

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

Food Systems for People's Nutrition and Health

25th July, 2023: 9.30am

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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. Dr Francesco Branca, Director of the Department of Nutrition and Food Safety, WHO	Introduction	Position people's right to nutrition and health at the core of food systems transformation.
2. Dr Li Ailan, Assistant Director-General, Universal Health Coverage, Healthier Populations, World Health Organization (WHO)	Opening remarks	The way food is produced and marketed has far-reaching implications for people's nutrition and health, the planet and prosperity. Food systems as they currently exist are a key driver of unhealthy diets and malnutrition. Hence the need to transform food systems so that the nutrition and health rights and needs of people, especially children is at its core.

<p>3. Prof Patrick Webb, Technical Advisor, Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems (GloPan)</p>	<p>Keynote</p>	<p>Planetary health and nutrition and people’s prosperity are intertwined. Currently, food systems are negatively impacting planetary nutrition and health through the emission of greenhouse gases and the production and marketing of unhealthy foods which are driving poor quality diets, malnutrition and non-communicable diseases, and the economy, widening inequities.</p> <p>The food system needs to deliver healthy foods (produced), it needs to be accessible (transportation, storage, transportation), and affordable (raising purchasing power to ensure demand creation), and desirable (culture, choice).</p> <p>Food systems transformation goes beyond climate or environment or agriculture. It is for all people, their health and nutrition, their jobs and incomes, and their quality of life and work. Transformation cannot happen without trade-offs or costs, but the sustained benefits of integrated action will be huge. To get there, people-centric policy actions (policies and investments) are needed, focused on universal access to healthy diets with nutrition for all as a goal. This should be a top-level political priority of Nationally Determined Contributions.</p>
<p>4. Abigail Perry, OBE, Director, Nutrition Division (WFP)</p>	<p>Panel 1 Moderator</p>	<p>Introduction of panel 1 on Improving Access and Affordability of Healthy Foods for People’s Nutrition and Health and questions to panelists.</p>
<p>5. Dr Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, FAO</p>	<p>Panel</p>	<p>Fiscal policy and tools are a critical mechanism to transform food systems. However, approaches need to be context specific. There are two mechanisms that could help to promote healthier diets to address malnutrition; The provision of incentives to produce nutritious foods through subsidies to producers to reduce the costs and/or increase income and trade and market interventions such as border measures on import and export or markets price control measures. Also, important to find equitable and sustainable funding to support country efforts to transform food systems. Overseas development assistance can play a role in jumpstarting actions but over time, there need to be steady investments which shift to domestic resources to finance healthy food systems.</p>

<p>6. Greg Garrett, Executive Director, Access to Nutrition Initiative (ATNI)</p>	<p>Panel</p>	<p>Three trends are observed: 1) urbanization: processed foods are consumed at increasing levels not only in cities but increasingly in peri-urban and rural areas; 2) growth of food retail outlets in the majority of LMIC (from 11 to over 80% increase) driving increased availability of processed foods often high in fat, salt, sugar; 3) healthiness of food products: data on 40,000 food products shows that 70% of those food products (representing 30% of the world's food supply) are unhealthy. Ten years of monitoring of the large corporations has not seen improvement of the healthiness of their products. Solutions lie in evidence-based policies to reformulate foods, regulate the production of unhealthy foods, and ESG investing (environment, social, governance) with nutrition added into it.</p>
<p>7. Anna Scavuzzo, Vice Mayor, Milan, Italy</p>	<p>Panel</p>	<p>The city of Milan is promoting healthy and sustainable school meals (including drinking of tap water) with reduced meat and adding other types of proteins such as legumes and reduced salt content. With over 70 million school meals provided per year, this is a huge achievement in supporting healthy diets from sustainable food systems (it reduced GHG emissions of school meals by 40%). Another important factor in the success of Milan's approach is its engagement with the public to promote and adopt these policies.</p>
<p>8. Karima Al Hada'a, Yemen Shadow National Convenor, Planning and Liaison Specialist at Scaling-Up Nutrition Secretariat, Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation, Yemen. The Global SUN Movement Executive Committee Member.</p>	<p>Panel</p>	<p>Yemen faces challenges in advocating for and prioritizing healthy diets on the political agenda in context of fragile settings and conflicts. Despite these difficulties, public sector actions need to balance short-term needs with longer term actions to promote healthy diets. Focus on local value chains, smallholder farmers and SMEs as well as healthy school meals is key. It is good to have the humanitarian peace nexus as a mechanism to use in these contexts with long term financing.</p>
<p>9. Dr Victor Aguayo, Director, Nutrition and Child Development, UNICEF</p>	<p>Panel 2 moderation</p>	<p>Introduction to panel 2 on public sector policies, strategies and actions for improving food environments for people's nutrition and health and questions to panelists.</p>

<p>10. Dr Patrick Amoth, Director General of Health, Ministry of Health, Kenya</p>	<p>Panel</p>	<p>Kenya has enacted the Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes in 2012, resulting in great improvement in exclusive breastfeeding rates (to over 60%) and reduction of stunting. Childhood malnutrition impacts the economy at a rate of 7% of GDP. One of the low-hanging fruits of a response to this was to improve breastfeeding. The multisectoral nature of the Code brought together a range of stakeholders. The operationalization of the act was a lengthy process and had strong pushback from the private sector, hence persistence, persuasion and strong political will was required. One of challenges faced was industry interference and lack of funding to monitor and enforce the law.</p>
<p>11. Hon. Vatimi TTK Rayalu, Minister for Agriculture and Waterways, Fiji</p>	<p>Panel</p>	<p>In Fiji, the issue is not about the availability of food, it is about availability and access to healthy foods. Recent years have seen a transition towards the consumption of fast foods, replacing fresh and local foods at an alarming rate. Children are important actors in the food system and particularly vulnerable. Public sector actions targeted to schools can play an important role in promoting and protecting healthy diets for children today and for future generations. Success depends on the multisectoral actions across different ministries – Health, Education, Agriculture – to support healthy diets and efforts to monitor implementation.</p>
<p>12. Dr Simón Barquera, Director of the Nutrition and Health Research Center, Instituto Nacional de Salud Publica (INSP), Mexico</p>	<p>Panel</p>	<p>Mexico is implementing a comprehensive approach to help consumers make healthy food choices, including front-of-pack labelling, restricting marketing to children, and implementing a sugar tax. These achievements are under threat by multinational corporations. Transforming food systems for people's nutrition and health requires vigilant efforts to put children and consumers ahead of commercial interest.</p>
<p>13. H.E. Anne Beathe Tvinnereim, Minister of International Development, Norway</p>	<p>Panel</p>	<p>The Nordic Nutrition recommendations were launched in June 2023, developed through public consultation and developed for both health of people and the planet. Next steps are that these recommendations will be contextualized by each Nordic country. Dietary recommendations that also consider the environment are more complex and become easily politicized, especially in Europe. Important to consider the local context of food production.</p>

<p>14. Lilian dos Santos Rahal, National Secretary for Food and Nutrition Security, Ministry of Development, Social Assistance, Family and Fight against Hunger, Brazil</p>	<p>Closing remarks</p>	<p>We need to diversify to ensure quality food for all. However, if we leave it to the market alone, the poorest will never have access to sufficient and healthy food. Therefore, we need to reaffirm the role of States and the centrality of the Human Right to Adequate Food – this is the basis on which we can build healthier, more sustainable, inclusive, and fair food systems. To achieve this, we need multisectoral collaboration and collaboration between different levels (local, national, international). At the international level we need to improve the food and nutrition governance system.</p>
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Interventions from the floor

SPEAKER	QUESTION OR KEY POINT OF INTERVENTION
<p>1. Lana Weidgenant, <i>Youth representative of the Action Coalition for Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems</i></p>	<p>Young people play an important role in food systems transformation. Therefore, important to support approaches to involve young people, to make them understand why food systems transformation is needed, and what are healthy, sustainable diets, as this is not always clear. Better understanding will produce more engagement. There is a need for a common narrative on healthy and sustainable diets. Young people highlighted in the lead up to the UNFSS that there is a need to consume less meat, especially in high-income countries and shift to more plant-rich diets.</p>

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

This Leadership Dialogue focused on the centrality of public actions and strategies to transform food systems to deliver healthy, nutritious, sustainable, and affordable diets for all people, everywhere. Bringing together global and country-level leaders across different contexts (fragile, low- and middle income, and high-income), this Leadership Dialogue facilitated knowledge exchange and aimed to position people's right to food and nutrition at the center of food systems transformation, increase people's access to and affordability of nutritious foods, and strengthen public sector actions to improve food environments incentivizing the availability, affordability and marketing of healthy foods. Moderated discussions facilitated exchange on strategic issues resulting in the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1. The right to health and nutrition is inalienable. Therefore, people's right to health and nutrition, with special attention to the nutrition and health rights of children, needs to be at the centre of public sector actions and strategies to transform food systems, everywhere. Such actions yield multi-fold return on investments on people's nutrition and health, malnutrition, and non-communicable diseases.

Recommendation 2. Prioritize public sector policies and strategies to increase access and affordability of healthy foods and strengthen food environments to mitigate and control marketing of unhealthy foods and to create incentives to increase production and marketing of healthy foods. Implementing such actions requires the collective actions of multiple sectors, actors, and collaboration across all levels (global, regional, national, and local).

Recommendation 3. Invest in programmes to support people's nutrition and health across the life course. This includes protecting and promoting breastfeeding as the first food, quality of young children's diets, and strengthening school meals and environments. Involving children and adolescents to increase their understanding, participation, and leadership in these programs is essential.