

**Information Note to Permanent Missions and Permanent Observers to the United Nations on the
2023 United Nations Food Systems Stocktaking Moment
(2023 Stocktaking Moment)**

The Secretary-General committed in his Chair Summary and Statement of Action on the United Nations Food Systems Summit (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.” The first of these Food Systems Stocktaking Moments should take place in 2023.

On behalf of the Secretary-General, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy, Mr. Antonio Tajani, announced on Friday, 3 February 2023 that the 2023 Stocktaking Moment will take place in Rome, Italy from 24 to 26 July 2023, on the premises of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), hosted by the Government of Italy, in collaboration with the Rome-based Agencies of the United Nations (FAO, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP)), the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub and the wider United Nations system.

Following this announcement, the Deputy Secretary-General, the Director-General of FAO and representatives of the Principals of IFAD and WFP, met at FAO in Rome and agreed on further steps. The Executive Office of the Secretary-General is issuing this Information Note to inform Member States and key partners on main aspects of the organization of the 2023 Stocktaking Moment.

Objectives of the Meeting

The aim of the 2023 Stocktaking Moment is to provide opportunities for countries to report on progress made at the national level since the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit and their contributions to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, despite a current global context that has substantially changed.

Just a few weeks before the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Summit, the 2023 Stocktaking Moment will highlight the biggest transformative potential of the 2030 Agenda and the different pathways that should be followed to accelerate progress and put the world back on track by following a systemic integrated approach that addresses multiple goals simultaneously, taking advantage of positive synergies with other targets while resolving or ameliorating the negative trade-offs with yet others.

Outcome

The 2023 Stocktaking Moment will build momentum for implementation of national food system transformation pathways developed in the context of the 2021 Food Systems Summit and bring together countries, stakeholders and the Food Systems Ecosystem of Support to report on the progress they have made, but also highlight and commit to address bottlenecks through bolder action. To support countries presenting their achievements, challenges and next steps, the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub (The Hub), hosted at FAO, will provide a template for voluntary reporting by the countries. Similar templates will be developed for presenting progress by the United Nations and the Food Systems Ecosystem of Support.

A synthesis of the inputs from countries, the United Nations and the Ecosystem of Support, as well as the key messages from the 2023 Stocktaking Moment will be summarized in a report by the Secretary-General. The Hub will also provide support to its “Stakeholders Engagement and Networking Advisory Group” (SENA Group) for the stakeholders to present their own contributions.

Preparations

A 2023 Stocktaking Moment Operations Committee will be established, comprising representatives of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, Italy as the host country, the Rome-based agencies, and The Hub.

To energize participation, all countries are invited to hold inclusive national consultations to take stock of the multi-sectorial and multi-stakeholder efforts and concrete action taken to implement their food systems pathways and/or relevant transformations/changes. In countries with a United Nations presence, the support of the Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams will be essential in organizing these dialogues within the limited time available before the 2023 Stocktaking Moment.

The Hub, in partnership with the United Nations Regional Commissions and other regional partners will organize a series of five one-day regional preparatory meetings, on the margins of the Regional Fora on Sustainable Development (RFSDs) as per the table below.

Regional Preparatory Meeting organized by the United Nations Regional Commissions	Dates and Location (In parenthesis the dates of the RFSDs)
Economic Commission for Africa	27 February 2023 (27 Feb-2 March) – Niamey, Niger
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	13 March 2023 (14-16 March) – Beirut, Lebanon
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	30 March 2023 (27-30 March) – Bangkok, Thailand
Economic Commission for Europe	28 March 2023 (29-30 March 2023) – Geneva, Switzerland
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	24 April 2023 (25-28 April) – Santiago, Chile

These meetings are being organized as senior technical-level workshops and will serve as a platform for the sharing of experiences, good practices, and lessons learned in national efforts to follow-up to the SDG Summit. Invitations for these meetings will be dispatched by The Hub and will be addressed to national convenors and other actors. In the case of countries without national convenors, the Resident Coordinators will work with the governments to identify participants in the regional meetings.

National convenors will also be accompanied by The Hub through dedicated online regional and global preparatory sessions and touchpoints, as well as through personalized one-on-one support.

Engagement

Building on the legacy of the United Nations Food Systems Summit, hailed as a “People’s Summit”, the 2023 Stocktaking Moment will ensure a robust mobilization and engagement of stakeholders, of the science community and of the ecosystem of support including coalitions. The engagement and mobilization strategy will ensure timely awareness-raising and outreach through multiple channels, about the 2023 Stocktaking Moment, its preparatory process, and related engagement opportunities. Three groups will be partners of choice for The Hub in rolling out this strategy:

- **The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC):** Composed of top scientists, including 8 members of the Committee on World Food Security High-Level Panel of Experts; the Group was officially launched at the World Food Forum on 8 November 2022 at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy. Functioning as a broker of science and evidence, the SAC brings forth its combined expertise to guide and support countries in implementing their national pathways, supporting evidence-based policymaking.
- **The Stakeholders Engagement, Networking and Advisory (SENA) Group:** The group is made up of fifteen representatives of Producers, Women, Private Sector, Youth and Indigenous People, already appointed by their communities. It will activate and harness the power of existing stakeholders’ networks and communities and provide advice and relevant guidance on best approaches to leverage the role of diverse stakeholders to implement the national pathways.
- **The Food Systems Coalitions:** These are groups of institutions and experts (state and/or non-state actors) developed in the context of the United Nations Food Systems Summit to challenge business as usual and champion an integrated, systemic food systems approach at scale.

Next Steps

- A Concept Note and outline of the programme of the regional preparatory technical meetings will be uploaded on the website of the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub (<https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/>), and invitations will be dispatched by The Hub in due course.
- A template for voluntary reporting to the 2023 Stocktaking Moment will be developed and shared by The Hub with countries. Additional templates for voluntary reporting from the United Nations System and the Ecosystem of Support will be prepared by The Hub and also made available on the website.
- A roadmap for the 2023 Stocktaking Moment will be available on the website of The Hub by mid-March.
- Updates on the progress of organization of the 2023 Stocktaking Moment will be presented by The Hub in the monthly (online) Food Systems Solutions Dialogues and other occasions.
- Invitations to governments will be dispatched by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General alongside a draft programme of the 2023 Stocktaking Moment.