 *by 2030 end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving by 2025 the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under five years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons*

Malnutrition today directly affects one in three people globally. Worldwide, about 795 million people still go hungry to bed, approximately 2 billion people suffer from micronutrient deficiencies and nearly 2 billion people are overweight or obese. Approximately 156 million children under 5 are stunted, 50 million are too wasted, and 42 million are overweight, leading to lifelong negative consequences.

Poor diets and malnutrition are the biggest risk factors for the global burden of disease – every country in the world faces serious public health challenges from malnutrition. The double burden of undernutrition and overweight/obesity now affects 57 countries. In terms of economic consequences, the annual GDP losses from

low weight, poor child growth and micronutrient deficiencies average 11 percent in Asia and Africa. Globally, malnutrition, as a result of lost productivity and direct health care costs, could account for as much as 5 percent of global GDP, equivalent to US\$3.5 trillion per year.

Despite marked progress in the fight against malnutrition in recent years, the decline in the prevalence estimates is not fast enough. For instance, at the current rates of decline, anemia targets will be reached in 2130 rather than 2030. Prevention of malnutrition has strong returns on investment – it delivers \$16 in returns on investment for every \$1 spent. Therefore the scale and quality of implementation of policies and programs must be escalated and be equitably achieved across regions, countries, communities and individuals at-risk.

It is with this in mind that, in 2016, the General Assembly declared 2016-2025 the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition. The Nutrition Decade provides an opportunity for all partners to work together, mobilise action and accelerate efforts towards the elimination of all forms of malnutrition and meeting the SDGs by 2030. The primary objective of the Nutrition Decade is to increase nutrition investments and implement policies and programmes to improve nutrition within the framework of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2).

Mechanisms to coordinate actions across sectors are key to successful implementation. Improved coordination and greater investments in nutrition are required from various sectors – health, agriculture, education, food systems, social protection, water, sanitation and hygiene – if malnutrition is to be ended. Policies and programs that provide direct support to high burden and at risk populations need to be combined with programs in other sectors, to address the underlying determinants of malnutrition, such as lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation, in order to help countries achieve progress in multiple SDG goals and targets. The provision of healthy food together with good health services, optimal caring practices and water, sanitation and hygiene are essential for achieving optimal growth and development in young children.

Food systems, in particular, can and should meet most people's nutritional needs, but are increasingly challenged to ensure that all people have access to the diverse foods that contribute to healthy diets and can make informed decisions. Improving food systems to impact positively on nutrition will require innovative ways to improve food value chains but will need to understand and address the broader food environments that influence consumer behavior to prevent both undernutrition and overweight or obesity.

The public and private sector, as well as civil society, have major roles to play in ending of malnutrition. Their collective action should support country-led efforts building on the specific problems and context in a country. Sustainable progress also requires engagement and leadership within communities and significant changes in individual behaviors and practices. Greater engagement in use of technology and social media to measure malnutrition, to expand knowledge and change behaviors related to malnutrition may trigger rapid progress in some contexts.

Discussion Points

- While wasting and stunting are declining steadily in some countries, the problem is declining more slowly, stagnating or even increasing in others. What is needed to accelerate the decline in undernutrition and particularly the inequity in progress?
- Simultaneously the number of people affected by overweight and obesity is increasing rapidly. How can countries effectively and efficiently reduce undernutrition and overweight and obesity simultaneously through promotion of healthy diets and healthy lifestyles?
- Nutrition is central to the SDGs – it is essential for progress in health, education, employment, gender equity and poverty reduction. At the same time, nutrition outcomes are impacted by policies and programs in agriculture, education, social protection, climate change and food systems. How can collaboration or integrated action become a common way of working to end malnutrition?
- How are countries addressing the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons?

Format

One hour of moderated discussion among all participants, with two selected speakers kick-starting the discussion (5 minutes each).

Doubling smallholder agricultural productivity and incomes (SDG 2.3) 12 June 12:00-13:00, UN Conference Room 12

SDG 2.3 by 2030, *double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.*

Small-scale food producers contribute significantly to global food security and nutrition, producing the majority of the food in developing regions – up to 80 per cent and more in many African and Asian countries. They are also responsible for maintaining 85 per cent of the world's biodiversity for food, and are major contributors to environmental services. Despite all this, smallholder farmers, fishers and pastoralists remain disproportionately represented among the numbers living in hunger and poverty: an estimated 63 per cent of the poor work in agriculture in developing countries, the overwhelming majority on smallholder farms.

This situation is particularly unacceptable, considering the demonstrable contribution smallholders can make to promoting food security and nutrition and galvanizing wider inclusive development processes. Increased incomes and productivity of smallholder farmers not only has direct impact on improved food and nutritional security of the poor, but also has the potential of generating demand for upstream and downstream services. As producers invest in their farms, the demand for inputs, machinery, packaging, storage, transport, and of on non-food goods increases, which is vital to kick-start a vibrant rural non-farm sector. This is why significant increases in productivity and incomes among smallholders has been observed to be a key component (particularly in the early stages) of many country-level processes of structural transformation and associated large-scale reductions in hunger and poverty—as observed in many of today's quickly transforming countries as well as in historical experiences from East Asian, Latin American and Europe.

As such, the imperative of providing incentives for smallholders by linking them to fair, transparent and remunerative markets as well as appropriate government interventions enabling them to access productivity enhancing resources (including land, water, energy), inputs, training, capital and financial services emerge as key. So too does the need to reduce the gender gap in agricultural productivity, access to productive resources, and farm/off farm job opportunities. Yield gaps between men and women farmers due to gender unequal access to productive resources approximately 20-30 per cent; women tend to have less access to full time, high-paid jobs in and off farms. Closing this gap could lead to an increase of 2.5 to 4 per cent of agricultural production in developing countries, theoretically sufficient to reduce global hunger levels by 12-17 per cent, and would have direct impact on health, education and nutritional outcomes of rural communities. Strengthening smallholder tenure rights, enabling youth and women to access productive land, fisheries and forests, and reducing risks by greater focus on resilience building will also be imperative.

Discussion points

- What policy approaches and measures are being taken to ensure that smallholders are in a position to benefit from the expanding market opportunities emerging from higher incomes and urbanization?
- What targeted investments and policies are being put in place to ensure smallholders have access to the resources and capacity development opportunities they will need to take advantage of opportunities?
- What policies are needed to create attractive opportunities for youth to engage in productive and profitable farming?
- What are some of the best practices in empowering women farmers and what more needs to be done to

remove the gender inequalities that constrain smallholder productivity and profitability?

Format

One hour of moderated discussion among all participants, with two selected speakers kick-starting the discussion (5 minutes each).

**Ensure sustainable food production systems (SDG 2.4)
12 June 15:00-16:00, UN Conference Room 12**

SDG 2.4 by 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.

Linking sustainable agriculture and food production systems to poverty eradication is crucial to ensuring food security and enhancing the livelihoods of rural poor—who are highly concentrated in degraded and natural resource-poor environments—and restoring, safeguarding and developing natural capital. Given that nearly 80 percent of the world's population suffering from extreme poverty and food insecurity live in rural areas, promoting and supporting sustainable agriculture helps to overcome poverty and food insecurity, promotes sustainable livelihoods for small holder farmers, and can serve as a driver for the achievement of all SDGs.

Promoting effective, sustainable agricultural practices is increasingly urgent given the level of degradation of natural resources in many places, its impact on the poor and vulnerable, and the need to adapt to climate change, which can exacerbate poor conditions and have devastating effects on national efforts to ensure food security. The recognition of the environment and ecosystems as “stakeholders” in our economic system is an underlying principle of a green economy, as is the need to develop knowledge-based agriculture that explicitly recognizes the contributions of ecosystem services. Better policies and more investment are needed from both public and private sources, as well as from both domestic and foreign sources to address this challenge.

This session will explore the relationship between sustainable agriculture, efficient and inclusive food production systems, food security and poverty reduction and identify critical policy areas for action to operate the transition towards more sustainable agriculture and food systems. Special attention will be given to the effect of climate change and resilient agricultural practices. It will seek to raise awareness of the central role that sustainable agriculture can play to stimulate economic growth and combat poverty by showcasing good practices in sustainable agriculture, facilitating the exchange of experiences, and generating new initiatives and partnerships for technology transfer, knowledge sharing and capacity building.

The discussion will focus on agricultural development under conditions of limited natural resources (including water and land) and climate change, and will consider the three dimensions of sustainability: economic, social and environmental (the first two are also discussed in the session on SDG 2.2). Consideration will be given to the development of policies, financial mechanisms and bio-physical management systems aiming to sustainably increase production, and address environmental degradation and climate change. Incentives to apply agricultural practices that maintain healthy ecosystems will also be at the center of discussions.

Discussion points

- What is being done to ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather events and natural disasters and that improve land and soil quality?
- How do we address trade-offs across sustainability dimensions and enhanced policy coherence?
- How do we prioritize the needs of the poor and most vulnerable?
- What is the role of partnership in achieving this target?

- What are the linkages between this target and other SDG targets (SDG 2 and others)?
- What is the role of the means of implementation such as science-policy interface, research, technologies and investments in achieving this target?

Format

One hour of moderated discussion among all participants, with two selected speakers kick-starting the discussion (5 minutes each).

Maintain genetic diversity (SDG 2.5) 12 June 16:00-17:00, UN Conference Room 12

SDG 2.5 *by 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed*

Biodiversity for food and agriculture is among the earth's most important resources. Crops, livestock, aquatic organisms, forest trees, micro-organisms and invertebrates—thousands of species and their genetic variability—make up the web of biodiversity upon which the world's food production depends.

Genetic resources are the raw materials that local communities and researchers rely upon to improve the quality and output of food production. When these resources are eroded, humankind loses potential means of adapting agriculture to new socio-economic and environmental conditions. It is because of their genetic variability that plants, animals, micro-organisms and invertebrates are able to adapt and survive when their environments change. Maintaining and using a wide range of diversity—both diversity among species and genetic diversity within species—therefore means maintaining capacity to respond to future challenges. For example, plants and animals that are genetically tolerant of high temperatures or droughts, or resistant to pests and diseases, are of great importance in climate change adaptation. As countries seek to diversify and adapt their agricultural and food-production systems, the exchange of genetic resources and the interdependence of countries increases.

This session will explore the sustainable management of biodiversity and genetic resources for food and agriculture as a global responsibility reflected in the SDGs. It will seek to foster the use and development of the whole portfolio of biodiversity important to food security and rural poverty alleviation. Consideration will be given to the factors influencing GRFA, including climate change, valuation of ecosystem services, equitable access and benefit sharing, data collection and sustainable use and conservation. The challenge of conserving and sustainably using genetic resources extends across all continents and ecosystems and demands a broad-based response, which will be at the centre of the discussion.

Discussion points

- How best can traditional knowledge on the management of GRFA be captured with the full participation of indigenous people and local communities of farmers, livestock keepers, fisherfolk and forest dwellers?
- How will the effects of climate change impact GRFA, and what priority activities are most needed? How will robust management and conservation of GRFA help build agricultural resilience to climate change?
- What actions can be taken to ensure sustainable use of RFGA, maintaining genetic diversity, preventing a too narrow focus on the development and use of only a few commercial crop varieties and breeds of livestock? How can we encourage diversification?
- What political and financial support is available/needed to encourage in-situ and on-farm conservation of GRFA?
- How do we value the regulating, supporting and cultural ecosystem services provided by locally adapted

plants/animals that are less competitive on the market (provisioning services) as compared to high-performance selected plants/animals raised with high external input?

- How can farmers, livestock keepers etc. that developed the GRFA over millennia partake a) in modern breeding and b) benefit when their material is used, ensuring access and benefit sharing?
- How can more countries be encouraged to collect data, prepare country reports for global assessment? How can they be encouraged to report on the SDG 2.5 indicators through FAO's specialized databases? What hinders them?
- Considering that 2020 is only three years away, how can we accelerate delivery of this target?

Format

One hour of moderated discussion among all participants, with two selected speakers kick-starting the discussion (5 minutes each).

DAY TWO

Interlinkages with other SDGs 13 June 10:00-13:00, Conference Room C

The 17 goals, 169 targets and over 230 indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presents governments and all stakeholders with an immensely rich and flexible framework for action. From the beginning of debate, throughout negotiations of the SDGs up to and after launch of the 2030 Agenda, the challenge of how countries will integrate the SDGs has been approached through innovative approaches and capture of synergies among related SDGs.

SDG 2 calls for integration not only within its five targets and means of implementation, but with all 16 SDGs. Even before negotiations on SDGs concluded, some countries were proposing innovative approaches to integrating SDGs across ministries and agencies in a “whole of government” approach to implementing the 2030 Agenda. As an “entry-point” to integration, SDG 2 provides opportunities different from other SDGs. This session will explore these opportunities for integration.

In 2017, nearly two years into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, there are holistic approaches being taken to implement a sustainable, inclusive and resilient transformation towards hunger-free, nutritious and prosperous food and agricultural systems. As the HLPF background note for SDG 2 observes, countries are following diverse pathways to “domesticate” the SDGs. The strong interlinkages among goals and targets presents numerous challenges, which many governments are addressing through the establishment of national platforms for developing more integrated programmes and policies.

This expert panel discussion will provide selected examples of countries that have worked to link SDG 2 to the other SDGs under review in the 2017 HLPF and between SDG 2 and the other SDGs under review in 2018 and 2019. In addition to country level approaches to integrating the SDGs, there will be examination of the field and landscape level of integration. Interactive dialogue will explore managing complexity of different kinds and levels, with SDG 2 and food systems as a driver for SDG integration as a whole.

Linkages among the SDGs under review in 2017

The interlinkages between SDG 1 to end poverty and SDG 2 to end hunger have received more attention than other interlinkages because the inextricable linkages of poverty and hunger are so well established. The eradication of poverty is essential for ending hunger. Transformation of the food system is needed to generate prosperity for small-scale farmers, providing access to food and ending rural poverty. What is less well addressed is the need for investment in urban-rural linkages to supply urban markets with nutritious and affordable food while expanding economic opportunity for both urban and rural communities.

SDG 2 links to health (SDG 3) are critical, to connect food systems with sustainable diets and healthy foods. The health of the environment is also impacted by the ecological impact of food and farming practices. SDG 2 links to gender equality and empowerment of women and girls (SDG 5) should be at the center of effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as women produce 50 per cent of the world's food and have severe lack of access to resources such as land, credit and information. Infrastructure (SDG 9) such as transportation, distribution and processing is vital to ending hunger and promoting sustainable agriculture, especially in order to create more resilience through diversification in all regions. Oceans (SDG 14) provide 20 per cent of protein to people globally and are critical to the world's sustainable food supply.

Linkages among SDGs beyond the 2017 HLPF

The reality that SDG 2 is related to the other SDGs will be brought home not only in 2017, but also again in 2018 and 2019 when ten other SDGs come under review. SDGs for education, water, energy, decent work, reducing inequality, sustainable cities, sustainable consumption and production, climate change, forests, land biodiversity, and peace all have vital linkages to SDG 2.

The means of implementation for sustainable development (SDG 17), included as cross-cutting each year, is an important way to realize integration of the SDGs on an ongoing basis. Managing the complexity of the integrated 2030 Agenda, however governments and other stakeholders choose to integrate the SDGs, will require innovative approaches. Working across ministries and sectors to account for trade-offs and find synergies has just begun, and there are many lessons to share and to learn from.

A focused effort to address the thematic and cross-cutting interlinkages is required to implement SDG 2. Ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture will require social protection and food systems that are economically efficient, socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable. Country-level experiences will be extremely valuable in examining how the targets and indicators of SDG 2 are linked across the other SDGs under review this year, as well as in the coming years.

Discussion points

- What methods and approaches to link SDG 2 to other SDGs at a national level appear to have promise for lasting effect and present lessons that could apply to other countries?
- What institutional mechanisms or arrangements that combine ministries, programmes, sectors, or stakeholders to integrate SDG 2 with other SDGs appear to be most promising?
- How are countries answering the human and financial resource needs to mount a truly integrated approach to SDG 2 and other SDGs?

Format

This session will include 4 to 5 expert panel presentations (10 minutes each) followed by a moderated discussion among all participants.

Implementing SDG 2 in countries in special situations 13 June 15:00-18:00, UN Conference Room C

The 2030 Agenda states that “the most vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries, LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS deserve special attention, as do countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict countries. There are also serious challenges within many middle-income countries.” It supports the implementation of existing strategies and programmes of action in these countries, including the Istanbul Declaration and Programme of Action, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

SDG 2 is of particular importance to countries in special situations, and its targets seek to end hunger and malnutrition in a way that leaves no one behind, strengthens capacity for food security and sustainable agriculture and builds resilience. SDG target 2.a specifically highlights the needs of LDCs, in calling on the international community to “increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development, and plant and livestock gene banks to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular in least developed countries”.

Agriculture plays a crucial role in almost all LDCs. The agriculture sector employs the largest share of the population in most LDCs, and is directly linked to poverty eradication, rural development and food security, as well as to exports, commodity and production diversification and agro-processing capacity. It is only through access to safe and nutritious food that those living in poverty and most at risk of chronic malnutrition, in particular women, children and the elderly, can improve their health and nutrition status.

The prevalence of undernourishment in LLDCs is estimated to be 76 percent higher than the average of developing countries. LLDCs are exposed to higher and more volatile food prices, and rely heavily on a limited number of mineral resources and agricultural products for their exports. Cooperation between the LLDCs and transit countries is essential for the transport and trade-related issues relevant to achieving SDG 2, and regional cooperation plays an important role.

SIDS face unique and particular vulnerabilities, including their remoteness and the small-scale of their economic activities, their disproportionate reliance on food imports, and their fragile natural resource environments, that together are resulting in a growing food security and nutrition crisis. This crisis is evidenced by persistently high levels of undernutrition coexisting with a rapidly increasing incidence of overweight and obesity and associated impacts of non-communicable diseases.

People in conflict affected states are up to three times more likely to be undernourished than those who are living in more stable developing countries. Around 93 per cent of people living in extreme poverty are living in countries deemed as fragile, environmentally vulnerable, or both. However, twenty million people in four countries—Northeast Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen—are at an elevated risk of famine, and a further 10 million are in crisis. Famine has already been declared in two counties in South Sudan affecting 100,000 people, with another one million on the brink. We are also witnessing the highest number of forcibly displaced people on record as a result of conflict and persecution. According to UNHCR, an unprecedented 65.3 million people around the world have been forced from their homes. A recent WFP publication determined that international migration correlates with the duration of conflict and rates of food insecurity.

Conflict and protracted crises call for specially designed and targeted assistance that addresses the immediate need to alleviate suffering, and boosts resilience and the capacity to absorb, prepare for, and prevent humanitarian disasters, crises and long-term stresses in the future. Climate risks also have disproportionate effects on the poorest and most vulnerable people who are more exposed to climate-related disasters that increase hunger by destroying land, livestock, crops and food supplies and restricting people’s access to markets. Climate change also increases health threats, posing further risks to nutrition status. Without rapid, inclusive and climate-smart development, many more people will be affected by poverty and hunger by 2030.

The 2030 Agenda calls for collective responsibility to perform the adaptation and mitigation work that will help build the resilience of marginalized people living in vulnerable places. The expansion of social protection across the world has been critical for progress towards the international hunger targets. However, about 70 per cent of the world’s population still lacks access to some form of social protection.

Immediate actions may include a range of interventions including emergency food assistance, payment of living wages to agricultural workers, nutrition interventions, cash transfers and other social protection instruments, access to inputs and food price policy interventions. Medium to long-term actions to build resilience and address the root causes of hunger are equally critical, including improved agricultural

productivity and enhanced livelihoods, the conservation of natural resources and ensured access to productive resources; the expansion of rural infrastructure; and strengthened capacity for knowledge generation and dissemination.

As a mechanism for accelerating action to halt and reverse the growing incidence of malnutrition in SIDS, the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in SIDS, a direct follow-up to the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway will be presented at the HLPF in New York. The GAP provides a guidance document to promote more coordinated actions of governments and their development partners in meeting their commitments under the 2030 Agenda.

National efforts in disaster risk reduction and climate resilience that facilitate the achievement of zero hunger, using innovative tools from climate science and finance to link early warning systems with early response mechanisms, and implementing programmes that create productive assets, promote the production of nutritionally diverse foods, diversify livelihood strategies and rehabilitate natural resources need to be supported.

National and regional efforts to advance capacity development, create infrastructure, and mobilize investment are underway, including through South-South cooperation, and public-private partnerships. In keeping with the 2030 Agenda, more collaboration is needed across institutional boundaries at the humanitarian–development and peace-building nexus.

Discussion Points

- How are national-level institutions shifting and adapting to implement the 2030 Agenda and harmonize it with efforts to implement other agreements?
- How are governments working to address the underlying social and economic root causes of distress migration that potentially lead to conflict in developing countries?
- What actions are being taken to increase resilience and address the impact of natural disasters, conflict, and displacement on food security?
- What are the key challenges to building capacity for effective data collection and analysis for monitoring and follow-up of SDG 2, and how can these challenges be overcome?

Format

This session will include 4 to 5 expert panel presentations (10 minutes each) followed by a moderated discussion among all participants.

Means of implementation for SDG 2 13 June, UN Conference Room B

10:00-13:00 Session I: Investment, trade, markets and finance
15:00-18:00 Session II: STI, capacity building, systemic issues

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement, incorporates a broad commitment to mobilize an expanded menu of “means of implementation” (MoI) to achieve transformative change. For SDG 2, these MoI include traditional forms of international cooperation such as official development assistance (ODA) and public financing through international financial institutions and specialized agencies and funds such as IFAD, the GAFSP, the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF). But the concept of MOI also embraces a host of other enablers of change: private investment and transfers; secure tenure or access to productive resources, such as land, fisheries and forests; access to local, national and international markets; science, technology and innovation (STI), including research and development and extension services; capacity development; and policy coordination and support; all of which are underpinned by the need for strengthened partnerships.

The session on means of implementation for SDG 2 will be divided into two parts, although participants are encouraged to recognize and point out important and specific ways in which the two parts are interdependent.

The morning discussion will be devoted principally to the economic themes of investment, finance, trade and markets. Taking as a point of departure recognition that the most important investors in primary sectors are the producers themselves, this session will examine how various institutional actors—governments, IFIs, providers of private banking and financial services—are being mobilized to facilitate investment by post-production processors, distributors and retailers in creating improved market access opportunities for small-scale actors. Linking upstream investment to primary producers' access to markets for differentiated products in turn provides the incentives for producers to invest in new technologies and practices. This targeted focus on smallholder access to markets will help to drive overall investment in food, agriculture and rural transformation to end hunger and malnutrition and foster a transition to sustainable, resilient agriculture and food systems.

An important outcome of this session will be to survey recent developments, including new initiatives and products in the global and regional institutions responsible for promoting investment and trade, and relevant initiatives in the domain of support to rural and agricultural SME investment and finance, and to assess to degree to which these developments have the potential to promote transformative change—including by addressing systemic gaps and obstacles in the overall “ecosystem” for rural and agricultural investments at different levels. The discussion will also seek recommendations for strengthening the public investment focus on agriculture and the rural sector, using social protection and access to financial services to help the rural poor increase productivity and build assets, and linking climate finance to agricultural and rural transformation. The role of smart subsidies that support the transition towards more productive and sustainable agriculture will also be discussed.

The afternoon session will look at complementary issues of means to improve productivity and incomes in a sustainable way, and to create appropriate enabling environments for concerted action, focusing again on the critical role of small scale and family farmers, fishers, foresters and pastoralists as key drivers of change for SDG 2. The panel speakers and subsequent discussion will address how public investments in rural infrastructure and services, including rural roads, irrigation, land restoration and basic services, etc. can enhance the return on private investments by farmers.

Research confirms that investments in STI and R&D linked to improving agricultural productivity offers some of the highest returns for improving the productivity, incomes, and resilience of the rural poor, and for improving the resilience of national food systems to crisis, including climate-induced extreme weather events. Yet public investment in agriculture- and food-related STI is low and declining in most developing countries. A critical priority for achieving sustainable agricultural development and rural transformation under SDG 2 is the emphasis given to ensuring secure access of the poor, especially women, to land and other productive assets, and to improving access to financial services. The question of developing incentives for adoption of more sustainable practices, adapted to local needs and realities, will also be discussed.

A key departure for the 2030 Agenda has been its call for expanded reliance on partnerships, in particular with the private sector, as a primary modality for mobilizing means of implementation. An important objective of the afternoon discussion will be to review practical experiences with partnerships to explore both the positive potential of this modality to support transfers of knowledge and real resources and the need for maintaining clear guidance based on established criteria, procedures, experience and review. Partnerships can serve several important purposes, in addition to mobilizing MOI. Multi-stakeholder partnerships, especially when convened by governments and giving voice to those at risk of being left behind, can help to align all stakeholders around the multiple objectives of SDG 2. UN institutions play a special role, bringing norms, standards, policy guidance (e.g., the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests) and shared data which provide guidance to all actors, as well as clear benchmarks for success. The special role of UN agencies as enablers of partnerships, in other words, depends critically upon their unique contributions to governance of partnerships.

Discussion Points

- What are the major sources and instruments of public and private financing and investment for investment in food, sustainable agriculture, and rural transformation, and what has been done to strengthen their contribution to achieving the objectives of SDG 2?
- What kinds of investments are being made for what purposes, and are they sufficiently balanced and comprehensive to support a transformative systems-level agenda? Are we seeing levels of investment required to promote transformational change?
- How and how well are countries and partners accessing new sources of finance under GEF and GCF to promote more inclusive, resilient and sustainable agriculture in support to food security and nutrition?
- What can be and is being done to improve access of family farmers and the rural poor, especially women and people in vulnerable situations, to improved market opportunities, productive assets and services?
- How can trade be used to create investment opportunities that benefit all stakeholders in food and agriculture systems?
- What actions can be and are being taken to develop markets, and to improve market functioning and market access for food and agriculture producers?
- Who is investing in STI, and how does this investment benefit and improve the resilience of family farmers and the rural poor?
- What are the most compelling examples of “new model” SDG partnerships that mobilize real resources and other means of implementation that directly benefit family farmers, fishers, foresters and pastoralists?
- What are the critical determinants of success or failure of multi-sectoral partnerships to end hunger, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture?
- What, if any, are the special responsibilities and obligations of UN agencies as facilitators and enablers of multi-sectoral partnerships?

Format

The morning and afternoon sessions will each include 4 to 5 expert panel presentations (10 minutes each) followed by a moderated discussion among all participants.