

# How are National Food Systems Transformation Pathways being adapted to ongoing shocks in Food, Energy and Finance Systems?

## Concept Note for Touch Points with National Convenors

### Summary

The **UN Food Systems Coordination Hub**, together with the **FAO Office of the Chief Economist** and the Food Workstream of the **UN Secretary-General's Global Crisis Response Group**, will convene a series of **five** dialogues with National Convenors on the above captioned subject. Each meeting will be organized on a Regional Basis<sup>1</sup>, one for the UN Member States in each of the five FAO regions, with the involvement of Regional Offices of the agencies that currently support the Hub, and other appropriate regional membership bodies. Invitations will also go to Permanent Representatives to the Rome-based agencies, from participating UN Member States, UN Resident Coordinators, and UN country teams. The meetings will be focusing on the following blocks questions and will be based on an interactive discussion:

- 1. What is the impact of the shocks on the national pathway and ongoing food systems transformation processes?**
- 2. What are the measures taken to mitigate and build resilience to the shocks mentioned?**
- 3. What are the measures taken to protect the most affected and most vulnerable?**
- 4. How are stakeholders involved in the response?**

*Proposed dates:*

Region	Day	Timing (CEST)	Languages (English in all sessions)	Registration Link
<b>Near East and North Africa</b>	Thursday 7 July	1200 - 13:30	+ Arabic, French	<a href="https://bit.ly/NearEast_NorthAfrica">https://bit.ly/NearEast_NorthAfrica</a>
<b>Asia and the Pacific</b>	Friday 8 July	07:00 - 08:30	+ Chinese	<a href="https://bit.ly/8July_AsiaPacific">https://bit.ly/8July_AsiaPacific</a>
<b>Europe and Central Asia</b>	Friday 8 July	12:00 - 13:30	+ Russian	<a href="https://bit.ly/Eur_CentralAsia">https://bit.ly/Eur_CentralAsia</a>
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	Friday 8 July	16:00 - 17:30	+ Spanish, French	<a href="https://bit.ly/LatinAm_Caribbean">https://bit.ly/LatinAm_Caribbean</a>
<b>Africa</b>	TBC	16:00 - 17:30	+ French	

## *Proposed outline of each session*

Time	Theme	Presenters/Moderators
00:00-00:03	Introduction and setting the scene	Stefanos Fotiou
00:03-00:10	Emerging issues on global food security	Maximo Torero
00:10-00:15	Regional updates on food systems follow up	TBC
00:15-00:25	Updates from the UN Global Crisis Response Group and introduction of the questions for the breakouts	David Nabarro
00:25-01:10	Breakouts	Moderators TBC
01:10-01:25	Plenary discussion	David Nabarro
01:25-01:30	Closing and next steps	Stefanos Fotiou

## Background

Overall, 163 Member States, including 77 Heads of State and Government, made statements at the Summit speaking to the importance of food systems in advancing the 2030 Agenda nationally and globally. 148 Member States appointed Convenors leading national dialogues, and 116 have so far submitted National Pathways for food systems transformation that offer a basis for realizing the vision of the 2030 Agenda at country level, in particular country contexts with a range of stakeholders.

At the Food Systems Pre-Summit in July 2021, and the Food Systems Summit in September 2021, Ministerial and national statements from UN Member States already reported that COVID, climate change, conflict, cost increases and supply chain factors were resulting in shocks to food systems. These shocks have become more pronounced in 2022 due to the impact of conflict in the Black Sea region.

In mid-March 2022, the UN SG established a [Global Crisis Response Group](#) (GCRG) to provide early warnings of countries exposed to system shocks, as well as the peoples and places most likely to be affected by the interplay of these system shocks. The [GCRG's second brief](#) was released on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

## Moving forward

Since the September 2021 Food Systems Summit, to advance the transformation of food systems in line with the SDGs, convenors and their teams have been developing and making use of national pathways, as well as drawing on existing policies and strategies. In many cases the convening teams are working across sectors, engaging multiple stakeholders, at subnational, national, and regional levels. In the light of evolving systems shocks, convenors are revising and adapting their pathways, policies, and strategies, while, at the same time, seeking ways to continue delivering on their commitments for sustainable development and climate action.

The effects of system shocks are particularly felt by people in low- and middle-income countries, all over the world, especially those that are currently, or have recently been, affected by violent conflict. Poor people in high income countries are also especially vulnerable.

As the national authorities of some Member States seek to avert, or at least minimize, the impacts of systems shocks, they look for opportunities to partner with others, including entities within the UN system, financing institutions, development partners, the private sector, farmer organizations, women's groups, and civil society.

### Questions to be explored:

The dialogue meetings will last for 1.5 hours each. There will be interpretation between UN languages as needed. After a short introduction from the Director of the Food Systems Coordination Hub and a co-lead of the food workstream of the UN Global Crisis Response Group (5 minutes each), there will be period of at least 50 minutes within which national convenors, or their nominees, will be invited to present their updates: it is intended that there will be at least five minutes available for each convenor to present as well as opportunities for discussion.

Facilitated breakout rooms will be arranged if necessary. There will be an opportunity for experiences in the breakouts to be shared with the wider participation in the dialogue meetings through short feedback by pre-identified rapporteurs. The session will finish with a 5-minute wrap-up by the Director of the Food Systems Coordination Hub, Stefanos Fotious.

In preparing their updates, convenors are invited to consider whether some of the following questions might be relevant to their situations.

**1. What is the impact of the shocks on the national pathway and ongoing food systems transformation processes?**

(a) Are the shocks to food, energy and finance systems influencing the development and implementation of the pathways, as well as of other policy and strategy processes? Are the pathways being adapted? How is this being done?

**2. What are the measures taken to mitigate and build resilience to the shocks mentioned?**

(a) Are there new approaches being adopted to increase the production, and consumption, of local foods while building resilience?

(b) Are there efforts underway to reduce food loss and waste?

(c) Are there changes in the pattern of food imports?

(d) Are there changes in the ways in which seeds, fertilizers, machinery, and other inputs needed for food production are being used?

**3. What are the measures taken to protect the most affected and most vulnerable?**

- (a) Are initiatives being introduced to protect the nutrition and well-being of people who are most exposed to increases in the cost of living?
- (b) Are initiatives being introduced to protect the well-being of family farmers, smallholders, food systems workers?
- (c) Are initiatives being introduced to protect small- and medium-agribusiness enterprises?

#### **4. How are stakeholders involved in the response?**

- (a) How are local authorities, civil society, non-governmental organizations, businesses, farmer organizations, indigenous peoples, being involved?
- (b) How are regional bodies, UN system entities, financial institutions, and the summit coalitions, being involved?
- (c) Are there other aspects of each national authority's response to systems shocks that should be considered?

Convenors are encouraged to develop and share written submissions of up to 500 words ideally before the meeting they expect to attend: this will be helpful if there is any problem with connectivity. Written submissions will be incorporated into the record of each meeting.

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<sup>i</sup> Regional distribution based on the five FAO regions