

## UN Food Systems Summit+2 Stocktaking Moment

### DRAFT- 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

### GOVERNANCE FOR AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

25 JULY 2023 : 11.30 – 12.30

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List of speakers, in all segments, and key messages

	SEGMENT (opening, panel, closing, etc.)	KEY MESSAGES OR/AND RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS
<p><b>1. Inaya Ezzedine [LEBANON]</b></p> <p><i>Member of Parliament &amp; National Convenor, Chairperson of Women &amp; Children &amp; SDG 2030 Agenda Parliamentary Committees</i></p>	Panel	<p>Parliaments have a great responsibility in food systems transformation, representing the whole society in its diversity and articulation. The parliament is called to voice people's concerns and priorities to fulfil obligations on its three key challenging roles as to enable transformation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislation: laws need to be adapted to a changing world, they are often not aligned to respond to ongoing complex and interconnected challenges such as the transformation of food systems ensuring the respect of citizens' fundamental rights, balancing socio economic and environmental objectives.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Oversight: parliaments can hold the executive accountable for implementing system-based plans to transform food systems with structured, participatory and transparent monitoring structures.</li> <li>● Budgeting: parliaments have the responsibility to approve budgets that are programme-oriented, and to guarantee enough public financing for food systems transformation.</li> </ul> <p>Parliaments represent the diversity of social and political fabrics across society. They need to ensure all players are present at the table, bring them together and make them agree on what FST means. Stock taking of existing legislative instruments and frameworks helps mapping gaps in Lebanon, and although consultative process have been in place, multi-stakeholders’ participation is not yet institutionalized.</p> <p><b>Active participation of all actors concerned lead to an agreement on one vision for FST and what systems thinking means unlocking contribution across society and to find the resources for implementing transformation.</b></p>
<p><b>2. Edward Walugembe        [UGANDA]</b>  <i>Chairperson, National Food Systems Coordination Committee (NFSCC), Office of the Prime Minister</i></p>	<p>Panel</p>	<p>Food systems are complex. Everybody is involved, everybody is affected. It is not only a Whole of Government Approach but The Whole of Society Approach.</p> <p>Coordination is needed to involve all players in society, and all sectors, around a shared plan and with a critical eye.</p> <p>In Uganda, coordination is institutionalised and supported by the Coordination Policy of 2016 which espouses Connectedness, Continuity and Communication. With the establishment of the inter-institutional and multi-stakeholders’ National Food Systems Coordination Committee under the Prime Minister coordination and participation was institutionalized to build common understanding, planning, and coordinated implementation.</p>

		<p>In the Ugandan context, food systems transformation needs to address food security and the critical issue of food safety, catalytic to address other challenges. Cooperation and collaboration across sectors and actors is of essence. Rural development plays a crucial role, requiring innovation that the engagement and capacitation of the large youth population in the country will be key to enhance.</p> <p><b>Political commitment is crucial in supporting, funding and approving changes in legal frameworks. Constant engagement, joint action is necessary.</b></p>
<p><b>3. Jarot Indarto        [INDONESIA]</b></p> <p><i>Director of Food and Agriculture, Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS)</i></p>	<p>Panel</p>	<p>Territorial approaches, distinct levels of governance are of essence to ensure effectiveness of interventions. The country has incorporated food systems in the mid-term strategic planning aligned with nationalized priorities on the 2030 agenda and long-term national development plan guiding the country until 2045. Priorities for food systems transformation reflected in the national strategic planning were informed by extensive consultation at national and decentralized levels, capitalizing on the UNFSS preparations.</p> <p>Indonesia's geography needs effective implementation at decentralized level, respecting cultural, economic, social diversity. To support regional implementation efforts have included:</p> <p>Use of data and evidence-based efforts, innovative modelling and analysis, including political economy analysis to both assess trade-offs and ensure effective engagement of stakeholders concerned. Having a common understanding of the problems and common benchmarks facilitates the engagement, ownership and implementation. Evidence also helped to explore new policy options, to balance system-based approaches across sustainability dimensions.</p> <p>Financing: central government is facilitating development of local systems to access finance. Shared frameworks: national action plans provide a reference to develop local action plans for food and nutrition.</p> <p><b>Evidence-based, collective engagement &amp; collaboration, is key for leveraging scaled results adapted to local contexts.</b></p>

<p><b>4. Alwin Kopse        [SWITZERLAND]</b></p> <p><i>Head of International        Affairs and Food Systems &amp;        National Convenor, Federal        Office for Agriculture</i></p>	<p>Panel</p>	<p>To address food related issues, and support governmental decisions, Citizens assembly on the future of food (CS) was formed, capitalizing on the UNFSS dialogues. This allowed bringing together farmers, PS, CS to build understanding on FST, not just on agriculture-related issues. Dialogues included cities, often piloting innovative approaches, and drivers of transformational change. Continuous consultation of citizens also helped building bridges across different views, and resolve disagreements to build a common vision. Variegated group of 80-90 people randomly selected, were assisted by a group of scientists providing science-based info upon request of the Assembly; over 5 months the group developed almost 200 recommendations presented to public and government. Recommendations were largely aligned with the vision and direction of government but requesting more speed and greater role of government in implementation. Government used recommendations for the dispatch of the new agriculture policy embracing a food systems approach by 2027, and are being reviewed by Parliament for other related federal policy processes. Although direct democracy is very strong in Switzerland, citizens assembly is not a decision-making body but only an informative mechanism. More substantive influence on decisions might be explored, in particular in liaison with the Parliament and legislative process. Consumers' voice, not often represented in the past is very important to enforce a demand-driven approach to food systems transformation.</p> <p><b>Leadership is key, we need to transform both the substance and the governance of food systems. There is a key role of rule of law to translate priorities into action, with appropriate governance arrangements to enhance effective participation in decision making.</b></p>
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## Interventions from the floor

SPEAKER/REPPONDENTS	QUESTION OR KEY POINT OF INTERVENTION
<p><b>1. Franco Sanchez-Hidalgo [UN]</b>  <i>Director of Programmes, International Development Law Organization (IDLO)</i></p>	<p>Element to Governance does not exist by default, it exists in practice, by design. There is the need to design response to FST with institutions, legal frameworks and ensure effective people participation, particularly those are beneficiaries of the system and interventions.</p> <p>To be effective, governance systems need to be accountable, transparent and inclusive to protect the right to food to tackle corruption, and avoid marginalization of actors. Empowerment of food systems actors to learn how to claim for their rights, and enable them to raise and make their voice heard. On the other side, inclusive participation should be available to empower them also to know and the entitlement to participate in decision-making balancing asymmetry of capacity and influence. At all latitude women are a motor for change, a strong feminist approach to FST is needed.</p> <p>Legal &amp; institutional frameworks are also to be redesigned. Judicial mechanisms needed to resolve conflicts within food systems with integration of customary and informal justice systems (mediation, arbitration, adjudication) are of essence, allowing violation of rights, and resolutions of tensions and conflicts to be addressed and compromised.</p> <p>Legal review, of laws and regulation, by design to respond to the FST, especially in terms of critical cross-cutting and highly sensitive issues, like land management and tenure and land governance, essential for balanced and integrated approaches is also needed. Same for water, climate and NRs all need response from governance and rule of law point of view allowing for integrated, cross sectoral and participatory approaches. Integration of SDG16, where institutions accountably deliver to guarantee right to food.</p>
<p><b>2. Lany Rebagay</b>  <i>Regional Program Manager for Asia-Pacific Farmers Program and Farmers for Asia (Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development)</i></p>	<p>Appreciation of the efforts by Governments to break off silos and towards policy coherence, but coordination needs improvement. Consistency across decisions, including on substantive participation of producers and other actors is key.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Consultation needs coupling with genuine participation in decision making, motivating actors to engage, as their point of view is heard, and able to influence final decisions accordingly. Institutionalised mechanisms are needed for that.</li> <li>● MSH approach is also very important, but some interests are not well represented due to lack of capacity and resources. Participation should be mandatory and financed, empowering and capacitating actors to equally contribute to the process and to influence the decisions. Otherwise the risk is that only the ones who have capacity and resources to support continuous participation are ultimately able to influence decisions.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are many existing models which can be capitalized on like the Farmers Forum (FAFO) to inform decisions of IFAD Governing Council. Another model is the CSO representation in the Global Agricultural Food Security Program (GAFSP) where in Farmers organizations and NGOs are represented in the Steering Committee and with Annex 3 of their guideline, they provide mandatory participation of farmer organization representatives in project design and other important processes.</li> <li>• Farmers associations have their own coordination mechanisms too, they should be further leveraged both at national and global level.</li> </ul> <p>AFA wished that in next UNFSS processes farmers organization will be more meaningfully engaged beyond just giving feedback but more importantly as partners contributing to the transition for more resilient and inclusive food systems.</p> <p>Only if the right conditions are in place, critical actors like producers will be able to fully contribute to and benefit from the food systems transformation.</p> <p>Political engagement and leadership is of essence, for decisions and accountability</p>
<p>4. Florence Égal (UN-HABITAT)</p>	<p><a href="#">Policy brief</a> prepared by the informal network on governance contributing to UNFSS 2021 was a first attempt to address governance of food systems in UNFSS preparations. As governance is now recognized as a key enable of food systems transformation, better coordination on those issues across institutions is needed to capitalize on experiences and lessons.</p>

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

The discussion offered participants the chance to collectively reflect on opportunities to develop more inclusive and effective governance mechanisms to ensure the acceleration of progress, at scale, in food systems transformation. Main conclusions were:

- Governance plays a critical role in ensuring that institutions, legal frameworks and collective action at all levels lead to the desired transformation of our food systems.
- Countries are setting up governance arrangements for the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders, including governments, parliaments, civil society, businesses, youth, media, academia, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, in decision-making processes. Participation to decision-making is key to ensure ownership across all relevant actors and inclusive implementation of food systems transformation pathways across sectors and territories.
- In doing so, the right to food needs to be protected. Taking a human rights approach in transforming agrifood systems is essential, in particular for the implementation of actions that incorporate the interests and needs of all people, including groups in the most vulnerable situations, and with lower capacity and opportunity to influence decisions, and benefit from results.
- Cross-sectoral coordination and decision-making mechanisms need clear procedures to ensure inclusive participation, accountability and transparency. Capacitation and empowerment of actors is needed to balance different interests and opportunities to participate and influence decisions.
- Agrifood systems transformation requires innovative evidence to help building a shared understanding on what it means in practice, as to build comprehensive policy frameworks and sectoral interventions while addressing possible trade-offs, maximizing synergies, and allowing engagement of actors. Decentralized level implementation, including budget allocation is key to tailor results to socio-economic and cultural contexts, as well as to bring results at scale.
- Parliaments have an important role to play in supporting food systems transformation, by ensuring that the required legislation, accountability and budgeting are in place.
- Strong leadership is required to ensure that priorities translate into action, with appropriate governance arrangements that sustain transformation towards equitable, resilient and sustainable food systems.