



COP29 side event
Aligning Food Systems, Nutrition and Climate Action
14 November, 09:00-10:00
WHO Health Pavillion
Concept Note

Live streaming link: <https://tinyurl.com/2s4kpn65>

Organizers: UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, Nordic Council of Ministers, WHO, SUN Movement, HDSFS Coalition

About the event

This event will bring together actors from the Government Representatives, Food Systems National Convenors, the SUN Movement and experts to discuss the progress in the interconnection between food systems, climate, health and nutrition.

The event will aim to address:

- **Current State of Nutrition and Climate:** Review the current state of nutrition in relation to climate and environmental challenges and explore ways to drive further progress.
- **Effective Strategies for Integration:** Examine the most effective strategies for aligning food systems and nutrition agendas to enhance climate resilience and food security.
- **Learning from Recent Initiatives:** To extract key lessons for future initiatives.

Background

In 2023, more than one-third of the people in the world - about 2.8 billion people – could not afford a healthy diet. Besides notable progress in Latin America, hunger is on the rise in Africa, whilst Asia remained relatively unchanged. The prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity remains above pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels, with little change in four years. The lack of progress in food security and the uneven progress in economic access to healthy diets cast a shadow over the possibility of achieving Zero Hunger and the World Health Assembly nutrition goals. The 2024 Global Report on Food Crisis highlights those structural weaknesses, exacerbated by conflicts and extreme weather events—including unprecedented temperatures and widespread droughts driven by El Niño—that have significantly impacted food production and security.

Despite these challenges, several initiatives aim to address the links between food systems, health, and the environment:

- **The Nordic Nutrition Recommendations (NNR)** constitute the scientific basis for national dietary guidelines and nutrient recommendations in the Nordic and Baltic countries. NNR2023 integrates both health and environmental aspects. The Nordic countries are now updating their FBDGs and nutrition guidelines based on NNR2023. This will have a big impact on also public meals in schools and health care, as well as public procuring.
- **The Hub's Convergence Initiative and the Food Systems National Pathway:** Empowering Food Systems National Convenors and environmental focal points to collaborate across various thematic areas to promote integrated food systems,

health and climate approaches through the co-development of Convergence Action Blueprints (CABs).

- **Initiative on Climate Change and Nutrition (ICAN):** multistakeholder and multi-sectoral global flagship program launched by the Government of Egypt at COP27. Core partners include WHO, FAO, GAIN, SUN with support from the UN-Nutrition secretariat. Formally hosted as a [climate and nutrition working group](#) under the Alliance for Transformative Action for Climate and Health (ATACH). It aims to catalyze, mobilize, connect and advocate for integrated climate and nutrition action.
- **Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement and Global Gathering 2025:** With 66 member countries and 4 Indian states—collectively known as SUN Countries—the SUN Movement has been a driving force behind national and state efforts to adopt nutrition-sensitive approaches. These approaches tackle both the underlying causes of malnutrition and its direct manifestations through nutrition-specific interventions.
- **Coalition of Action on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems For Children and All:** With a secretariat hosted by FAO, WHO, and the UN Nutrition Secretariat, [this coalition](#) fosters partnerships among Member Countries and stakeholders to promote healthy diets throughout the food systems, while considering all aspects of sustainability. By mobilizing and coordinating expertise and partners, the coalition aligns actions and policies across food systems for collective impact at the country level. It also facilitates peer-to-peer learning between countries and provides strategic and technical support to its activities.

This side event builds on the momentum from COP28 (2023) and reviews progress made in 2024 towards its targets. It also looks ahead to key events in 2025, including the Nutrition4Growth Summit, the UN Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment in 2025 (UNFSS+4), the SUN Global Gathering and COP30. The event aims to ensure sustained action toward achieving food systems, health, nutrition, and climate goals, while exploring how these major initiatives and organizations are creating synergies to amplify their collective impact.

Objectives

1. Present how global governance partnerships such as the HDSFS Coalition and I-CAN movement can translate into practical examples for food systems transformation.
2. Share successful strategies and initiatives targeting food systems, environment and nutrition outcomes, such as the Nordic Nutrition Recommendations, National Food Systems Pathways, UN-Nutrition and SUN Movement.
3. Discuss the successes and challenges of integrating food systems, climate, and health agendas.
4. Promote collaboration among governments, the private sector, civil society, and international organizations to support integrated food systems and nutrition strategies.
5. Discuss priorities and action points for the next Stocktaking Moment 2025 to advance progress towards shared food systems, health, nutrition, and climate goals.

Agenda and Speakers

Moderator: **Ms. Maria Neira**, Director of Environment, Climate Change and Health, WHO and **Mr. Khaled Eltaweel**, Senior Program Coordinator, UNFS Coordination Hub

60 minutes

Time	Topic	Speakers
5'	Opening remarks	Ms. Afshan Khan , Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement (online)
10'	Scene-setting - the current state of food systems, nutrition and climate: catalyzing impact via Global Partnerships HDSFS Coalition and I-CAN Movement	Dr. Nancy Aburto , Deputy Director, Food and Nutrition Division, FAO, (online) Dr. Francesco Branca , Director, Department of Nutrition for Health and Development, WHO (video message)
30'	Discussion on key initiatives and lessons learnt (20') <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nordic Nutrition Recommendations • SUN Movement • UN-Nutrition • Convergence Initiative / FSS National Pathways Key lessons, priorities and aspirations to bring forward to upcoming events/global milestones (10') <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNFSS Stocktaking Moment 2025 (UNFSS+4) • N4G / SUN Global Gathering • COP30 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Annica Sohlström, Director General for Sweden Food Agency (online) • Ms. Gita Sabharwal, UN Resident Coordinator for Indonesia. • Mr. Khaled Eltaweel, Senior Program Coordinator, UNFS Coordination Hub • Ms. Najat Mokhtar, DDG IAEA, UN-Nutrition Chair (wrap up video recording)
10'	Open floor Q&A	
5'	Wrap-up	Mr. Khaled Eltaweel , Senior Program Coordinator, UNFS Coordination Hub