

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

Blue Transformation

Advancing aquatic food systems for people, planet and prosperity

25 July 2023: 09:30-10:30

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Organization/country: FAO

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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. Ms Shakuntala Thilsted Director, Nutrition, Health and Food Security Impact Area Platform, CGIAR	Opening	Highlighted that Blue Transformation is critical to the transformation of aquatic food systems to address food and nutrition security and poverty globally, while ensuring that our planet's natural resources are used sustainably today, and in the future.
2. Ms Maria Helena Semedo Deputy Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Opening	Remarked that some 780 million people globally still face hunger, an increase of 122 million since the start of the pandemic - and 3.1 billion people cannot afford a healthy diet. Without aquatic foods, we will not end hunger, nor achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Aquatic food systems production is at a record high and expected to grow by 11 percent by 2030 – offering an immense potential to feed a growing population.

		<p>Underlined that accelerating Blue Transformation could increase per capita consumption of aquatic foods by 25 percent by 2050. However, failure to transform could see a 10 percent drop in per capita consumption, putting land-based agri-food systems under greater pressure.</p> <p>Highlighted that FAO believes that we can build a more productive resilient, sustainable, and equitable aquatic food sector (marine and inland fisheries and aquaculture).</p>
<p>3. Mr Stefán Jón Hafstein Special Envoy on Ocean Affairs of Iceland, on behalf of President of Iceland, H.E. Guðni Th. Jóhannesson, and the Aquatic Blue Food Coalition</p>	Opening	<p>Shared the concerns of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and marginalized coastal communities. Aquatic food programmes must be designed to incorporate principles of environmental and social protection, emphasizing quality nutrition, and based on low emission practices. Noted that the Aquatic Blue Food Coalition represents an inspiring example of how multisectoral partnerships can unlock the production capacity of marine and freshwater ecosystems and provide food security and nutrition to those in need:</p> <p>“Through this and other initiatives, a constructive framework has been created for action. After all, good intentions mean nothing without the willingness to act”.</p>
<p>4. H.E. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment, African Union Commission</p>	Panel	<p>Commemorating Africa’s Day of Seas and Oceans (25 July), called for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active collaboration, bringing all African Union member states together to strengthen collective response against IUU fishing; - Increased investments in capacity building programmes to empower local communities, fishers, and fish-farmers; - Establishment of a network of Centres of Excellence on Fisheries and Aquaculture. <p>Noted the need to tackle challenges such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infrastructure needs; Market Access; Sustainable management of marine resources; Capacity building, incl. to meet phytosanitary standards, addressing social norms preventing gender equality, minimizing post-harvest losses and strengthening regional value chains. - Access to capital for the necessary investment in aquaculture for aquatic food production to facilitate innovation, expansion and transformation.

<p>5. H.E. Anne Beathe Tvinnereim Minister for International Development, Kingdom of Norway</p>	<p>Panel</p>	<p>Noted that food security is a top development cooperation priority for Norway. This priority goes beyond having enough food; as it includes ensuring access to the right nutrients. Examples of efforts to combine forces against hunger include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dedicated Fish for Development Program supporting a knowledge-based management of fisheries and aquaculture and monitoring to ensure environmental and economic sustainability; - EAF-Nansen Programme aimed at capacity building, increased knowledge of resources and the ecosystem for effective fisheries management with the overall objective to contribute to improved food and nutrition security. This cooperative programme with FAO also contributes to improve information on nutrient composition, nutritional value, and food quality; - Ocean for Development Programme supporting ocean governance and management.
<p>6. Ms Vivi Yulaswati Deputy Minister for Maritime Affairs and Natural Resources, Republic of Indonesia</p>	<p>Panel</p>	<p>Noted that Indonesia's vast seas and coastlines are the source of income for 7.5 million fishers. Blue Economy and Blue Transformation are indispensable for Indonesia's economic transformation. Under its Blue Economy Framework, important priorities include improving the productivity of a marine-based economy to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic growth.</p> <p>Supported the need for Blue Transformation, as defined by FAO, underlining that the benefits of the development of blue food systems go beyond increases in protein sources, but also include lower carbon footprint production compared to land-based systems, and contribute to strengthening local communities.</p>
<p>7. H.E. Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa to FAO</p>	<p>Panel</p>	<p>Remarked that Africa, and South Africa specifically, support FAO's Blue Transformation as a visionary agenda to enlarge the contribution of aquatic food to eradicate hunger, provide nutritional diets and protect coastal livelihoods.</p> <p>Noted that in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, aquaculture production has increased significantly over the last 15 years. However, major constraints remain and include the enabling regulatory environment to facilitate private sector investment, research and development, resource mobilisation, fish consumption awareness and limited human capacity in specialised skills (e.g., fish disease management, water quality control, adequate fish farming methods, site selection and planning).</p>

		Expressed commitment to support the sustainable management of aquatic natural resources globally.
<p>8. H.E. Jestas Abuok Nyamanga Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union</p> <p>Chairperson, Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) Ambassadorial Working Group on Oceans, Inland Water and Fisheries</p>	Panel	<p>Highlighted that Blue Transformation is vital to the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States' (OACPS) agenda, and is relevant across the domains of production, management, trade, and consumption.</p> <p>Challenges highlighted included: a) the need for aquatic food production to be inclusive, equitable and sustainable; b) combating overfishing and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; c) resolve market access issues; and d) improve the balance between production and demand. In response, Tanzania's Government has: a) formulated dedicated policies and legal instruments with budget allocations for investments in aquatic food infrastructure; and b) strengthened research, extension, and training to build skills and capacity.</p> <p>Noted that OACPS has established a Food Systems Transformation Mechanism as a collaborative food governance arrangement that includes also aquatic food.</p>
<p>9. Mr Gonzalo Munoz UNFCCC COP 25 High-Level Climate Champion</p>	Closing	<p>Noted that Blue Transformation will not be possible without deep collaboration with non-state actors, including companies and small-scale fisheries actors, financial institutions, and civil society.</p> <p>Underlined that the non-state actor pillar of the COP28 Presidency's food systems initiative we are working with a wide range of non-state actors to accelerate and showcase action across key areas of food systems transformation</p> <p>Introduced SeaChange 2030 a sustainability plan to help reshape the seafood industry through collaboration and partnerships with industry actors.</p>
<p>10. H.E. Peter Thomson United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean</p>	Closing	<p>Noted that climate change, pollution and ecosystem degradation are posing serious threats to aquatic life and the ocean's well-being, and called to address governance gaps in aquatic food production. With international instruments we're making Blue Transformation a reality for the betterment of aquatic food systems for people and planet.</p> <p>Underscored that FAO's Blue Transformation Roadmap represents the aquatic sector's best response to the call for the transformation of global food systems.</p>

	<p>Encouraged the aquatic food community to give the Blue Transformation strategy a prominent role and work together towards major events such as the upcoming OACPS Ministerial Conference on Oceans, Inland Waters and Fisheries next year, 4th International Conference on SIDS, and the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference.</p>
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Interventions from the floor

SPEAKER	QUESTION OR KEY POINT OF INTERVENTION
<p>1. Mr Leonard Mizzi Head of Unit, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), European Commission</p>	<p>Highlighted that aquatic food is often overlooked, and that the EU is proud of the EU-FAO-OACPS Fish4ACP Programme as an example of value chain development to enhance the empowerment, inclusiveness and equity of coastal communities. Appreciated the work of the Aquatic Blue Food Coalition as well as the efforts to reduce marine pollution, and address overfishing, including through the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA). Underscored that additional efforts are needed, noting the importance to compile and monitor the initiatives implemented also to attract and scale up investments.</p>

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

- Transformed aquatic food systems play a vital role in addressing and meeting the challenges of feeding and nourishing a growing population, by providing essential proteins and micronutrients, while reducing the environmental footprint of our food production systems. Developing sustainable, equitable and inclusive aquatic food systems can improve the rights and incomes of fishing or fish farming communities that depend on the sector for their livelihoods.
- Blue Transformation aims at leveraging policies, science, research, technology and innovation to achieve three quantifiable objectives: a) ensuring that sustainable aquaculture intensification and expansion continues to satisfy the global demand for aquatic foods, especially in food deficit regions, aiming to grow the subsector by at least 35 percent by the end of the decade; b) ensuring the effective management of all marine and inland fisheries, following an ecosystem-based approach, recognizing that effective management of all fisheries is the best conservation measure; and c) upgrading and developing aquatic food value chains to support new technologies, increase availability of aquatic foods, also through the reduction of losses and waste, enhancing consumers' awareness about the nutritional value of aquatic foods, and improving producers' access to lucrative markets.
- Partnerships, research & technology transfer, and investments in high impact initiatives can maximize the opportunities provided by aquatic food systems transformation (Blue Transformation) to food security and nutrition, affordable healthy diets for all, and build resilience to climate change.