

THE FOOD SYSTEMS SOLUTIONS DIALOGUES 2026

Background

The UN Food Systems Coordination Hub hosts virtual Food Systems Solutions Dialogues (FSSDs) as a collaborative platform for National Convenors and food systems stakeholders to discuss and exchange experiences, reflect on challenges, and advance practical solutions for sustainable food systems transformation. The dialogues build upon the global commitments and outcomes of the UN Food Systems Summit +4 Stocktake and the Secretary-General's Call to Action, empowering National Convenors to develop coordinated and actionable strategies for the implementation of national pathways. The Dialogues facilitate technical deep dives, peer exchanges, and country-led reflections on challenges and opportunities and aim at strengthening the operational capacity of National Convenors as they drive forward their countries' food systems agendas.

Audience

National Food Systems Convenors and their support teams, UN Resident Coordinators, Members of Permanent Representatives in Rome and UN agencies at regional and country levels.

Format

Each Food Systems Solutions Dialogue will be structured in two 1.5-hours (90mins) sessions, in the morning and in the afternoon (CET/CEST) to accommodate different time zones. The morning session will be held in English with interpretation in Arabic, Chinese and Russian. The afternoon session will be held in English, with interpretation in French and Spanish. Both sessions will be hosted over Zoom¹. Each session will include keynote speech(es), panel discussion(s) and an interactive session where National Convenors will have the opportunity to respond to some guiding questions. To enable in-depth discussion of the dialogues' technical focus and to foster peer-to-peer learning and reflections on key lessons learned, the number of keynote speakers/panelists will be kept to a maximum of 2-3 per session.

¹ **DATA PROTECTION NOTICE:** Kindly note that we will be using Zoom to deliver the session which will be recorded for knowledge sharing purposes. Please read the Zoom Privacy Statement (<https://explore.zoom.us/en/privacy/>) for information on how personal data is being processed by Zoom. The recording will be stored on FAO Sharepoint, processed and disseminate it for internal use only according to the [FAO Data Protection Policy](#). For more information on how FAO processes your personal data, please read [FAO Data Protection and Privacy Notice](#).

Date	Session	Objective	Time (CET/CEST)
Wednesday, 25 March 2026	Food systems approach in practice – building policy coherence across agendas	This Dialogue is organized in collaboration with the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Secretariat and the FAO Agrifood Systems and Food Safety Division (ESF). It aims to explore how a systems approach can be operationalized at country-level to strengthen policy coherence, joint planning and design processes, and inclusive governance across national food systems and nutrition agendas. Drawing on the framework presented in FAO’s new publication, “Transforming Food and Agriculture Through a Systems Approach,” and elevating country experiences, the dialogue will take a deep dive into innovative food systems and nutrition governance mechanisms in countries, including the role of the SUN Focal Point, SUN multi-stakeholder platforms, and National Food Systems Convenors. Through concrete country examples, it will examine how these institutional arrangements can help to bridge sectoral silos, enabling more integrated decision-making and joint action across ministries, stakeholders and initiatives.	08:00-9:30 CET (English with interpretation in Arabic, Chinese and Russian) 16:00-17:30 CEST (English with interpretation in French, Spanish)
Wednesday, 13 May 2026	Leveraging cities, municipalities and urban stakeholders to advance food systems	This Dialogue will focus on the critical role of cities, municipalities and urban stakeholders in driving food systems transformation, recognizing that urban areas are increasingly shaping food demand, consumption patterns, nutrition outcomes and market dynamics. The Dialogue will explore innovative solutions for how national and local governments can work together to align urban food policies with national food systems priorities. Through country and city-level experiences, the session will examine practical entry points for local action, including sustainable public procurement,	08:00-9:30 CEST (English with interpretation in Arabic, Chinese and Russian) 16:00-17:30 CEST (English with interpretation in French, Spanish)

		territorial food planning, support to short value chains, and inclusive urban food governance mechanisms. Particular attention will be given to how National Convenors can engage municipalities and metropolitan authorities as strategic partners, strengthen multi-level coordination, and leverage urban innovation to accelerate progress across food systems outcomes.	
Wednesday, 10 June 2026	Data and technology to inform policy development and monitoring across national food systems priorities	This Dialogue will explore how countries can practically use data and technology to design, track, and course-correct food systems policies in line with national priorities and global commitments. Moving beyond conceptual discussions, the session will surface concrete use cases of how integrated data platforms, digital dashboards, early warning systems, modelling tools, and monitoring frameworks are already shaping decision-making across food systems. Drawing on initiatives such as the Food Systems Countdown Initiative, UNDP MEL frameworks and the Joint SDG Fund, the dialogue will examine how diverse data sources can be translated into actionable intelligence for policymakers. The session will explore how these tools are being used to set and prioritize food systems policy targets, monitor implementation progress and trade-offs, identify risks and inequalities, and strengthen accountability and adaptive policy responses. The session will facilitate cross-country learning on data governance, including institutional arrangements, interoperability, and partnerships that enable trusted, timely and policy-relevant data use. The session aims to support National Convenors in leveraging data and technology as strategic assets for coherent planning, accountability and adaptive policymaking.	08:00-9:30 CEST (English with interpretation in Arabic, Chinese and Russian) 16:00-17:30 CEST (English with interpretation in French, Spanish)

<p>Wednesday, 16 September 2026</p>	<p>Financing and investment packaging for food systems transformation</p>	<p>This Dialogue will focus on strengthening countries' national capacity to mobilize, restructure, and unlock financing for food systems transformation. The session will explore how national food systems priorities can be translated into financing frameworks and investable, bankable projects, highlighting required institutional and technical capacities and best practices for unlocking emerging financing opportunities. The Dialogue will focus on the growing role of Public Development Banks (PDBs) in unlocking financial flows for food systems transformation, in line with the UN Secretary-General's UNFSS+4 Call to Action, which emphasizes scaling finance through PDBs, IFIs, and MDBs, behind country priorities and strengthening inclusive coordination mechanisms at country level. The session will draw on the experience of the Agri-PDB Coalition, representing 138 public development banks across 96 countries, with approximately USD 2 trillion in assets and accounting for nearly two-thirds of public financing to agriculture. Discussions will cover innovative financing models and instruments, including blended finance, concessional loans, and grants.</p>	<p>08:00-9:30 CEST (English with interpretation in Arabic, Chinese and Russian)</p> <p>16:00-17:30 CEST (English with interpretation in French, Spanish)</p>
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Wednesday, 11 November 2026	From global commitments to national action: Integrating the Rio Conventions for sustainable food systems	This Dialogue will highlight best practices for leveraging synergies among the three Rio Conventions – the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – to drive sustainable food systems transformation. It will also examine how these conventions can collectively accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and deliver transformative, systemic outcomes. Building on recent COP outcomes, the Dialogue will explore how countries can translate global commitments into concrete, integrated food systems action.	08:00-9:30 CEST (English with interpretation in Arabic, Chinese and Russian) 16:00-17:30 CEST (English with interpretation in French, Spanish)
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