



National Inception Workshop of the Arab Republic of Egypt

## THE UN Food Systems Coordination Hub

### Food Systems Climate Action CONVERGENCE INITIATIVE

Cairo/New Capital City, Egypt | 14 - 16 July 2025

Location: Turquoise Room, St Regis, Al Masa Hotel

#### Draft Annotated Program

Day 1: July 14, 2025			
Time	Agenda item	Objective(s)	Speaker(s)
09:00 – 09:30	<b>Registration</b>		
09:30 – 10:00	<b>Technical workshop opening</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dr Khaled Eltaweel</b>, Senior Programme Coordinator, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub</li><li>• <b>Dr Abdulhakim Elwaer</b> Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Near East and North Africa</li><li>• <b>Ambassador Amira Fahmy</b>, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for International Specialized Agencies and Global Issues</li></ul>
10:00 – 10:45	<b>Workshop Objectives</b>	Overview of the workshop's goals and expected outcomes. Presentation on the global updates of the food systems transformation and the outcomes of the UNFSS+2, and the preparation for the UNFSS+4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dr. Radi Hammad</b>, Head of the Preventive Medicine and Public Health Sector, Ministry of Health and Population - <b>Presentation of the National Food Systems Pathways</b> - Food Systems National</li></ul>



			<p>Convenor/National committee on Food Systems and Nutrition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr Khaled Eltaweel, Presentation on the Convergence initiatives and UNFSS+4</b> - Senior Programme Coordinator, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub</li> </ul>
10:45-11:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
11:00 - 12:30	<p><b>National policies and strategies on food systems and Climate</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Lamia Melegui: Programme Manager UN-Habitat</p>	<p>Overview of the current state of food systems transformation and national climate action policies and strategies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Radi Hammad</b>, Head of the Preventive Medicine and Public Health Sector, Ministry of Health and Population</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Alaaeldin Ewase</b>, Vulnerability Manager, Climate Change Central Department, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), Ministry of Environment, Egypt National Climate Change Strategy 2050, Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans.</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Doaa Nabil</b> , Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade (tbc)</li> <li>• <b>Prof. Dr. Maher Elmaghraby</b>, Undersecretary of the</li> </ul>



			<p>Agricultural Research Center for Production Affairs, , Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (tbc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Mostafa Ezz Elarab</b>, Associate Minister for Community Development Affairs, Coordinator of the Climate Change and Sustainability Unit, Ministry of Youth and Sports</li> </ul>
12:30 - 13:15	<b>Lunch Break</b>		
13:15 – 14:45	<p><b>Overview of Food Systems and Climate Action Initiatives</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Michelle Seck, Food Systems Specialist, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub</p>	<p>Presentation of existing initiatives on Food Systems Transformation (FST) and Climate Action (CA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>FAST Partnership</b> - Mr Ahmed Abdelrahim, Second Secretary Department of Environment, Climate and Sustainability, MOFA</li> <li>• <b>Initiative for Climate Action on Nutrition</b> - Dr Sadhana Bhagwat, Senior Public Health Specialist, Healthier Populations, WHO Egypt</li> <li>• <b>SCALA</b> – Dr Fatma Abouzeid, FAO</li> <li>• <b>Private Sector Engagement for Climate Resilient Food Systems</b> - Ms Yomna Emad, Head of Experimentation, Private Sector Engagement for Climate Resilient Food Systems, UNDP</li> </ul>



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Climate Change adaptation in the Water Sector</b> - Dr. Bisher Imam, UNESCO</li> </ul>
14:45 – 15:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
15:00 – 16:15	<b>UN Perspectives on Food Systems and Climate Action</b>  <b>Moderator (tbc)</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr Mohamed Bayoumi</b>, Assistant Resident Representative at UNDP and Officer in charge - UNDP's Integrated Approach to Climate Adaptive Value Chains</li> <li>• <b>Dr Mohamed Abdelgadir</b>, Head of the IFAD Multicountry Office</li> <li>• <b>Ms Rossella Fanelli</b>, Deputy Country Director and Officer in Charge, WFP</li> <li>• <b>Ms Jacquelyn Pinat</b>, FAO Representative (OiC) Egypt</li> <li>• <b>Mr Ahmed Rezk</b>, Country Director, UN Habitat</li> <li>• <b>Ms Nathalie Meyer</b>, Deputy Representative UNICEF</li> </ul>
16:15 - 16:45	<b>Egypt action: Setting the foundation for food systems and climate change for early childhood</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Abba Elalfy</b>, Deputy Minister of Health and Population for Population and Family Development.</li> </ul>
16:45 - 17:00	<b>Coffee break</b>		



17:00 – 18:30	<b>Opening Keynotes</b>	High-level speakers provide welcoming remarks, offering context for the workshop's purpose, expectations and overarching goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>H.E Mostafa Madbouly</b>, Prime Minister (tbc)</li> <li>• <b>Dr Khaled Eltaweel</b>, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub <i>on behalf of Stefanos Fotiou Director of the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub</i></li> <li>• <b>Ms Elena Panova</b>, UN Resident Coordinator in Egypt</li> <li>• <b>H.E Ambassador Abu Bakr Hefny Mahmoud</b>, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Egyptian Expatriates Affairs</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Mr Alaa Farouk</b>, Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Mr Sherif Farouk</b>, Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Dr Yasmine Fouad</b>, Minister of Environment</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Prof Khaled Abdel-Ghaffar</b>, Deputy Prime Minister</li> </ul>
18:30 onwards	<b>High-level Dinner Hosted by the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub</b>		

#### Day 2: July 15, 2025

Time	Agenda item	Objective(s)	Speaker(s)
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9:00 – 9:30	<b>Welcoming and introduction of the agenda</b>	Agenda Day 2 and Presentation and introduction of the 4 pillars of the Convergence Action Blueprint (CAB) - <i>see below for description of each pillar</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Dr Khaled Eltaweel</b>, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub</li></ul>
9:30 – 10:15	<b>CAB Pillar 1 – Vision and Objectives</b> <i>Breakout group discussions</i>	Participants discuss a shared national vision and strategic objectives for integrating food systems transformation (FST) and climate action agendas (CA), reflecting high-level aspirations for sustainability, resilience, and inclusivity, and emphasizing breaking down policy silos, promoting joint planning, enabling climate-smart financing, and making innovation in FST and CA the norm.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Ambassador Maha Kamel</b> <i>on behalf of the National Convenor of Egypt</i></li><li>● <b>Dr Khaled Eltaweel</b>, Senior Programme Coordinator, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub</li></ul>
10:15 – 10:45	<b>CAB Pillar 1 – Vision and Objectives</b> <i>Plenary report back</i>		
10:45 – 11:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
11:00 – 12:00	<b>CAB Pillar 2 – Key intervention areas</b> <i>Breakout group discussions</i>	<i>Participants discuss what are the key areas and activities needed to take place to be able to better align Egypt’s food, health and climate strategies. Participants will review the needs and challenges nationally; with focus on identifying intervention areas, gaps and risks, and intervention</i>	Facilitated by: Zeinab Awad (IFAD) and Amira Mekheimar (IFAD); Amani Gamal El Din (WFP), Mohamed Eissa (WHO); Yomna Emad (UNDP); UN Habitat, Fatmaelzahraa Abouelzeid, Dalia Yassin, Azza Mohamed (FAO) Dr. Ahmed Dorghamy, Lamia Melegui
12:00 – 12:30	<b>CAB Pillar 2 – Key intervention areas</b> <i>Plenary report back</i>	<i>actions to accelerate convergence.</i>	
12:30 – 13:30	<b>Lunch Break</b>		
13:30 – 14:30	<b>CAB Pillar 3 – Convergence Milestones</b> <i>- Breakout group discussions</i>	<i>Participants in groups identify the milestones of the intervention areas aligned to key strategies, and identify</i>	Facilitated by: Zeinab Awad (IFAD) and Amira Mekheimar (IFAD); Amani Gamal El Din (WFP), Mohamed Eissa (WHO) ;



		<i>interventions to take place in the short (1-2 years), medium (5 years) and long term (&gt; 10 years) - to track progress and ensure accountability in implementing the CAB, reflecting key deliverables</i>	Yomna Emad (UNDP); UN Habitat , Fatmaelzahraa Abouelzeid, Dalia Yassin, Azza Mohamed (FAO) Dr. Ahmed Dorghamy, Lamia Melegui
14:30 – 15:00	<b>CAB Pillar 3 – Convergence Milestones - Plenary</b>		
15:00 – 15:15	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
15:15 – 16:00	<b>CAB Pillar 4 – Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	Presentation on existing monitoring mechanisms in place in Egypt and discussion on fit-for-purpose to monitor convergence	Facilitated by: Zeinab Awad (IFAD) and Amira Mekheimer (IFAD); Amani Gamal El Din (WFP), Mohamed Eissa (WHO) ; Yomna Emad (UNDP); UN Habitat , Fatmaelzahraa Abouelzeid, Dalia Yassin, Azza Mohamed (FAO) Dr. Ahmed Dorghamy, Lamia Melegui
16:00 - 16:45	<b>CAB Pillar 4 - Plenary discussion</b>	Participants discuss the existing indicators and monitoring systems - how can these be improved to monitor their intervention areas	
16:45- 17:00	<b>Wrap-up of Day 2</b>	<i>Summarize key takeaways and outline the next steps.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Mr Khaled Eltaweel</b>, Senior Programme Coordinator, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub</li> <li>● <b>Dr. Abdelrahman Belal</b>, General Director, One Health Department, Ministry of Health and Population</li> </ul>

### Day 3: July 16, 2025

Time	Agenda item	Objective(s)	Speaker(s)
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9:00 – 9:15	<b>Recap of Day 2</b>		
9:15 – 9:45	<b>Discussion on the Drafted Convergence Action Blueprint (CAB) Pillars</b>	The Government will present a draft based on the discussions so far for feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Ambassador Maha Kamel</b> <i>on behalf of the National Convenor of Egypt</i></li> </ul>
9:45 - 10:30	<b>CAB Pillars</b> - Group discussion	Participants discuss the presented CAB draft.	
10:30 – 10:45	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
10:45 – 11:45	<b>CAB Pillars</b> – Plenary discussion	Participants discuss the draft CAB in plenary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Dr Khaled Eltaweel</b>, Senior Programme Coordinator, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub</li> <li>● <b>Ambassador Maha Kamel</b> <i>on behalf of the National Convenor of Egypt</i></li> </ul>
11:45 – 12:30	<b>Closing Next Steps and Way Forward</b>	Conclude with reflections on the workshop, outline next steps for implementation and highlight milestones for future collaboration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>National Committee on Food Systems and Nutrition</b> / Government representative</li> <li>● <b>Dr Khaled Eltaweel</b>, Senior Programme Coordinator, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub</li> <li>● <b>Ms Elena Panova</b>, UN Resident Coordinator in Egypt</li> </ul>
12:30 – 13:30	<b>Lunch Break</b>		





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## About the 4 Convergence Action Blueprint Pillars.

### Pillar I: Convergence vision and objectives

This part will outline the high-level aspiration of the CAB, around a collective working vision to harmonize food systems and climate policies to promote sustainability, resilience, and inclusivity in a way that supports the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement goal *“to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels”* and the FAO Global Roadmap of Achieving SDG 2 without breaching the 1.5 °C threshold.

This will guide the CAB's vision, ensuring it addresses the most pressing challenges in aligning food systems and climate policies to achieve mid-term and long-term sustainability, resilience, and inclusivity. The objectives articulate the specific national goals that the CAB looks to achieve.

### Pillar II: Key convergence interventions

This section should outline the **intervention areas** that can provide the foundation for aligning FST and CA. The intervention areas should address a crucial element necessary for the successful integration of food and climate strategies. Each intervention area should include gaps and risks identified, which further inform proposed interventions in response. This will ensure that the proposed actions are tailored to the specific needs and challenges faced at the national level.

- Intervention area: addresses a crucial element necessary for the successful integration of food and climate strategies, examples include policy coherence, finance mobilization, capacity building, inclusive participation, and accountability.
- Gaps and risks associated with the element that are hindering convergence success.
- Interventions action(s): to respond to the risk identified and to close these gaps, offering concrete pathways for countries to overcome barriers and accelerate convergence.

Together, these areas and interventions create a comprehensive approach to fostering convergence between food systems and climate policies and actions, ensuring both sustainability and inclusivity in national development efforts.

### Pillar III: Convergence milestones

This section will outline key **milestones** that countries can use to track the progress of the CAB. These milestones are aligned with the **pillars** and interventions previously outlined, serving as indicators of success that reflect both short-term and long-term progress and are supported by a workplan. Milestones help ensure that the implementation of the **CAB** stays on track and can be adapted over time to respond to evolving national priorities. By setting clear, measurable milestones, countries can assess the effectiveness of their convergence efforts, ensuring they contribute toward the achievement of the **SDGs** and the **Paris Climate Agreement**.



These milestones may include: Update of national food systems pathways, Update of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs 3.0), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Long-Term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality, and National Biodiversity Strategies (NBSAPs). Joint project on FST and CA, Stakeholder engagement framework in place.

#### **Pillar IV: Monitoring evaluation and accountability**

This section will provide a nationally owned robust monitoring system that enables stakeholders to establish good governance to track progress, identify gaps, and adjust strategies to stay on course. In alignment with national legislation and priorities, KPIs will be determined with national ownership processes, ensuring that convergence monitoring aligns with existing frameworks without imposing additional layers. By regularly assessing the outcomes of convergence initiatives, countries can ensure that they are achieving the desired synergies between food systems and climate goals while also fulfilling their national and international commitments, such as the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement and navigate any potential changes.

This section could include the following topics:

- Metrics for an integrated monitoring and reporting framework with clear key performance indicators (KPIs).
- Reporting mechanisms
- Regular feedback loops for continuous improvement.
- Report on implementation and adjust the plan based on evaluations and emerging insights.