

## UN Food Systems Summit+2 Stocktaking Moment

### SESSION REPORT

All session recordings will be available after the conclusion of the session. Please send the report of your session to Ms. Yota Nicolarea ([Panayota.Nicolarea@fao.org](mailto:Panayota.Nicolarea@fao.org)) and Mr. Thembani Malapela ([Thembani.Malapela@fao.org](mailto:Thembani.Malapela@fao.org)) by **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August COB**

Type (click one):  HLS/PLENARY –  LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE –  SPECIAL EVENT

### [FOOD SYSTEMS AND CLIMATE ACTION]

[24/07/2023] : [16:30-18:00]

Name of note-taker: Giulia Orlandi

Organization/country: Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

E-mail of note-taker: [Giulia.orlandi@esteri.it](mailto:Giulia.orlandi@esteri.it)

List of speakers, in all segments, and key messages

NAME AND TITLE OF SPEAKER	SEGMENT (opening, panel, closing, etc.)	KEY MESSAGES OR/AND RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS
1. Antonio Tajani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation	Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Italy and UAE</b> are working together <b>in the context of COP28</b> to keep agriculture and food security as a top priority within climate action.</li> <li>• <b>Food security</b> will be a <b>priority for the Italian Presidency on G7</b> in 2024.</li> <li>• Italy will focus on the following actions to address the climate-food nexus:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensuring balanced solutions to <b>simultaneously pursue environmental, social and economic sustainability</b>. Italy will explore concrete solutions which also take into account the need to promote economic growth and employment.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Exploring the opportunities of <b>space technology</b> for food systems transformation, allowing the early detection and warning of climate-related changes.</li> <li>3. <b>Investing in technological innovation</b> to adapt agriculture to climate change. At the EU and national level, Italy is exploring nature-based techniques to strengthen agricultural production.</li> </ol>
<p>2. Mariam Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, United Arab Emirates</p>	<p>Opening</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>2023 is an historic moment</b> to be seized: UNFSS+2, the SDG Summit and COP28 offer unique opportunities <b>to align agri-food and climate goals</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Food systems and agriculture will also be a top priority for UAE’s Presidency of COP28</b>. UAE has officially launched the food systems <b>agenda and vision for COP28</b>, which is composed of 4 pillars:       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. State level: <b>call on governments to jointly develop and sign a Leaders’ Declaration on Food Systems, Agriculture and Climate Action</b>. UAE will start state-level consultations to develop such Declaration, aimed at renewing national efforts to integrate climate action into national food systems transformation pathways and vice versa, by adopting country-specific approaches.</li> <li>2. Non-State level: encourage <b>companies, farmers and other partners through the agri-food value chain</b> to invest in transforming landscapes sustainably. Collaborate particularly with <b>youth champions and leading CEOs</b> to scale-up climate action. Leverage existing initiatives such as the School Meals Coalition.</li> <li>3. <b>Scale-up context-appropriate innovations</b> to climate-vulnerable communities.</li> <li>4. <b>Rationalize available financial mechanisms</b> in a unique toolbox <b>and mobilize new resources</b> to upgrade national food planning tools for climate and pro-climate food systems transformation projects.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

<p>3. Qu Dongyu, Director-General, FAO</p>	<p>Opening</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Current crises are multiple and interlinked</b>, particularly the hunger crisis and the climate crisis. The <b>climate crisis is a key driver of food insecurity</b> and agrifood systems are responsible for a significant portion of global emissions. This clearly shows why agrifood systems must be urgently transformed.</li> <li>• During COP28, <b>FAO will present a Roadmap highlighting agrifood sector solutions</b> in support of <b>SDG2 and SDG13</b>.</li> <li>• It is critical to <b>improve climate finance for agrifood transformation</b>. Enabling policies, adequate institutions and regulatory frameworks, digital solutions are also essential components of a sustainable food systems transformation. Collaboration across all sectors and levels is needed and particular attention must be given to the <b>voices of youth, women and Indigenous Peoples</b>.</li> </ul>
<p>4. Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani, President of Mauritania</p>	<p>Leaders' Session</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Worsening food insecurity in the African continent is the result of multiple interlinked challenges</b>, including the effects of climate change, inadequate use of natural resources, unplanned urbanisation, violent extremism and countries' high debt rate.</li> <li>• The Islamic Republic of Mauritania has invested in <b>the adaptation of agricultural production to climate change</b>, reforestation and improved management of natural resources (agricultural, livestock and fishery). By 2030, Mauritania aims to cover 50% of its energy demand with <b>renewable sources</b>.</li> <li>• Mauritania is part of <b>several sub-regional organizations and initiatives</b>, including the Senegal River Basin Development Authority (which is currently chairing), Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel and the Great Green Wall Initiative.</li> </ul>

<p>5. Kaies Saied, President of Tunisia</p>	<p>Leaders' Session</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UNFSS+2 takes place in an <b>international context of great change</b> marked by the pandemic, increasing flows of refugees, unprecedented rise in temperatures and changes in climate.</li> <li>• <b>The war of Ukraine</b> (the 9<sup>th</sup> cereal-producing country) <b>is not the only cause of global hunger</b>. Studies show that cereals that are stockpiled exceed the quantity of cereals available for sale in international markets, with devastating impacts on developing countries. <b>A strategic reserve of cereals should be created by International Organizations</b> (such as FAO) to be used when necessary to support any country in need.</li> <li>• There is great need to new ideas and new thinking. Multiple problems are linked to climate change, which disproportionately affects developing countries even though they did not contribute to the current level of pollution. We need to act not only in sectors such as renewable energies and water desalinization but also <b>addressing issues such as the water crisis and forest fires</b>.</li> </ul>
<p>6. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh</p>	<p>Leaders' Session</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bangladesh has moved from food deficits to food surplus and it currently ranks <b>among the top food producing countries</b>. This has been possible thanks to investments in agricultural research and innovation, agricultural mechanization, fertilizer distribution and the provision of incentives for agro-processing. At the same time, Bangladesh has also aligned cropping patterns to its different agro-ecological zones, invested in bio-fertilizer production and crop diversification, and promoted the safeguarding of its ecosystems.</li> <li>• The growth of the agricultural sector has been promoted while <b>paying attention to the needs of marginalized people</b>, who have benefitted from safety net programmes.</li> <li>• Bangladesh put forward <b>five proposal</b> to address the climate-food nexus:       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. transforming food systems to be considered as a priority within climate financing, paying due attention to climate adaptive agrifood systems.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. scale-up knowledge management by promoting interdisciplinary collaboration in research and innovation.</li> <li>3. active engagement of the private sector to promote climate-positive solutions to food and fertilizer needs of low and middle income countries.</li> <li>4. strengthen effective agrifood technologies in climate hotspots like deltas and coastal zones.</li> <li>5. activate the Coalition for climate resilient food systems that Bangladesh agreed to co-lead during the UNFSS in 2021.</li> </ol>
<p>7. Fiame Naomi Mataafa, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Samoa</p>	<p>Leaders' Session</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For <b>Small Island Developing States (SIDS), food security and climate are deeply intertwined.</b> Climate change negatively impacts the already limited arable land and it is expected to amplify food-borne and water-borne diseases as flooding and cyclones become more intense and destructive.</li> <li>• To build agrifood systems that are resilient to the impact of climate change, <b>SIDS countries need to adopt a multidimensional approach.</b> For example, in its “Food Systems Pathway 2030”, Samoa has committed to adopt social protection measures in response to the impact of climate shocks</li> <li>• Global food systems must be transformed in order to respond to increasing demand and pressure on natural resources. This goal can be achieved only by <b>forging partnerships and coordinating efforts at regional and global level.</b> For example, <b>international climate finance</b> (including the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility) should not only focus on investing in hard infrastructure, but also <b>support the climate resilience of agrifood systems.</b></li> </ul>

<p>8. Mostafa Kamal Madbouly, Prime Minister of Egypt</p>	<p>Leaders' Session</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Developing countries, particularly in Africa</b>, are disproportionately affected by current crises with <b>serious consequences on their food security</b> due to breaks in value chains, lack of financial resources, and increase in global prices. The international community has a shared responsibility to fight malnutrition and the lack of food products.</li> <li>• <b>During COP27, Egypt launched the Sharm el-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda</b>, aimed at increasing collaboration and mobilizing financial resources also in relation to the agricultural sector and water management.</li> <li>• As a country characterized by water shortages, Egypt has adopted <b>science-based policies to preserve its water resources and work on the food-water nexus</b>. There is close cooperation with FAO, including several initiatives launched during COP27 such as the Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation (FAST) Initiative and the Action for Water Adaptation and Resilience (AWARe) Initiative.</li> <li>• Egypt has launched a national dialogue on the challenges connected to food and nutrition in order to address them through a holistic approach, involving the private sector and civil society. School meals is an example of a successful policy aimed at combating poverty and preventing school drop-out. Egypt has also decided to create a <b>National Committee on Food Systems and Nutrition</b> aimed at improving relevant indicators, developing strategies with state-level actors and improving coordination with NGOs.</li> </ul>
<p>9. Abdoukader Kamil Mohamed, Prime Minister of Djibouti</p>	<p>Leaders' Session</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A series of global crises</b> – from conflicts to the Covid19 pandemic and the climate crisis - <b>has hampered progress towards sustainable development</b>. Investing in agriculture and rural development is essential to ensuring food security and building resilient food systems that can face the great challenges of our time.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>To address the global surge in food prices</b>, Djibouti has established an early warning unit to identify potential future shocks in the food supply; set up an emergency food stock for basic products and a contingency fund for purchasing essential food products; promoted capacity building for the public and private sector on how to address price volatility.</li> <li>• <b>Achieving the SDGs requires collective action and the involvement of all actors</b> - from governments to international organizations and civil society. To support the efforts of developing countries towards food system transformation it is crucial to share best practices, strengthen partnerships and mobilize additional resources.</li> </ul>
<p>10. Gilberto Pichetto Fratin,          Minister of Environment and          Energy Security, Italy</p>	<p>Closing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food systems play a central role in achieving food security. In many countries - including Italy – they represent a significant portion of the GDP and contribute to the enhancement of territories. <b>To face the increasing impact of climate change</b>, it is necessary to explore innovative and technological solutions, but <b>also embrace ambitious policy actions and promote a closer link between climate and food diplomacy</b>.</li> <li>• Agrifood systems are greatly influenced by consumers' choices. <b>Consumers must</b> become more aware of the impact of their choices and be <b>enabled to access healthy food from local supply chains</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Italy is firmly committed to promoting youth-led solutions</b> in the fight against the climate crisis and the promotion of food systems transformation. An example of such commitment is the decision to host in Rome the Youth4Climate initiative in October.</li> </ul>

## Interventions from the floor

SPEAKER	QUESTION OR KEY POINT OF INTERVENTION
<p>1. Virginijus Sinkevičius, EU Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food systems around the world are facing multiple pressures. The EU is acting on multiple fronts. For example, the <b>'From Farm to Fork' strategy</b> on sustainable food is a flagship initiative aimed at creating a sustainable food value chain through legislative actions.</li> <li>• When we speak about agriculture, we speak about nature. In relation to the SDGs, crucial aspects to be born in mind are the <b>protection of biodiversity</b>, the <b>global water crisis</b> and <b>sustainable fishery and aquaculture</b>. The EU strongly encourages the adoption and implementation of FAO's Guidelines on Sustainable Aquaculture.</li> <li>• The <b>massive gap in public and private climate funds</b> should be a priority to be discussed during the <b>meeting between the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in Marrakesh</b>. The EU is the number one provider of public climate finance and it is also committed to doubling its external funding for biodiversity.</li> <li>• Following the Nutrition for Growth Summit, <b>the EU scaled up its financial support for international food security</b>. The support could be associated to a global roadmap to build climate resilient and biodiversity positive food systems, to be potentially negotiated during UNFCCC negotiations. EU's development cooperation also includes supporting partner countries to transform their food systems.</li> </ul>



## Overall summary, conclusions and recommended actions (max 250 words)

1. Agriculture and food security will be a top priority during COP28 as demonstrated by UAE's food systems agenda and FAO's decision to present a roadmap on food system solutions for achieving SDG2 and SDG13. This year represents a unique moment for the international community to align agrifood and climate goals.
2. To pursue ambitious climate and food goals, it is necessary to cooperate at international, regional and sub-regional levels. It is equally as important to adopt a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, involving the private sector and civil society.
3. It is critical to improve the quantity and quality of climate finance for agrifood systems transformation. Access to climate finance must be increased for developing countries, which are disproportionately affected by the negative effects of climate change on food security.
4. Multiple challenges are associated with climate change, resulting in the need for a holistic approach which simultaneously addresses, *inter alia*, the loss of biodiversity, the water crisis, the transformation of food systems, and the need for renewable energy.
5. Youth have an important role to play in offering new solutions for addressing the climate-food nexus. Climate and food policies must take into account their potential role as well as the specific needs of women, Indigenous Peoples and marginalized groups.