

CFS 53 Side Event

From ambition to action: Building on the UNFSS+4 outcomes for food system transformation

Wednesday, 22 October, 13:30 – 14:45, Green room, FAO HQ, Rome

Organized by

- United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub
- The Government of Ethiopia, ATI
- The Government of Italy
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Brazil
- Major Group for Children and Youth
- Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement

Abstract of side event

The UNFSS+4 took place in Ethiopia in July 2025 amid rising challenges, geopolitical instability, and declining financing. The Summit, co-hosted by Ethiopia and Italy, is guided by the UN Secretary-General's Call to Action to review progress since UNFSS+2 and foster multilateralism, emphasizing collective action and shared responsibility to tackle the current complex challenges, while ensuring that food systems can deliver economic, environmental and nutrition outcomes for better health and wellbeing for all. In this context, aligning efforts across sectors is crucial to ensure a successful transition to more inclusive, sustainable and resilient food systems. Partnerships, sustainable financing and good governance are key pre-conditions for the transformation of food systems and achieving the Right to Adequate Food for All.

The Summit focused on three objectives: reviewing progress, strengthening partnerships and tracking commitments, and unlocking finance for food systems transformation. This side event will explore the UNFSS+4 Secretary-General's Call to Action and the roles of both state and non-state actors in advancing systemic solutions that benefit people and the planet. It will also look ahead to the next two years and explore synergies with other global processes such as Nutrition for Growth (N4G), the Financing for Development Conference, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS53), the World Summit for Social Development and COP30.

Objectives of side event

- Share key outcomes from the UNFSS+4 and regional preparatory meetings.
- Reflect on gaps and opportunities identified at UNFSS+4 to accelerate national-level implementation.
- Explore synergies with CFS policy tools and discuss how they can inform national food systems and nutrition governance.
- Provide a space within CFS53 for feedback, dialogue, and partnerships across stakeholders.

- Foster multi-stakeholder knowledge exchange and highlight successful practices that support more inclusive, sustainable and climate-resilient agrifood systems, including through gender-responsive, youth-led, and Indigenous Peoples'-driven initiatives as well as strengthening the participation of civil society.
- Encourage platforms and partnerships that support place-based action and results-oriented implementation frameworks.

Relevance for the work of CFS

The UNFSS process provides a platform to disseminate and improve the uptake of CFS tools. The UNFSS+4 objectives (reviewing progress, partnerships and tracking commitments and unlocking investments) closely links to the main sessions of the CFS53 plenary, which can provide space for further dialogue, specifically, to reflect and discuss concretely on avenues for uptake of CFS tools, including the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN), the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI), Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition, and the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA) within the food systems national pathways and upcoming UN Food Systems Coordination Hub programmes and activities.

Agenda

Moderator: Khaled Eltaweel, Senior Programme Coordinator, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub

Segment	Speaker
Opening Remarks	Alessandra di Pippo, Head of Office Sustainable growth, food security, the nexus of migrations and development, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mandefro Nigussie, Chief Executive Officer, Agricultural Transformation Institute, Ethiopia
Key Outcomes and Reflections on UNFSS+4	Stefanos Fotiou , Director, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub
Panel Discussion: From Outcomes to Implementation	Maximo Torero, Chief Economist, FAO (video message) Armelle Siopathis, Director for food security and nutrition, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Convenor, Central African Republic Rami Zurayk, Professor of Ecosystem Management at the American University of Beirut, on behalf of the National Convenor of Lebanon Janine Giuberti Coutinho, Advisor, Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition, Ministry of Social Development and Assistance, Family and Fight against Hunger of Brazil

	Joanne Raisin , Director of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Secretariat Nicolás Domke Venegas , Major Group for Children and Youth
Q&A with Participants	
Closing Remarks	H.E. Ambassador Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile , CFS Chairperson