

UN Food Systems Summit +4 Stocktake

SIDE EVENT REPORT

Accelerating Food Systems Transformation: Why and How

29 July 2025 | 7:45 – 9:00

Organizers and partners: The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), AKADEMIYA2063, GIZ, the Governments of Mozambique, Rwanda, and Somalia, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Side event overview: This high-level side event officially launched the Food Systems Transformation (FST) Accelerator, a multi-partner initiative aiming to help countries transform their food systems by 2030. Ministers, international organizations, financial institutions, and civil society participated, reflecting strong political will. UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed delivered in-person opening remarks, underscoring the urgency of transforming food systems to achieve the SDGs. She highlighted that the Accelerator must overcome financing and partnership barriers to drive investible, scalable change, noting that the stakes are too high for half measures. The office the UN Secretary General issued [this press release](#) based on the event.

List of speakers and key messages

NAME AND TITLE OF SPEAKER	KEY MESSAGES OR/AND RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS
1. Dr. Máximo Torero Cullen , Chief Economist, FAO	Emphasized the value of bringing together multiple strands of FAO's work with governments, NGOs, and the private sector under one initiative.
2. Dr. Lawrence Haddad , Executive Director, GAIN	Stressed the need to accelerate progress on food systems transformation, highlighting both promising examples and the challenges of turning policy into investible action.
3. H.E. Amina J. Mohammed , Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations	Called for greater urgency and welcomed the strengthened collaboration among food systems actors. The DSG emphasized that financing must move quickly and align with national priorities, reaching smallholder farmers, women-led businesses, youth, and underserved communities. She underscored that the Accelerator will serve as a unifying

	platform, cutting through fragmented financing and fostering deep cooperation across governments, the UN, and public–private partners.
4. Mr. Ali Imam Majumdar , Honourable Adviser of the Ministry of Food, Government of Bangladesh	Bangladesh has achieved true integration of food as a central driver in many of its development policies. Progress could be accelerated through deeper collaboration among partners, particularly in mobilizing financing from DFIs.
5. Abdihakim Ainte , Director, Food Security and Climate Change, Prime Minister’s Office, Government of Somalia	Somalia faces more challenges than most, yet even in this context, it must focus on balancing immediate needs with medium-term priorities. In the short term, Somalia needs to deliver more nutrients to vulnerable populations quickly – through fortification and biofortification. Support is essential to scale these efforts, involving both public and private sectors.
6. Hon. Dr Mark Cyubahiro Bagabe , Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Government of Rwanda	The Government of Rwanda has already requested GAIN’s support to evolve its agriculture transformation strategy into a comprehensive nutritious agrifood system strategy.
7. H.E Semereta Sewasew , State Minister for Economic Cooperation, Government of Ethiopia	“We need to have an accelerator mindset.”
8. Dr Ousmane Badiane , Executive Chairperson, A2063	Reinforced the importance of linking government priorities with effective partnerships.
9. Andreas Schaumayer , Head of the Sector Unit, Food Security and Fishery, BMZ	As ODA becomes increasingly scarce, it must be deployed more strategically to leverage and catalyse additional funding from DFIs, IFIs, and the private sector.
10. Takashi Yamano , Principal Economist, Asian Development Bank	The Asian Development Bank is deeply committed to accelerating food systems transformation in Asia. Its focus is on strengthening value chains and supporting public and private sector actors to deliver more nutritious food to those who need it most, while making it more affordable and accessible.
11. Nicole Metz , Senior Knowledge Broker, Netherlands Food Partnership	Announced the Netherlands Food Partnership’s formal support for the Accelerator.

12. Stephanie Sargeant , Youth Advocate, Act4Food	Underscored the importance of giving young people a formal role in food systems decision-making.
13. Federica Diamanti , AVP for External Relationships, IFAD	Announced a USD 2 million grant to support joint work with GAIN in four countries.
14. Afshan Khan , Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement	Supported the Accelerator initiative and called for greater collaboration between all organisations.
15. Shobha Shetty , Global Director, Agriculture and Food, World Bank	“The Accelerator truly embodies the spirit of working together. We are committed and ready to move full speed ahead.”

Overall session summary, conclusions and recommended actions

<p>Key Takeaways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong multi-sectoral alignment on the need for an Accelerator to help countries move from plans to investible actions. • Recognition that blended finance, collective action, and knowledge-sharing are central to success. • Clear willingness from governments, DFIs, and operational partners to collaborate under a shared framework. <p>Next Steps</p> <p>Following the launch, the Accelerator will continue to engage with interested governments and partners to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify priority transformation pathways and investment opportunities. 2. Facilitate connections with DFIs, private sector partners, and operational agencies. 3. Mobilize tailored financing and technical support to drive measurable progress by 2030. <p>Contacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fadoi Chaouki – Senior Manager, GAIN • Ruth van de Velde – Partnership Builder, Netherlands Food Partnership
