

Food Systems Stock-taking Moment 2023

DRAFT Concept Note for the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Europe and Central Asia (ECA)

28 March 2023, Geneva, Switzerland

Palais des Nations, Room XIX

Co-organized with the Issue-Based Coalition on Sustainable Food Systems

Summary

As part of the preparations for the first Food Systems Stocktaking Moment (STM) scheduled for 24-26 July 2023, the **UN Food Systems Coordination Hub** plans to convene a series of five regional Preparatory Meetings in coordination with the five Regional Commissions, the UN Regional Coordination Platforms, the UN Development Cooperation Office (DCO), the regional Issue-based Coalition on Sustainable Food Systems, the Regional Offices of the Rome Based Agencies, and other agencies that currently support the Hub, and other appropriate UN and regional bodies, respectively.

The Preparatory Meetings are primarily targeting National Convenors from the respective regions and their teams, UN Resident Coordinators and members of UN Country Teams, and other relevant stakeholders.

The Preparatory Meetings seek to build awareness and momentum toward the STM, serve as opportunities to consolidate regional learning, and identify emerging promising patterns and solutions across the different regions.

The Preparatory Meetings build on the regional touch points organized by the Food Systems Coordination Hub for National Convenors between 13 and 17 December 2022 where National Convenors welcomed the STM as an opportunity to intensify the momentum for food systems transformation and to report on the progress made since the 2021 Food Systems Summit.

Background on the Stock-taking Moment (STM)

The UN SG has committed in his Statement of Action and Chair's Summary of the UNFSS to convene "*a global stock-taking meeting every two years to review progress in implementing the outcomes of this process and its contributions to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. This will be supported by the RBAs, the broader UN System and partners.*" The first of these Food Systems Stocktaking moments (FS STM) should take place in 2023.

The HLPF 2022 Ministerial Declaration also included a paragraph (#128) on the UN Food Systems Summit and the Coordination Hub, in which the Member States have "*encouraged the relevant United Nations actors and the Hub to consult with countries on the format and modality of the 2023 stocktaking moment*".

In order to strategically feed into a number of processes, including the 2023 SDGs Summit in September 2023, the Stock-taking moment is planned to be organized on 24-26 July 2023 in Rome, Italy.

The STM will primarily give space to countries to report on the progress they have made in implementing their food system transformations including the identification of best practices, bottlenecks, and capacity needs. The STM does not foresee to be another Summit creating new commitments but demonstrating countries', stakeholders' and UN action toward food systems

transformation and achievement of SDGs, learning from and scaling-up successful approaches, and discussing corrective action when progress is insufficient.

Structure and Objectives of the Regional Preparatory Meeting for ECA

The Regional Preparatory Meeting for the ECA region will be a one day meeting to be held on 28 March 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland in the margins of the annual UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. In addition to creating convergence and generating efficiencies, bringing the National Convenors to the regional meeting will have the added-value of exposing them to the latest developments on Sustainable Development in Europe and Central Asia, allowing them to further interact with the “systems” implications of their mandate and the interconnected nature of food systems transformation and the realization of the SDGs. Their participation will also allow them to connect and network with a wide range of sustainable development actors present at the regional meetings.

Expected Outcome

This regional meeting will serve as a platform for the sharing of experiences, good practices, and lessons learned in National Convenors’ efforts to follow-up to the Summit in the European and Central Asia Region including through the operationalization and implementation of their National Pathways. In addition, participants will be invited to identify and build a consensus on priority actions and key messages for each region to be synthesized in the form of a short document, to drive actions towards accelerated transformation of food systems for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The key messages will serve as the collective regional input to the 2023 Stocktaking Moment.