



4th Asia Pacific Food System Transformation Meeting

CONCEPT NOTE

2-3 March 2026

1. Background

In 2021, the UN Food Systems Summit, convened by the UN Secretary-General, aimed to accelerate progress across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through a food systems approach. By leveraging the interconnectedness of food systems with global challenges such as hunger, climate change, poverty, and inequality, the Summit showcased national food systems pathways submitted by appointed National Food Systems Convenors. It also facilitated the formation of coalitions of organizations and institutions to support these pathways and saw the announcement of hundreds of commitments from a wide range of actors.

Since 2021, two global Stocktakes have been convened: the first in Rome (2023), Italy, and the second in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (2025). These Stocktakes brought together national delegations and non-state actors to review progress on country-level food systems transformation and to identify needs and priorities for advancing transformation and achieving the SDGs, culminating in the Secretary General Call to Action. In addition, annual regional meetings have been convened alongside the Regional Sustainable Development Forums, providing platforms for countries and regional actors to exchange best practices and facilitate knowledge sharing.

The UNFSS+4 Secretary-General's Call to Action "From Rome to Addis and Beyond" expanding across six priority areas, urging for countries and partners to grow momentum and investments around 6 priority areas:

1. Urgent Delivery in Complex Settings: Strengthening responses to food insecurity and climate shocks through rapid financing, innovation, and humanitarian support.
2. Dialogue, Policy and Coordination: Deepening implementation of National Pathways, enhancing policy coherence, and strengthening inclusive multi-stakeholder engagement.
3. Finance and Investment: Mobilizing domestic resources and expanding access to public, private, and blended finance aligned with national priorities.
4. Integration: Accelerating solutions that link environmental, economic, and social objectives, such as agroecology, regenerative agriculture, sustainable procurement, and school meals.
5. Science, AI and Technology: Enhancing science–policy interfaces, digital and AI-enabled tools, and access to technologies for resilient food systems.
6. Intergenerational Collaboration: Empowering youth as co-leaders of transformation and strengthening their role in policy processes and innovation ecosystems.



2. Partners

The 4th Asia Pacific Food System Transformation Meeting will be organized by the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub in cooperation with the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO RAP), UNESCAP, and the Regional Networking Group on Food Systems and will be supported by several other agencies.

Partner organizations are invited to:

- Co-lead thematic tracks or innovation labs;
- Announce or scale joint programmes, financing windows, or policy initiatives;
- Support evidence generation, capacity-building, or technology deployment;
- Support the participation of youth, women, or community participation to ensure inclusivity.

In consultation with Members, Partners' contributions will help shape the final agenda and outcomes, ensuring broad ownership and shared accountability for Asia-Pacific's food systems transformation.

3. REGIONAL CONTEXT

The 4th Asia-Pacific Regional Food System Transformation Meeting officially recognized as an Associated Event of the 13th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), aims to accelerate the shift from National Food Systems Pathways (NFSPs) to implementation and investment at scale. In the region, 30 countries have developed National Food System Pathways, of these 5 countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, Timor Leste and Vanuatu) have updated the NFSPs since UNFSS+2.

The 4th Asia Pacific Food System Transformation Meeting will serve as a space to share insights from UNFSS+4 and strengthen coordinated support from the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub and the broader Ecosystem of Support, including UN agencies, Coalitions of Action, civil society, the private sector, academia, and other partners:

- Translate political commitments into coherent, multisectoral action
- Align policy, finance, science, and key members of civil society around country-led priorities
- Respond to persistent challenges highlighted in the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI), including food insecurity, the unaffordability of healthy diets, environmental pressures, climate shocks, and widening inequalities.

4. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the meeting are to:

1. **Enable an interactive knowledge exchange and peer-to-peer learning:** Share key post-UNFSS+4 updates to highlight regional progress, gaps, and priority areas among National Convenors, policymakers, practitioners, and key multistakeholders to exchange knowledge and learning on accelerating food systems transformation (FST). By promoting policy coherence and integrated actions, the session will advance the achievement of SDGs. The event will serve as a platform where countries can present



operationalizing convergence-driven approaches that break down silos and deliver integrated outcomes, including implementation-ready solutions, financing initiatives, and investment instruments.

2. **Strengthen collaboration and partnerships:** Facilitate dialogue among countries and major partners. This includes regional bodies, UN agencies, research institutions, farmer organizations, Indigenous Peoples' groups, youth networks, civil society, SMEs, and financial institutions to advance national food system pathways, identify new financing opportunities, and elevate youth and women's leadership—positioning intergenerational collaboration as a core principle of positive transformation.
3. **Promote scalable solutions and support mechanisms:** Showcase flagship initiatives of the Hub and the Ecosystem of Support, alongside other opportunities to advance country-level food systems transformation, including accelerating financing and innovation through mechanisms such as the 3FS Framework, the Food Systems Accelerator, and blended public–private instruments, with a strong focus on reaching smallholders and local enterprises.
4. **Catalyze implementation and investment at country level:** Translate commitments and policy ambitions into concrete, investable actions by supporting countries to identify priority implementation pathways, de-risk investments, and connect national food systems priorities with available financing windows, investors, and technical assistance. The event will contribute to building a pipeline of bankable, scalable interventions aligned with national pathways, NDCs, SDGs, and long-term development strategies.

5. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

In consultation with national Convenors and responding to national and regional agreed priorities, the outcomes could include the following deliverables:

- Asia-Pacific Food Systems Transformation outcome document, aligning regional and national actions with the UNFSS+4 Call to Action and the APFSD agenda.
- High-level partnership commitments outlining joint initiatives from partners for financing, innovation, and policy support.
- A knowledge compendium capturing replicable country experiences, investment models, and policy instruments to support COP30, the 2027 SDGs Summit, and World Social Summit follow-up processes on food systems transformation.
- Strengthened regional ecosystem of support, including renewed cooperation between governments, the UN system, development banks, and non-state actors.

6. STRUCTURE AND PROGRAMME OVERVIEW OF THE REGIONAL FORUM

The 4th Asia-Pacific Food System Transformation Meeting will span two days (Dates: 2–3 March 2026, Venue: UNESCAP, Bangkok) and integrate plenary sessions, interactive discussions, and peer-learning opportunities to ensure a holistic and inclusive approach.

Draft Program Overview

Time	Session Title & Rationale
DAY 1 – Monday, 2 March 2026	
08:00–08:30	Registration & Welcome Coffee
08:30–09:00	<p>High-Level Opening Session: National Food Systems Pathways as Living Frameworks Welcome remarks and opening statements from UNESCAP, FAO RAP, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub.</p> <p><i>Key messages: Brief overview of the UNFSS+4 and HUB; Evolution of pathways from design to implementation; Positioning pathways as adaptive frameworks in volatile context</i></p>
09:00–10:10	<p>High-Level Roundtable: National Food Systems Pathways in the Policy Landscape Keynote: SOFI findings on regional food security and nutrition challenges (10 min) <i>Guiding questions: Where are pathways influencing real decisions? Where are they still disconnected from planning and budgets?</i> <i>Key focus: Embedding pathways into core policy and planning systems (APFSD priorities, NDCs, NAPs, national development plans) convergence of climate actions, biodiversity, one health</i> National Convenors</p>
10:10–10:40	OFFICIAL PICTURE & COFFEE BREAK
10:40–12:20	<p>High-Level Roundtable: National Convenors – From Pathways to Delivery National Convenors from flagship countries share experiences <i>Guiding questions: Single biggest bottleneck to pathway implementation; Support needed to unlock progress in next 24 months</i></p>
12:20–13:35	LUNCH BREAK
13:35–15:05	<p>Breakout 1: Operationalising National Food Systems Pathways Parallel regional thematic discussions <i>Guiding questions: Which pathway priorities are implementation-ready but under-resourced? Where do trade-offs remain unresolved? Translation of pathway priorities into policies, programmes and partnerships</i></p>
15:05–15:25	COFFEE BREAK
15:25–16:40	<p>Plenary 1: Financing National Food Systems Pathways <i>Guiding questions: What makes a pathway bankable? How can SOFI and national evidence</i></p>

Time	Session Title & Rationale
	<p><i>strengthen investment narratives?</i> <i>Focus: Investment readiness and financing strategies for pathways</i></p>
16:40–17:00	<p>Day 1 Wrap-Up: What Pathways Need Next Consolidation of country messages and priority gaps <i>Key deliverables: Top 3 regional bottlenecks identified; Most urgent support needs; Preview of Day 2 solutions-oriented discussions</i></p>
DAY 2 – Tuesday, 3 March 2026	
09:00–09:15	<p>Day 2 Opening & Recap of Day 1 Brief recap of key messages from Day 1 and transition to solutions-oriented focus</p>
09:15–10:45	<p>Plenary 2: Ecosystem of Support – Aligning Around National Pathways <i>Guiding questions: How can support be better aligned around pathways? What should change in how the Ecosystem operates?</i> <i>Focus: Reducing fragmentation, increasing coherence and speed of UN and partner support</i></p>
10:45–11:05	COFFEE BREAK
11:05–12:35	<p>Keynote: Need assessment - snapshot analysis HUB</p> <p>Breakout 2: Strengthening Pathway Pillars (6 Priority Areas)</p> <p>Deep dives into priority pathway components: (1) Urgent Delivery in Complex Settings (2) Dialogue, Policy and Coordination (3) Finance and Investment (4) Integration (agroecology, school meals, etc.) (5) Science, AI and Technology (6) Intergenerational Collaboration <i>Guiding questions: Which pathway components are ready to scale now? What barriers must be removed first?</i></p>
12:35–13:50	LUNCH BREAK
13:50–15:05	<p>Keynote: TBC</p> <p>Breakout 3: Science, Innovation and Data for Adaptive Pathways <i>Guiding questions: How can science-policy interfaces support adaptive pathways? How can digital tools accelerate delivery?</i> <i>Focus: Monitoring, learning and course-correction using evidence and innovation</i></p>
15:05–15:25	COFFEE BREAK

Time	Session Title & Rationale
15:25–16:20	<p>Keynote: TBC</p> <p>Plenary 4: Youth & Multi-Stakeholder Governance of Pathways <i>Guiding questions: How can participation be sustained beyond events? What decision spaces must open to new actors? How can entrepreneurship be further encouraged?</i> <i>Focus: Institutionalising inclusive governance models for intergenerational impact</i></p>
16:20–17:00	<p>High-Level Closing Plenary: Advancing National Food Systems Pathways (2026–2030) <i>Key elements: Presentation of regional priorities and commitments; Partnership announcements and pledges from partners; Next steps for pathway delivery (2026-2030); Closing remarks from co-organizers and National Convenors</i> <i>Expected deliverables: Regional outcome document; Partnership commitments; Follow-up action plan</i></p>