

## CHAPTER 3

# SUPPORT FROM THE COALITIONS OF ACTION AND THE ECOSYSTEM OF SUPPORT

A total of 31 self-organizing and independent coalitions emerged from the UN Food Systems Summit. Among these, 27 coalitions responded to a survey conducted by the Hub in May 2022, resulting in the creation of the first Compendium of food systems coalitions of action. The primary purpose of these coalitions is to catalyze the achievement of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—many of them contributing to SDG2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG13 (Climate Action)—through support to national pathways implementation.

As of July 2023, a total of 131 member countries including the African Union, and the European Union are members of one or more coalitions. Coalitions are multi-actor in nature. They are led by Member States, UN Agencies, Funds, or Programmes – or any organisation or group of organisations. On average, a coalition is led by 5 member organisations/countries. Some coalitions also include cities and local entities as members. The Hub has created a digital compendium of coalitions to allow member states and food systems stakeholders and actors to easily locate coalitions of interest and facilitate meaningful and effective engagement.<sup>21</sup>

Assessing the value-addition of coalitions is difficult due to the absence of agreed-upon metrics and the diversity within coalitions. Collectively, however, they have strengthened the follow-up of the UNFSS, albeit to varying degrees.

The stocktaking of coalitions works over the past two years, based on self-reporting, reveals that they primarily focused on three key areas: transferring lessons, best practices, and capacities (89 percent); fostering alignment and coherence (84 percent); and mobilizing energy and political will (79 percent). Additionally, coalitions have worked on catalyzing coordinated investment (69 percent), networking from local to global levels (69 percent), and mobilizing resources (26 percent). Their modus operandi often leaned on support in policy formulation, advocacy, peer-to-peer learning, analytics, and monitoring and evaluation.

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<sup>21</sup> Compendium of Food Systems Coalitions, available at <https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/hub-solution/compendium-of-food-systems-coalitions/en>

**At the global level,** the coalitions play a crucial role in engaging in global policy spaces to emphasize the importance of food systems transformation. To influence international and UN policy documents, prioritize collective action, and mobilize political commitment, coalitions focus on shaping global discourse, ensuring affected people's voices are central in global events and discussions, establishing global action networks, and facilitating knowledge sharing and management.

**At the regional level,** coalitions focused on enabling regional spaces to promote knowledge, experience, expertise, and lessons sharing, in implementing national pathways. These will serve as valuable tools to promote regionalized solutions for addressing country-specific challenges.

**At the country level,** coalitions prioritized efforts on providing technical support for the implementation of national pathways. In 100 countries, the coalitions have provided technical analysis, modeling, and other methods to inform specific policy choices; design food systems strategies, investment plans and bankable business cases to mobilize resources for implementation and facilitated national-level dialogues and capacity building.



The coalitions play an important role in advancing transformation across all Summit Action Areas. Below are some examples:

**Nourishing All People:** emphasizing the importance of access to safe, healthy and nutritious food; supporting school meal initiatives in various countries; advocating for incorporating blue/aquatic foods into food systems transformation efforts.

**Boosting Nature-Based Solutions:** facilitating the adoption of regenerative agroforestry practices and encouraging investments in soil health; developing standardized protocols for measuring food loss and waste, as well as supporting policy formulation and implementation related to agroecological transitions.

**Advancing Equitable Livelihoods and Empowered Communities:** contributing to policy formulation and analytics, particularly around social protection.

**Building Resilience to Vulnerabilities and Shocks:** supporting the integration of resilience actions into national strategies, policies, and plans; providing scientific assessments and operational guidance to address context-based challenges related to vulnerabilities and shocks.

In doing so, they have facilitated the use of **means of implementation** within countries as demonstrated by the following highlights:

- **Financing:** increasing domestic financing by developing sustainable financing strategies and promoting innovative ways of financing; building a major new financing mechanism to support aquatic foods together with private, bilateral, and multilateral donors and investors
- **Innovation:** uniting actors over an action agenda for agricultural innovation; elevating the importance of nature-positive practices and innovation in achieving sustainable and resilient food systems worldwide
- **Science-policy:** translating science into action by cooperation with the private sector and extension agents
- **Capacity development:** initiatives benefiting cross-fertilization and learning among countries
- **Data:** leveraging the capacity and global expertise of the public and private sector to embrace data-driven decision-making and policy implementation



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The coalitions also report encountering challenges that must be addressed for future progress. These challenges include limited interactions with national conveners, coordination gaps among stakeholders, inadequate national policies and lack of policy coherence, difficulties in scaling up successful models, overwhelming demand for support, and limited funding and resources. To overcome these challenges and achieve meaningful impact, coalitions will need to strategically plan their priorities for the next two years, aiming to go beyond incremental change.

One of the primary objectives of creating coalitions was to reduce fragmentation within the food systems ecosystem of support, by bringing together a broad range of initiatives, partnerships, and actors. Fragmentation often leads to an insufficient integration of the complex and dynamic interactions among actors of the food system and between interconnected systems for health, education, social protection, and others.

During 2021-2023, the coalitions strived to foster alignment, minimize fragmentation, and promote collaboration. While they have made a dent in this daunting endeavor and collaborated with each other in many instances, much remains to be done to address fragmentation. To overcome these challenges in the next biennium, coalitions recommend closer interaction and engagement, breaking down barriers, and aligning efforts based on an overarching narrative and vision. They highlight the challenges posed by the costs of coordination and promoting a systems approach to transformation.



Since its establishment, the UN Food System Coordination Hub works closely with coalitions and other actors, serving as a connector, making these support structures more visible to country convenors, and facilitating knowledge and learning generation and exchange. To enhance coordination and strategy in the future, the Hub could further support matchmaking between country needs and relevant coalitions able to provide support. Rationalizing coalitions could help avoid duplication of efforts and ensure targeted approaches that address country priorities efficiently and effectively.

The full potential of coalitions has not fully unfolded, especially at country-level, given the ambitious goals and expectations and the time needed to implement and observe change. Going forward, cross-system collaboration and a systems thinking approach should be strengthened to avoid duplication and fragmentation and to reduce the transaction costs of numerous uncoordinated outreach to countries. Monitoring, accountability, and learning should be further invested into, to transparently assess the impact of the work coalition roll-out, especially at the country level. The current important contributions to transformative action globally, and the promising engagement with regional bodies should be pursued.







## CHAPTER 4

# INTEGRATED SUPPORT FROM THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

### A. The UN Food Systems Coordination Hub and the UN Food Systems Task Force

The UN Food Systems Coordination Hub was established as an immediate outcome of the UN Food Systems Summit to sustain the Summit's follow-up. The Hub articulates its work around 6 Key Functions: facilitation of national pathways implementation, convening of the global ecosystem of support, strengthening the means of implementation, communication, and advocacy for food systems transformations, and thought leadership.

Since its establishment, it has engaged National Convenors, through monthly global food systems solutions dialogues, quarterly regional touchpoints, and regional face-to-face meetings. Country-specific engagements have also facilitated a more granular understanding of country technical and financial assistance needs, allowing to offer multifaceted and tailored assistance, through the mobilization of the existing UN presence, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinators (RCs), as well as by engaging the ecosystem of Support. As of July 2023, the Hub supports 14 projects in a diverse group of countries to support them and the ecosystem of support in fast-tracking the operationalization of their national pathways. In addition, the Hub and its partners developed an innovative tool to map food systems ecosystems of support in countries (institutions and activities), which can support decision-making and coordination efforts by governments, identifying enablers or challenges, areas of synergies and trade-offs and duplications. The ambition is for the tool, which is currently being piloted in one country, to be made available to all countries by early 2024.

Building on the legacy of the UN Food Systems Summit, the Hub also sought to mobilize a broad range of constituencies, including two advisory groups, the Stakeholders Engagement, Networking and Advisory (SENA) Group made up of representatives of Producers, Women, Private Sector, Youth and Indigenous Peoples, and the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) composed of 29 nominated scientists.





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Preparing for the UNFSS+2, the Hub, together with the UN Regional Commissions and other regional partners, organized a series of five regional preparatory meetings: in Niamey (27 February 2023), Beirut (13 March 2023), Geneva (28 March 2023),<sup>22</sup> Bangkok (30 March 2023), and Santiago de Chile (25 April 2023). By engaging in these consultations, which saw the participation of around 800 people, National Convenors, contributed to shaping the vision and roadmap of the UNFSS+2. These five meetings were complemented by the 4th Global Conference of the One Planet network's (10YFP) Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Programme (Hanoi, Viet Nam - 24-27 April 2023), which served as an important pre-UNFSS+2 event.

Over the past two years, the UN Food Systems Task Force, currently co-chaired by UNEP and WHO, and bringing together over 40 UN agencies continued to provide a platform to connect and catalyze transformative actions inside the UN system and coordinating with wider stakeholders to galvanize food systems knowledge and expertise, supporting countries' action.

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<sup>22</sup> <https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/docs/unfoodsystemslibraries/stocktaking-moment/regional-preparatory-meetings/synthesis-report-regional-preparatory-meetings-of-the-unfss-2.pdf>



## B. Support from the UN System at global, regional and country level

UN agencies at Headquarters' level are positioning food systems as a priority and taking concrete steps to integrate them into their core areas of work. This took place among other things through internal redesigns. New divisions and departments were established in FAO (Food Systems and Food Safety Division) and UNIDO (Food Security and Food Systems Unit) for example. Furthermore, new strategies were adopted, such as UNEP's Sustainable Food Systems Strategy<sup>23</sup>, the Multisectoral Action in Food Systems Unit<sup>24</sup>, One Health Initiative<sup>25</sup> or the WHO global strategy for food safety 2022 - 2030.<sup>26</sup> These institutional changes facilitate collaborative interagency work and enable integrated approaches that transcend traditional silos and encompass areas such as ecology, climate, health, nutrition, agriculture, social protection, agribusiness, and education.

Agencies came together to prioritize food systems in important global conferences and meetings such as the UN Ocean Conference, COP15, UN Water Conference, Stockholm 50+, the World Health Summit, and COP27. The UN played an essential role in developing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which includes 23 targets across food systems to reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. The elevation of the topic post-Summit is further evidenced by its increasing prominence at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) remains an essential actor of policy convergence at global level, within the UN System and beyond. A wide range of endorsed integrated policy frameworks and evidence-based recommendations on more than twenty cross-cutting themes (from land tenure governance to climate, protracted crises, youth, food loss and waste, water, responsible investment, nutrition, biofuels, agroecology, smallholders, etc.) offer decision makers and multi-stakeholders precious guidance to adopt a food systems approach through individual sectoral entry points.

UN agencies also issued Calls for Action in response to global food emergencies, food security, and childhood wasting. The Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy, and Finance was also established in response to the far-reaching impacts of the war in Ukraine.

In addition, UN agencies actively collaborated to develop tools and knowledge products such as the multidimensional risk framework developed by ESCAP, WFP, FAO, UNEP, and UNICEF. They worked together to release joint policy documents and plans, including the Joint Plan on One Health led by the Quadripartite FAO, UNEP, WHO and World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH).

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.unep.org/regions/asia-and-pacific/regional-initiatives/supporting-resource-efficiency/asia-pacific-roadmap-7#:~:text=The%20SFSP%20is%20a%20multi,scientific%20institutions%3B%20and%20private%20sector.>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.who.int/teams/nutrition-and-food-safety/multisectoral-actions-in-food-systems#:~:text=The%20multisectoral%20Actions%20in%20Food,chain%2C%20and%20monitors%20policy%20implementation.>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.who.int/teams/one-health-initiative>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240057685>

When it comes to improving financing in food system transformation, UN agencies and other actors made significant investments. The World Bank Group continued with its Food Systems 2030 initiative established in November 2020, IFAD launched its 13th replenishment cycle with a specific focus and ambition to scale up financing for food systems transformation, and a new and innovative Joint SDG Fund Food Systems Window was incubated by the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub and the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat.

UN Habitat, FAO, UNEP, the Local2030 Coalition and many other organizations, worked to strengthen multi-sector partnerships for urban-rural integrated development by local and regional governments with the support of national governments. Collaboration led by UN Women also pushed to advance gender equality within the food systems transformation agenda. In the digital realm, agencies, including IPU, collaborated on the use of AI in agriculture.

The work at the regional level has deepened over the past two years and was greatly enhanced by the emergence of 4 regional platforms: the UN Issue-based Coalition on Sustainable Food Systems in Europe, the Africa Opportunity and Issue-Based Coalition on climate action, resilience, and food systems transformation, the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Task Force on Food Systems and the Asia Regional Networking Group on Food Systems. These regional assets engage with UN Resident Coordinators, UN Country Teams, regional organizations, and countries, to foster collaboration, policy coherence, joint programming, knowledge sharing, capacity development, technical guidance and joint advocacy. They help address regional and cross-border challenges and ensure integration between regional, sub-regional, and national dimensions.

Noticeable examples of regional initiatives include the stocktaking exercises conducted in Europe and Central Asia to analyze the outcomes of the 2021 Summit; the support for the Implementation Plan and Road Map of the African Union Year of Nutrition; the joint publication of the annual Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition reports in the Near East and North Africa region; the coordinated efforts of six UN agencies to support the implementation of national pathways in 16 Latin American and Caribbean countries; or the Gran Chaco Americano initiative, where the governments of Argentina, Bolivia, and Paraguay were supported to adopt a shared vision to transform their food systems, mitigate and adapt to climate change, prevent conflict, and empower Indigenous Peoples.

UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams which were instrumental in supporting countries prepare for the 2021 Summit were also at the frontline of its follow-up. In the immediate post-summit, they intensified their assistance to operationalize national pathways, advance integrated policy on food systems, support the integration of food systems transformation into national development plans and implement joint programs, often with support from the Joint SDG Fund. An increasing number of new generation UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) include food systems transformation within their key priorities. Many UN agencies developed specific guidance to support the mainstreaming of food systems in UNSDCFs. UN Nutrition's guidance to UNCTs focusing on "sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets" offers an interesting example.



## C. The UN within coalitions and the broader ecosystem of support

UN agencies are also actively collaborating through coalitions of actions, with 26 UN agencies directly supporting them, as well as alliances and networks such as the Global Network Against Food Crises. Existing collaboration platforms have also expanded their focus to include food systems. This is the case of the Global Environment Fund-8 Food Systems Integrated Program that seeks to catalyze the transformation to sustainable food systems that are nature-positive, resilient, and pollution-reduced, in partnership with FAO and IFAD. The Green Climate Fund (GCF) also plays a crucial role as a major financing source for transforming food systems and supporting developing countries in achieving their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) towards low-emissions and climate-resilient pathways. In addition, by channeling grants and concessional financing through multilateral development banks (World Bank/IFC, IFAD, AfDB, ADB, IADB) and UN agencies (FAO, WFP), the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) enables its partners to pilot innovative approaches and help finance high-risk and high-impact investments in food systems.

Post-UNFSS+2, the UN will play a critical role in supporting countries to make a more robust use of Means of Implementation to accelerate progress. To enhance the effectiveness and impact of its support, the system should consider establishing a comprehensive joint UN framework on food systems, including a unified reporting framework that would provide guidance on coordinated actions, ensuring alignment among multiple agencies; encouraging capacity-building, collaboration and knowledge exchange among agencies, member states, and stakeholders, to address critical gaps.









## CHAPTER 5

# THE WAY FORWARD: TOWARDS THE SDG SUMMIT AND PRIORITIES UNTIL 2025

In 2021, the United Nations Food Systems Summit issued a powerful call to transform food systems in the context of the Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals. This first global stocktaking teaches us that a great deal can happen in two years on a scale we wouldn't previously believe to be possible.

Today, we find ourselves at cross-roads, with no real alternative than a leap forward through a strong collective coordinated response across several fronts, to guide and focus efforts in the next biennium. Success will be conditioned by unwavering political will from world leaders, and integral commitment by actors and institutions from all sectors and regions, especially those who shape - and must reform - the food systems finance architecture.

### A. Key priorities for the next biennium

**Policies** are the instrument through which governments shape the future of their nation. National policies must give greater attention to leveraging food systems, to contribute to the well-being of all people and of the planet, both in the immediate future and the long term. **National Strategies and Development Plans** can ensure that food systems are at the heart of actions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and for responses to a plethora of ongoing crises. In line with the direction set by National Pathways, sectoral policies and regulations, laws and bills can be revised to operationalize holistic Food System visions. National commitments for the climate (**Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans**), **nutrition or biodiversity**, must be linked to food systems transformation strategies, based on national pathways and vice versa. In addition to efforts to increase the provision of nutritious foods for all, measures to address the burden of **malnutrition** in all its forms should be scaled up through systemic policy action.

**Inclusive and participatory governance** requires a focused commitment to see everyone realizes their right to adequate food. It requires the full engagement of many diverse stakeholders, cross-sector collaboration, and procedures that are both transparent and accountable. Leveraging the **national and subnational dialogues** and creating a framework for them to become an integral, regular and perennial feature of the food systems governance mechanisms at country level has proven to work very effectively in many country contexts and should be pursued.

**Subnational administrations: provinces, districts, cities, and municipalities** play an important role to ensure that the specificities of local food systems and the priority concerns of local communities are well addressed within national efforts. These local priorities should inform local development plans, budget prioritization and the joint cross-sectoral action plans of decentralized administrations and service providers.

Transformations are only as solid as the **knowledge, understanding and capacity** of actors and institutions that drive them. Capacity-building and greater access to expertise (science, innovation, know-how, research, exploration, and innovation), need to be better rolled-out as stark accelerators of transitions.

The 2021 Food Systems Summit called for USD 300-400 billion of additional investment per year to finance the world's transition towards healthier, more equitable and sustainable food systems. While this amount sounds daunting, putting it in perspective relativizes its magnitude, i.e., the estimated market value of the global food industry is around USD10 trillion<sup>27</sup>. Mobilizing, allocating and safeguarding **financing** is critical to enable the transition. Ensuring access to catalytic finance, analyzing current flows of public, private, and concessional finance and regularly assessing whether they are conducive to more sustainable food systems, avoiding sector-based spending patterns, mobilizing blended funding, de-risking investments from the private sector and non-traditional sources, coupled with smart short-term support measures to vulnerable food producers, with continuous review and repurposing of long-term support, can effectively support food systems transformation in the face of constrained fiscal spaces and shrinking ODA.

In a context of accelerated and compounded shocks, it is essential to **combine crisis and long-term response** while tackling underlying structural issues. This is done by building resilience throughout food systems, from production through to logistics, storage, processing, and distribution, and increasing access to social protection, universal healthcare coverage and nutrition, especially for the most vulnerable. Strengthening the humanitarian, development and peace nexus, will be essential in an era marked by recurrent crises, in order to intentionally build more resilient food systems that can withstand multiple risks, vulnerabilities and crisis threatening and affecting countries and communities, especially those in fragile and protracted crisis situations.

**Regional collaboration and regional communities** present untapped potential to amplify national efforts, accelerate context-relevant knowledge sharing and address transboundary issues, particularly around trade. South-South Cooperation, regional collaboration and public-private partnerships have the power to stimulate local and global communities of practice.

Achieving **gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls** can result in greater food security, better nutrition and more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable food systems for all. Gendered solutions are urgently needed to transform food systems. This requires ensuring women's and girls' voice, agency, participation and leadership in shaping food systems.

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<sup>27</sup> The Food Finance Architecture 2021, available at <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/879401632342154766/pdf/Food-Finance-Architecture-Financing-a-Healthy-Equitable-and-Sustainable-Food-System.pdf>



## B. A roadmap for the global ecosystem of support

The rich, diverse global ecosystem of support, which drove much of the Food Systems Summit's thrust, remains deeply committed to leveraging their expertise, resources, and influence for impactful, government-driven transformations. The preparation process to the UNFSS+2 points towards accelerated action in very specific directions.

The effectiveness and impact of **better coordinated Rome-Based Agencies and wider UN support for food systems** could be enhanced through a more robust global framework for integrated delivery that outlines the shared goals, objectives, and strategies for food systems transformation, provides guidance/alignment for coordinated actions among multiple agencies involved, encourages regular communication, and rationalizes structures. Coupled with a common reporting framework defining key performance indicators, data collection mechanisms, and reporting timelines to monitor progress and measure the impact, it will enable stronger joint reporting and enhanced accountability. A resourced Food Systems Window of the Joint SDG Fund will be instrumental in enacting context-specific coordinated delivery of support by UN Country Teams.

Moving forward the Food systems Hub will continue its coordination role and focus its efforts on:

- Strengthening the capacity of the network of National Food Systems Convenors to steer national transformation processes.
- Integrating the Food Systems Ecosystem of Support and provide guidance to Coalitions, the UN Task Force and other relevant actors on how they can align their action in support of national food systems transformation processes.
- Leveraging the Science Ecosystem of Support and the Stakeholders with a view to promote evidence-based and multistakeholder processed for food systems transformation.



The UN System will continue to support and align around the **UN Food Systems Coordination Hub** in deploying the full strength of its convening and capacity development mandate to help Member States deliver on the promise of national development pathways for food systems transformation.

Investing in sustainable food systems by development partners and international financial institutions can go a long way in translating national pathways from vision to resourced action. Supporting **catalytic funding instruments** such as the Food Systems Window of the Joint SDG Fund represents one of the most impactful investments in supporting countries to kick-start solid food system transformation processes. **International Financial Institutions, multilateral development banks, and national development banks**, can be true game changers by decisively increasing access to finance for food systems transformation for countries most in need by applying more flexible and concessional lending rates and expanding borrowing limits. In the context of the reform of the international financial architecture, IFAD and the WB and partner Multilateral Development Banks are raising the attention to the criticality of financing for food systems transformation for the attainment of the SDGs and the Paris climate agreements. The agenda seeks to increase the share of ODA to food systems, increase the capital bases of Multilateral, Regional and National Development Banks and International Financial Institutions providing long-term high concessional financing for food systems, and support the channeling of SDRs to countries most in need through international financial institutions to generate additional liquidity for investment in food systems. Facilitating the access of countries to comprehensive information on funding windows for food systems transformation is a must that should be delivered as an immediate outcome of UNFSS+2.

Learning from best practices in forging effective **multistakeholder**, multi-sector collaboration and policy dialogue will help sustain the necessary process of discovery and trust-building, where Producers, Youth, Women's groups, the Private Sector and Indigenous Peoples' perspective become central. The powerful UNFSS pledges to action by various groups of stakeholder constituencies, from the private sector to food producers, SMEs, and youth have not been fully exploited in countries; it is time to connect the dots between global and national, to deliver concrete results. Actors along the private sector value chain such as SMEs and cooperatives offer significant opportunities for collaboration towards system-based transformation.

**Summit coalitions** have great potential to scale-up systems-based transformations in the next biennium by adopting a systems (cross-coalition) approach in their activities, scaling up successful pilot projects and identifying new solutions to address externalities, elevate political will, commitment, and ambition by bridging the gap between local and global efforts and leveraging existing tools.

Other **global processes** are also mainstreaming food system issues in their agenda. To this extent the recent G7 Summit has continued a stream of work on food security and food systems. In addition to the launch of Food Coalition, FARM (Food and Agriculture Resilience Mission), GAFS (Global Alliance for Food Security) and ELPS (Enhanced Linkages between Private sector and Small-scale producers) initiatives, the "Hiroshima Action Statement for Resilient Global Food Security" issued at the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May 2023 highlights the relevance of this work, in the follow up on to the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 and the UN Food Systems Summit+2 Stocktaking Moment.

## C. Towards UNFSS+4 and 2030: From Rome (UNFSS+2) to NY (SDGs Summit), Dubai (COP28) and beyond

Before it is too late, we must Integrate Sustainable Food Systems transformation objectives across global and national policy discussions, commitments, and targets. Doing so conditions our collective ability to rescue the Sustainable Development Goals. Several milestones pave the way towards 2030: SDGs Summit (September 2023), the Climate COP 28 (November 2023), Nutrition for Growth (2024), the Summit of the Future (2024), as well as the annual High-Level Political Fora and Financing for Development conferences. They are critical in accelerating the convergence of sustainable food system objectives with efforts to reach poverty eradication, health and nutrition, climate, biodiversity, and water goals. They must be strategically identified, leveraged and maximized to speed up collective delivery.

The **Sustainable Development Goals Summit** in September 2023 in New York will provide an immediate opportunity for world leaders and stakeholders to reinforce the link between sustainable food systems and integral development, and due consideration must be given to food systems both in the Summit programme, Declaration, and national statements.

With the **upcoming Climate Summit (COP 28)**, an example of walking the talk on the climate-food nexus is being set by a championing Presidency and a number of front-running countries. A Leaders' Declaration on Food Systems, Agriculture, and Climate Action is under preparation to secure the place of food systems in the climate agenda and COP process over the years ahead, with parallel efforts for Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) to better integrate food systems; to boost non-state actor leadership and action; to scale up climate-smart food systems innovations, particularly of importance for smallholder farmers; and to increase finance for food systems transformation. At non-state level, private and public actors will commit to specific targets and tangible actions in their own contexts, including through a COP28-30 Action Agenda on Regenerative Landscapes currently under development.

Similar opportunities to advance nexus action are offered, amongst others, by the Nutrition for Growth Summit to be hosted in France in 2024; the World Trade Organization's 13th Ministerial Conference in Abu Dhabi in February 2024, in the context of WTO members' commitment to effectively address the challenges facing global trade or the next Conference of Parties on Biodiversity hosted by Türkiye to take stock of the targets and commitments set by the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Leaders steering critical intergovernmental processes can play a unique role in championing the centrality of transformed food systems for other sectoral or overarching sustainable development objectives and strategic partnerships should be forged to steer accelerated integration of sustainable food system objectives in other action-oriented roadmaps and frameworks.





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One such example is the strategic partnership between the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub and the COP28 Presidency, brokered with the objective of establishing a global narrative and roadmap for a synergetic approach focused on food systems transformation and climate action. The goal of the partnership is to convene mutually supportive processes with respect to food systems transformation and climate action in the broader landscape of global events and milestones related to sustainable development, including the 2024 UN Summit of the Future, the first and second UN Food Systems Stocktaking Moments in 2023 and 2025, COP29 in 2024 and COP30 in 2025.

**UNFSS+4** in 2025 will offer the opportunity for the global community to reconvene and assess progress in transforming food systems for sustainable development. With their 2023 reports, countries have offered a granular picture of their strengths, challenges, and ambition for the future. This baseline should enable even deeper analysis of progress and impact achieved during the upcoming biennium, through evolved 2025 voluntary progress reports, which will inform the 2025 Report of the Secretary General on Progress on food systems transformation. In the meantime, regional sustainable development meetings will offer countries a precious platform to convene and continue learning from each other in between biannual stocktaking moments.

The 2025 Stock Taking Moment (UNFSS+4) will take place shortly before the mid-point between the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit and the 2030 horizon. Following a UNFSS+2 oriented towards identifying early signs of transformation, it is imperative that the next biennium witnesses significant acceleration, allowing the next stocktaking moment - UNFSS+4, to focus on measuring impact. This will serve as a compelling demonstration that concerted and decisive action can effectively steer us towards “the world we want”.

