

# Commitment to investment: aligning private sector engagement and nutrition outcomes

**26 May, 09:15 – 10:30 am Rome**

**Sheikh Zayed Centre, FAO Headquarters**

**Registration: [in-Person](#) / [Online](#)**

## Organizers

UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, Access to Nutrition Initiative (ATNI), Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Secretariat, and Global Donor Platform for Rural Development

## Event Summary

Amid a growing nutrition financing gap, this interactive session explores how institutional investors, DFIs, and the private sector can drive healthier and more sustainable food systems. It will examine opportunities to align financial flows with nutrition outcomes with the need for stronger accountability, regulation, and data. Through interactive dialogue, participants will identify practical ways to mobilize responsible investment and ensure private sector actions are aligned with nutrition and sustainability goals.

## Session Background

Achieving healthier, more inclusive, and sustainable food systems requires an urgent and fundamental shift in how both public and private finance are mobilized, aligned, and governed. As underscored in the UNFSS+4 Secretary-General's Call to Action, accelerating food systems transformation demands scaled-up, better-coordinated investments that are aligned with country-led priorities and pathways. While progress has been made toward global nutrition targets, ongoing and compounding crises – including conflict, climate change, rising food prices, and shrinking public budgets—continue to widen the \$128 billion nutrition financing gap. Traditional funding alone is insufficient, making the role of private sector actors and investors increasingly critical in driving transformative change at scale.

Across the food system, the private sector—from multinational corporations to small and medium enterprises (SMEs)—determines what food is produced, processed, and available to consumers. At the same time, investors and development finance institutions (DFIs) influence business decisions, and consequently, nutrition outcomes. As shareholders, lenders, and market shapers, these actors are well positioned to drive improvements in corporate practices, the healthiness of product portfolios, and accountability on nutrition and sustainability.

The private sector is a critical partner in achieving the World Health Assembly Goals and food systems transformation, however, often they face barriers and lack of incentives in delivering nutrition outcomes. Investors are limited in their ability to push for healthier food environments due to limited data on the healthiness of product portfolios, a lack of clear metrics on the financial materiality of nutrition, and insufficient integration of nutrition considerations into investment strategies. These constraints are further compounded by gaps in safeguards and accountability mechanisms. Clear and enabling accountable and regulatory frameworks are critical to standardize nutrition reporting, align incentives, and enhance private sector contributions to improved nutrition outcomes.

International organizations such as the United Nations and NGOs play a critical convening and normative role in addressing these challenges by setting global standards, facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogue, and promoting alignment with international commitments. Global initiatives—such as the Paris Declaration on Business and Nutrition 2030, national and international accountability frameworks and ongoing efforts under UNFSS+4, UN Nutrition, SUN Movement—underscore the importance of aligning business practices and investment decisions with public health and sustainability goals. The question is how.

This session will provide an overview of current financing landscapes and the roles of different actors, highlighting both opportunities and challenges in leveraging business and finance for improved nutrition outcomes. By engaging diverse stakeholders and exploring innovative approaches, the session reflects the “joint action” vision of RNW26—bridging investment, policy, and practice.

### Expected outcomes

- **Strengthened understanding of nutrition as an investment**, understanding the current financial landscape, and the enablers and barriers that can support a conducive environment for financing and investment to achieve nutrition outcomes.
- **Clearer roles and responsibilities across actors**, including institutional investors, impact investors, DFIs, governments, UN and the private sector in advancing healthier food systems.
- **Identification of practical actions and tools**, such as investor stewardship, disclosure, and investment strategies, alongside examples of corporate responsibility and accountability mechanisms.
- **Recognition of critical data, transparency, and accountability gaps**, and the role of initiatives such as ATNI and the Global Nutrition Report, as well as the importance of government leadership, regulatory frameworks, and safeguards.
- **Enhanced dialogue and alignment among stakeholders**, supporting priority actions, partnerships, and next steps to translate global commitments into responsible, country-level implementation for improved nutrition outcomes.

### Agenda

Time	Detail
09:15 – 09:20	<b>Opening and welcoming - Mr Carlos Watson</b> , Director a.i, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub and Office of Sustainable Development Goals, FAO
09:20 – 09:30	<b>Scene Setting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Ms Shibani Ghosh</b>, Independent Expert Group, Global Nutrition Report</li> <li>- <b>Mr Greg Garret</b>, Executive Director, ATNI (online)</li> </ul>
09:30 – 09:55	<b>Panel introduction and discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr Ivan Ivanov</b>, Global Lead for Sustainable Protein Advisory Services, International Finance Corporation</li> <li>• <b>Mr Nicholous Mkisi</b>, Director of Treasury, Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (online)</li> <li>• <b>Ms Darcie Umukundwa</b>, Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture and Finance Consultant, Agricultural Public Development Banks (PDBs) Platform</li> <li>• <b>Ms Hilina Belete</b>, General Manager, Hilina Enriched Foods (SUN Business Network) – (online)</li> <li>• <b>Ms Elisa Gamero</b>, Chief of Health and Nutrition Projects, Office of the First Lady - Presidency of El Salvador; SUN Focal Point and Food Systems National Convenor Support Team</li> </ul> <p>Moderated by: <b>Ms Irina Zodrow</b>, Head of Partnerships and Financing, SUN Movement Secretariat</p>
09:55 – 10:25	<b>Interactive Session: Liberating Structures</b> – reflection from participants and panel  Moderated by: <b>Ms Katherine Pittore</b> , Director of Policy and Communications, ATNI
10:25 – 10:30	<b>Closing Remarks and Call to Action – H.E. Ms Elske Smith</b> , Netherlands Permanent Representative (The Netherlands as Co-Chair of the Global Donor Platform on Rural Development)