

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) and Mr. Thembani Malapela (Thembani.Malapela@fao.org) by Tuesday 1st August COB

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

Official Opening

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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. H.E. Antonio Tajani , Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation of Italy	Welcome remarks	In his welcoming address, Minister Tajani underscored the Italian government's unwavering commitment to prioritize food security and endorse global UN initiatives. He highlighted the imperative of cooperation, especially in challenging times, citing the potential wheat shortages from Ukraine. Minister Tajani emphasized the significance of combating climate change and championing scientific research as crucial elements for the global well-being of billions. He reiterated Italy's determination to assume a leading role in providing support to those in need, stressing the moral obligation of the richest countries to assist. The Minister strongly asserted that access to adequate nourishment is a fundamental right for every individual.
2. H.E. António Guterres , UN Secretary-General	Keynote address	In his keynote address, the UN Secretary-General expressed gratitude to the Government of Italy for hosting an event on food systems. The H.E. Mr. António Guterres emphasized the fundamental human right to food and criticized the ongoing global issue of hunger despite an abundance of food. The termination of the Black Sea Initiative was highlighted as a threat to global food security, with a call for the Russian Federation's return to the initiative. The UNSG stressed the need for urgent action in three key areas: massive

		<p>investment in sustainable food systems, collaboration between governments and businesses prioritizing people over profit, and the transformation of food systems to address climate change and environmental issues. The urgency of these actions was emphasized, along with the importance of collaboration and accountability. The UN Secretary-General concluded with a call to transform food systems for a future where every person has access to safe and nutritious food, and a reminder of the essential need for debt relief and long-term investments for developing countries to achieve these goals.</p>
<p>3. H.E. Georgia Meloni, Prime Minister of Italy</p>	<p>High-Level Opening Statement</p>	<p>The Prime Minister of Italy expressed gratitude for the participation in the second UN Food System Summit in Rome, highlighting the city's role as a global hub for food security as it hosts key organizations like the FAO, IFAD and WFP. Her Excellency underscored Italy's historical commitment to food security as a strategic foreign policy and a priority for the Italian Development Cooperation.</p> <p>The global challenges posed by the pandemic, disruptions in international trade, and the impact of Russia's war on Ukraine were discussed. The termination of the Black Sea Grain Initiative was noted as exacerbating global food security issues, urging efforts to resume the initiative and urging the Russian Federation to reconsider its decision. The consequences of these challenges, such as increasing malnutrition, extreme poverty, and chronic undernourishment, were highlighted.</p> <p>Ms. Meloni addressed the interconnectedness of migration and development, emphasizing Italy's initiative to support political stability and economic development, addressing root causes of migration and combating human trafficking. The goal is to ensure individuals' right not to be forced to immigrate, promoting peace and dignity in their own nations.</p> <p>The concept of food sovereignty was introduced as the right of people to choose their production model and food system. The importance of research and technology, especially in agrotechnology, was stressed for innovating food systems, enhancing sustainability, and improving production quality and quantity. Italy's commitment to investing in agritech research in Naples was announced.</p> <p>The Prime Minister advocated for the Mediterranean diet as a solution to the double burden of malnutrition, emphasizing its affordability, reliance on local raw materials, and respect for biodiversity. The need for large-scale financing to bring about transformative changes in food systems was highlighted, with cooperation with international financial institutions being a key element.</p> <p>Italy's commitment to international cooperation was emphasized, referring to the Matera Declaration and plans for the G7 presidency in the coming year. Ms. Meloni envisioned Rome as the starting point for a new journey</p>

		toward global food security, grounded in innovation, technology, and a strong connection to history and identity. Her keynote speech concluded with a quote from Cicero, highlighting the importance and nobility of agriculture, and reassured the commitment of Italy to the cause.
4. H.E. Abiy Ahmed Ali , Prime Minister of Ethiopia	High-Level Opening Statement	<p>Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali emphasized the critical role of food for the well-being of the global population. He acknowledged the paradox of food oversupply and wastage in some regions while millions suffer from undernourishment and malnourishment elsewhere. The impact of climate change, environmental shocks, the COVID-19 pandemic, and a growing population further complicate global food challenges.</p> <p>Highlighting Africa's agricultural potential, particularly in Ethiopia, Ethiopia's Prime Minister emphasized the country's commitment to modernizing agriculture. He acknowledged challenges such as limited access to inputs, increased prices for nutrient-rich foods, and environmental issues like soil erosion and deforestation. Ethiopia implemented initiatives, including the Green Legacy Initiative, off-season irrigated wheat programs, and school feeding programs, to address these challenges.</p> <p>The Prime Minister outlined initiatives promoting urban agriculture, enhancing livestock productivity, and improving efficiency in the dairy sector. He emphasized his government's dedication to climate-resilient regenerative agriculture and the transformation of the food system. In conclusion, he called for a new and robust agricultural finance model that is inclusive and responsive to the needs of farmers, particularly in developing countries. He emphasized the importance of digital financial services, agricultural insurance, and effective market linkages. His Excellency called for global support to achieve food security and transform food systems, thanking all partners and stakeholders for their efforts.</p>
5. H.E. Sheikh Hasina , Prime Minister of Bangladesh	High-Level Opening Statement	Translation not available
6. H.E. Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa , Prime Minister of Samoa	High-Level Opening Statement	<p>The Prime Minister of Samoa conveyed a message of both concern and hope on behalf of the 65 million people in small island developing states (SIDS). She highlighted the challenges faced by SIDS, including extreme events, economic struggles, and the impact of climate change. The Prime Minister emphasized that decisions prioritizing either people or the planet were not sustainable solutions, calling for a holistic approach to address entrenched challenges.</p> <p>The Prime Minister pointed out that SIDS are some of the most biodiverse regions, with a rich natural heritage. However, these islands are currently facing a food and health crisis, partly due to choices made over time. Importing a significant portion of their food, especially processed and</p>

		<p>calorie-dense items, has led to a 'nutrition transition,' resulting in non-communicable diseases and obesity.</p> <p>The Prime Minister also noted the vulnerability of SIDS to climate change, intense disasters, land degradation, and overexploitation of ocean resources. These factors, coupled with global food price fluctuations, have created a crisis of significant proportions. Despite ongoing efforts and reiterated commitments, achieving the SDGs related to hunger and food security remains elusive for SIDS.</p> <p>Looking forward to the fourth international conference on SIDS in 2024, The Prime Minister emphasized the need for a transformational approach. SIDS must recognize the interconnectedness of people and the planet and prioritize integrated, sustainable solutions. The Prime Minister stressed the importance of growing what is consumed and supporting actions that lead to positive outcomes. Climate action was underscored as crucial for the survival of SIDS.</p> <p>The PM called for determined efforts to protect the land and oceans, emphasizing the importance of climate-resilient infrastructure and better support for local farmers, particularly women. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the fragility and interconnectedness of SIDS, and the Prime Minister called for tailored international financial mechanisms to address vulnerabilities.</p> <p>Her Excellency underscored that the food systems approach goes beyond agriculture and nutrition; it is a comprehensive methodology linking sufficiency, fairness, and sustainability. The Prime Minister emphasized the need for country-tailored approaches to advance the food systems transformation agenda.</p>
<p>7. H.E. Pushpa Kamal Dahal, Prime Minister of Nepal and Chair of LDC Group</p>	<p>High-Level Opening Statement</p>	<p>Nepal's Prime Minister, emphasizing the importance of transforming food systems for both food security and the achievement of the SDGs, he highlighted the UN Food Systems Summit in 2021 as a catalyst for global ambitions.</p> <p>The PM focused on the need for practical means of implementation to match the ambitions and pledges made. He identified school meals as a crucial area with a tremendous transformational impact, citing their role in promoting student health, academic performance, and overall well-being. He noted that despite global progress in providing school meals, the COVID-19 pandemic, supply shocks, and shrinking fiscal space derailed this momentum. As the world recovers, he urged more efforts to scale up school feeding programs, with special attention given to countries with smaller resource bases.</p> <p>Sharing Nepal's success story, he described how their school feeding program integrated agriculture, education, food security, nutrition, health, and sanitation. The program has reached 3.3 million children, demonstrating impressive results in boosting enrolment, attendance, and learning outcomes. He also highlighted Nepal's commitment to</p>

		<p>increasing investment and resources for this safety net, allocating 6% of the total education budget to school meals.</p> <p>Discussing post-UN Food Systems Summit initiatives, he mentioned national and provincial food systems dialogues to examine existing systems and develop the Food Systems Transformation Strategic Plan (2022-2030), aligning actions with the SDGs. Nepal joined the School Meals Coalition in 2021 to enhance the quality, adequacy and sustainability of school meals. Mr. Dahal emphasized their efforts toward graduating from LDC status by 2026, focusing on establishing a sustainable, home-grown school feeding model, expanding local food production, and supporting small-scale local agriculture development.</p>
<p>8. Dr. Qu Dongyu, Director-General, FAO</p>	<p>High-Level Opening Statement</p>	<p>The FAO Director-General, acknowledging the global ambitions galvanized by the UN Food System Summit in 2021, he emphasized the immense potential of agrifood systems in contributing to achieving the SDGs.</p> <p>Discussing challenges and crises, Dr. Dongyu underscored the urgent need to transform global agrifood systems, making them more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable. He outlined key expectations, including meeting increased demands for food, feed, fiber, and biofuel, reducing pressure on natural resources, cutting greenhouse gas emissions, safeguarding biodiversity, enhancing climate resilience, ensuring decent employment, and providing access to safe and nutritious food for all.</p> <p>He also shared FAO's strategy involving leveraging cross-cutting accelerators across four crucial areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science and Innovation: Dr. Dongyu highlighted the importance of enhanced linkages and the potential of technologies to improve productivity while reducing resource use. This includes scaling up climate resilience and leveraging technology to reduce food loss and waste. • Improved Data Capabilities: FAO is actively engaged in initiatives like the Hand-in-Hand initiative and the "1000 Digital Villages" Initiative, using geospatial data platforms to consolidate diverse sources. The aim is to empower farmers and promote rural development through ICT applications. • Finance: Dr. Dongyu stressed the need for increased targeted public and private finance, estimating the substantial cost of transforming agrifood systems in Low and Middle-Income countries. He emphasized the importance of empowering women and marginalized groups. • Governance: Establishing inclusive agrifood systems governance mechanisms is crucial for holistic national food policies and strategies. Multi-stakeholder partnerships and platforms at various

		<p>levels are essential for breaking down silos, especially due to rapid urbanization.</p> <p>Dr. Dongyu reflected on the establishment of the World Food Forum four years ago, held around World Food Day since 2021. He encouraged continued collaboration for a better world, focusing on people, the planet, and prosperity.</p>
9. H.E. Vahagn Khachatryan , President of Armenia	First Panel discussion	Translation not available
10. Dr. Agnes Kalibata , President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and Former Special Envoy for the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit	First Panel discussion	<p>Dr. Agnes Kalibata acknowledged the significant efforts of the Hub and participants in advancing the food system agenda. She emphasized the global consensus on the need to transform food systems, noting that 126 countries have submitted pathways for this transformation. She stressed the importance of clarity in implementing these pathways.</p> <p>Addressing the need for progress tracking mechanisms, Dr. Kalibata highlighted the importance of holding countries accountable for their commitments. She underscored the engagement of the private sector in the food system transformation, citing the efforts of the UAE in mobilizing additional financing. Dr. Kalibata raised concerns about the current financial system not effectively serving poor communities, countries, and adaptation efforts. She called for innovative financial instruments to support struggling nations and communities.</p> <p>Dr. Kalibata referenced existing instruments and coalitions for measuring progress and coordinating efforts and she emphasized the importance of coordination to ensure resources reach countries. Dr. Kalibata acknowledged the challenges posed by difficult times and called for determination and tenacity in addressing them. She concluded by emphasizing the opportunities present and the need for collective commitment to achieving transformative change.</p>
11. Mr Alvaro Lario , President of the International Fund of Agricultural Development (IFAD)	First Panel discussion	<p>Mr. Alvaro Lario highlighted positive developments since the 2021 Food Systems Summit including the integration of national pathways into discussions, involving the private sector and mobilization for multilateral development banks (MDBs). However, Mr. Lario stressed that these achievements are not sufficient in addressing the urgent challenges.</p> <p>He presented stark figures that underscore the environmental and public health costs of existing food systems, emphasizing the need for transformative action. Mr. Lario outlined estimated costs for food system transformation, approximately 400 USD billion per year, in comparison to subsidies from high-income economies amounting to 700 USD billion per year. He emphasized the importance of financing and partnerships in addressing these issues.</p>

		<p>IFAD's President shared concrete examples of successful programs, including a multimillion-dollar project in Nigeria with the Islamic Development Bank, the African Development Bank, and the private sector. These initiatives focused on locally diversified production, farmer-oriented policies, equitable pricing mechanisms, and improved access to seeds, inputs, markets, and finance. He highlighted the importance of public development banks, citing a project in Brazil and collaboration with Egypt to address challenges in the nexus of food, water, and energy.</p> <p>Emphasizing the need to scale up successful programs, Mr. Lario called for determination to address policies and interventions that are pro-poor and target those who most need them. He urged a collective effort to connect ideas with tangible actions that benefit those who are most affected.</p>
<p>12. Ms. Cindy McCain, Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP)</p>	<p>Second Panel discussion</p>	<p>Ms. Cindy McCain, Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), emphasized the importance of inclusive collaboration involving civil society, the private sector, and various organizations. She stressed that addressing the escalating global needs is a collective effort that cannot be solely managed by governments or specific sectors.</p> <p>Ms. McCain highlighted the critical role of civil society, NGOs, grassroots organizations, and faith-based groups in achieving common goals. She encouraged creative thinking and expertise from diverse sources, urging individuals to "think outside the box" and seek external input when necessary. The private sector, according to Ms. McCain, should play a more significant role, and she emphasized the need to ask more of them.</p> <p>She provided an example of successful collaboration with Save the Children, emphasizing the importance of partnerships and coordination between organizations. The WFP ED highlighted the significance of women in this effort, noting their vital access to marginalized groups and the need for active participation of women and girls. She called for collaboration on climate-resistant crops and the use of science and technology, emphasizing transparency, accountability, and accessibility in all collaborative efforts.</p>
<p>13. Ms. Inger Ashing, CEO, Save the Children International</p>	<p>Second Panel discussion</p>	<p>Ms. Inger Ashing, CEO of Save the Children International, highlighted the severe global hunger crisis, emphasizing that children in this context are facing a perfect storm. She noted the unprecedented nature of the current situation, posing a significant threat to millions of children's lives and their future. The increasing conflicts, climate shocks, and economic instability are causing substantial setbacks in child health, nutrition, and poverty reduction.</p> <p>Ms. Ashing expressed concern about the collective failure to address the needs of the 149 million stunted children and an additional 45 million wasted children, emphasizing that these are not just numbers but real people with lives and futures at stake. As a child rights organization, she underscored the</p>

		<p>importance of focusing on the impact on children, who bear no responsibility for the situation but are the most vulnerable.</p> <p>Additionally, Ms. Ashing highlighted the crucial role of civil society, emphasizing that it often gets overlooked in conversations about global challenges. Civil society, as implementers at the local level, plays a role in holding governments and the private sector accountable. She stressed the importance of engaging directly with people, as civil society is uniquely positioned to listen and respond to the needs of those directly affected. Ms. Ashing called for increased collaboration and inclusivity, ensuring that all stakeholders are invited to discussions about the broken food system and work together to find solutions.</p>
<p>14. Lady Suzanne Heywood, Chair of the Board of Directors, CHN Industrial</p>	<p>Second Panel discussion</p>	<p>Lady Suzanne Heywood, Chair of the Board of Directors at CNH Industrial, highlighted the role of the private sector in contributing to sustainable agriculture. With 40,000 employees, CNH Industrial is dedicated to making agriculture more sustainable. She emphasized three key contributions that the private sector can bring to the conversation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technological Innovation: The private sector, as a major equipment manufacturer in the agricultural space, can bring technological innovation. Ms. Heywood specifically discussed the importance of precision farming, which provides farmers with essential data about seeds, weather, and soil. Precision farming enhances productivity, leading to a 17% increase in seeds and a 26% increase in yield. Automation is another technological advancement, streamlining the settings of sophisticated equipment like combine harvesters. • Expertise in Agriculture: The private sector can provide expertise in agriculture, working closely with farmers to tailor machinery to specific geographies, ensuring effective operation. • Investment in Innovation: Private sector companies can invest capital in innovation to make agriculture more productive. <p>By focusing on precision farming and automation, CNH Industrial aims to significantly impact sustainable agriculture by increasing productivity, reducing losses, and enhancing output. The private sector's collaboration with farmers and investment in technology plays a crucial role in addressing the challenges of global agriculture.</p>
<p>15. Ms. Sophie Healy-Thow, Act4Food/Act4Change, Scaling Up Nutrition Movement</p>	<p>Second Panel discussion</p>	<p>Ms. Sophie Healy-Thow emphasized the vital role of young people in the food systems transformation. She expressed gratitude for the opportunity for young people to be part of the summit and highlighted the youth booth in the exhibition hall, showcasing the efforts of a coalition of young individuals dedicated to transforming food systems.</p>

	<p>Ms. Healy-Thow pointed out the limited mention of young people in the discussions and emphasized the importance of recognizing adolescents and young people as active participants in food systems transformation, calling for more emphasis on this demographic in SDG 2.</p> <p>Referencing the involvement of young people in the UN food system summit two years ago, she urged for sustained momentum and collaboration with young people in subsequent summits. She highlighted initiatives where young people have committed to food systems transformation, such as implementing local projects, nutrition programs, and advocating for changes like banning junk food advertising.</p> <p>In challenging member states, the private sector, civil society, and the UN, Healy-Thow urged greater inclusion of young people in conversations, emphasizing their significant stake and potential contributions to food systems transformation. She underscored that the trajectory of young people's actions today will have profound impacts on the economic, political, and social landscape in the coming decades, considering them the largest and most connected generation in history.</p>
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Interventions from the floor

SPEAKER	QUESTION OR KEY POINT OF INTERVENTION
	No interventions from the floor were made

Overall Summary, Conclusions and recommended actions (max 250 words)

The session outlined a holistic agenda to tackle the challenges within global food systems, highlighting the pressing requirement for transformative measures, international collaboration, and creative solutions. Crucial themes underscored during the discussions included the significance of backing global initiatives, particularly vital during challenging periods, the pivotal role of collaboration between governments and businesses, and the indispensable contribution of young people in reshaping food systems.