



## **United Nations Food Systems Summit Stocktake+4 (UNFSS+4)**

### **From Rome to Addis and Beyond: Call to Action by the Secretary-General**

At the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) in 2021, in the midst of a global pandemic, we embarked on a journey to grow and catalyze energy behind an emerging movement for the transformation of our food systems to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Too often food systems are seen as part of our challenges, when they can be one of the greatest solutions to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals for people, planet, peace and prosperity.

Two years ago, still grappling with the socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic, facing planetary crises and the effects of new conflicts, the Call to Action from the First Stocktake of the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS+2) in Rome appealed for inclusivity to strengthen our efforts to drive more targeted investment and mutual accountability.

Since then, governments have been shifting the manner in which they govern and shape policy for food systems. A total of 130 countries supported largely by UN country teams have articulated integrated, multisectoral National Pathways for Food Systems Transformation.

In 168 countries, nationally determined contributions (NDCs) are beginning to reflect the critical role of food and agriculture in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as we seek to adapt and transform. More than 169 countries now implement school meal programs to support child nutrition. At the subnational level, many cities are leading the way in reducing food waste and strengthening local supply chains.

A diverse ecosystem of partners - comprised of civil society, science, business, the UN System and other international institutions - have been accompanying countries in delivering this shift as they develop new areas for investment, including in complex settings.

International Financial Institutions (IFIs) are supporting countries to drive scale, momentum, and ambition, with steadily growing contributions in line with the

UNFSS+2 Call to Action, which urged a \$15 billion commitment over two years. In 2023 alone, they disbursed \$17.8 billion to low- and middle-income countries surpassing that target. Going forward, more of this finance needs to reach small holder farmers.

International food prices have shown a general decrease from the high prices in 2023, with international cooperation playing a critical role. The global community enhanced the ability of countries to respond to food crises through new mechanisms, including the IMF Food Shock Window (FSW) under the Rapid Credit Facility (RCF) and the Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI). Having secured funding, the LDC Food Stockholding Mechanism will soon be operational.

The Food Systems Window of the Joint SDG Fund, launched at UNFSS+2, is supporting 26 countries. UN Resident Coordinators, Country Teams and partners are helping to leverage five to nine times the initial investment.

The call for food systems transformation resonates in global and regional agreements, including the *COP28 UAE Declaration on Agriculture, Food Systems and Climate Action*, G7 and G20 commitments, particularly the G7 Apulia Food Systems Initiative and the G20 Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty. At the regional level *CELAC's SAN (Food Security, Nutrition, and Hunger Eradication) Plan*, the *ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Promoting Sustainable Agriculture* and the *AU's Kampala Declaration on Building Resilient and Sustainable Agrifood Systems in Africa* commit to transform food systems for people and the planet in these regions.

Globally, hunger has declined, with some individual countries, Brazil, India making laudable progress. New evidence shows significant increases in access to safe water and the availability of vegetables. Conservation of plant and animal genetic resources has also risen, bolstering the resilience of food systems to climate shocks and other disruptions. Scientific research is helping understand how changes in one area, such as governance or diet quality, affect other dimensions, emphasizing the need for coordinated, cross-sectoral approaches.

## **The Urgency of the Moment**

Today, we have concluded the Second Stocktake of the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS+4) in Addis Ababa. Ethiopia has demonstrated what it takes to move from commitments to investing at scale in food systems through local governments, from food systems, to environment rehabilitation, to resilient green economies and infrastructure impacting school feeding, jobs and local markets and laying a strong foundation to secure an environment for peace and prosperity to thrive.

We met in the face of challenges that test our moral values and threaten the future sustainability of our planet, underscoring the urgency of our work together.

Between 638 and 720 million people, corresponding to 7.8 and 8.8 percent of the global population, respectively, faced hunger in 2024. This represents progress globally, but masks rising challenges in some regions.

2.6 billion people are still unable to afford a healthy diet, with increasing numbers in Africa.

Only about one-third of children aged 6 to 23 months and two-thirds of women aged 15 to 49 years achieved minimum dietary diversity globally.

People's access to food in conflict zones is highly constrained and – in some instances – attempts to access humanitarian relief has led to injury and death. Whole communities experience man-made food insecurity and malnutrition, with extreme long-term consequences for their children.

Farmers everywhere are facing unprecedented adverse climate impacts, threatening their livelihoods and food security.

Developing economies are still coping with impacts of inflation, severe fiscal constraints, debt challenges and the high cost of capital.

## **The Pathway to 2030**

Peace and respect for human rights anchors our ambition towards 2030, our deadline to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals and hope for a better future for all.

Every person in our world - rich or poor, young or old – has the right to food that is accessible, affordable, safe and nutritious.

Future generations are depending on our choices.

Only through inclusive dialogue and genuine partnerships can countries and communities ensure faster and more effective progress.

Today, thanks to your collective work and efforts we are better equipped to meet our ambition. You are strengthening coalitions and launching new initiatives to help drive our work, including:

- The Food Systems Accelerator, launched by FAO, GAIN and the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, will support countries to turn strategies into financed, scalable change.
- Through the 3FS framework we can better understand the distinctive contributions of financing partners to help governments design more effective, tailored financing strategies.
- Business engagement - co-led by FAO, UN Global Compact, and WBCSD – broke new ground. These efforts culminated in a Business Compendium of 15 investment-ready models, showing how business is shifting from commitment to implementation.
- The Convergence Initiative has helped drive integration of food systems transformation and climate action for accelerated sustainable development and represents a useful resource for countries to navigate competing policy choices with partners.
- Initiatives under the Mattei Plan for Africa, including AREA Africa (Senegal, Ghana, Republic of the Congo, Ivory Coast); TANIT (Tunisia); ACT Coffee (Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Kenya) are mobilizing public-private partnerships and catalyzing private sector investment to produce real impact and support critical sectors.

**In the countdown to 2030, I call on all of us to continue to grow our momentum and to amplify our investment around:**

**Urgent Delivery in Complex Settings**

- We must summon the funding, innovations and global solidarity to build the food-secure and climate-resilient future that every person, everywhere, needs and deserves.
- The dramatic reduction in lifesaving humanitarian funding to respond to these needs must be immediately reversed and safe access to humanitarian lifesaving support in line with international humanitarian law.

### **Dialogue, Policy & Coordination**

- Deepening implementation of National Pathways for Food Systems Transformation, tailored to local contexts and backed by technical cooperation.
- Enable effective and meaningful participation of all relevant stakeholders in policy processes related to food systems, with particular attention to involving family farmers, front-line food workers, women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- Secure convergence and coherence across all public policy areas that are related to food systems outcomes - including people's food security, nutrition and livelihoods, as well as the efficient use of increasingly scarce planetary resources. One Health approaches and sector-wide NDCs can be effective in this regard.

### **Finance and Investment**

- Strengthen domestic resource mobilization and investments at scale for all dimensions of food systems transformation.
- Further grow finance and investment by MDBs, IFIs, and Public Development Banks behind country priorities. Inclusive coordination mechanisms at country level can enhance efficiency and impact.
- Scale up private sector investment in agriculture and food systems, including for SMEs that exist in nearly every country and serve as a backbone of our food systems interfacing with millions of food producers and consumers. The potential for incentivizing and derisking private investments through public and philanthropic investments for establishing blended finance should be constantly explored. Public-private partnerships around critical sectors, such as coffee value chains, offer good practices and success stories on which we can build.
- Continue to identify opportunities for responsible investment and to build collaboration, empowering countries with financial intelligence, to understand the distinctive contributions of financing partners for more effective, tailored financing strategies.

## **Integration**

- Promote measures that focus on equity and resilience through linking environmental, economic and social dimensions of food systems, such as facilitating access to land and finance, promoting approaches such as agroecology and regenerative agriculture, and public policies such as sustainable public food procurement and school meal programs.
- Design policies rooted in local culture, communities and traditional knowledge to help guide approaches that can accelerate transformation and enhance self-reliance.

## **Science, Artificial Intelligence and New Technologies**

- Strengthen multisectoral and science-based coordination. Science and innovation are prerequisites for food systems transformation and can support alignment of health, agriculture, climate, biodiversity and economic objectives and policies. Strong science-policy-society interfaces are essential and must appreciate traditional knowledge.
- New technologies, such as artificial intelligence, are changing our economies and our societies. The road ahead demands we leverage the appropriate and responsible use of technology to ensure prosperity for all in a healthy and livable planet.
- Investing in digital public infrastructure to connect farmers and produce to markets. Concessional finance and access to technology is therefore critical.

## **Intergenerational Collaboration**

- Youth are not merely future beneficiaries of food systems change: they are active co-leaders in transformation. Policies should enhance opportunities for young people to create, innovate and thrive.

On the road to 2030, there will be important milestones that the outcomes of UNFSS+4 will inform and in which this movement will engage. These include the World Social Summit, UNFCCC COP30, UNCBD COP17 and the 2027 SDG Summit.

UNFSS+4 has reinforced the value of a dedicated space to foster collaboration, deepen systems approaches and to encourage the emergence of food systems whose purposes are at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The UN Food Systems Coordination Hub will continue to advance progress at country level, through our Resident Coordinators and Country Teams, accompanying National Convenors and collaborating with other partners. At the global level, the Rome-based Agencies together with the UN Task Force on Food Systems and the Ecosystem of Support—will sustain momentum and enhance leadership for food systems transformation.

Our movement has shown what is possible when we work together in deliberate ways across sectors, stakeholders, and countries with a shared purpose. I call on governments and people everywhere to build on what has been accomplished and continue to work together for peace and to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda.

Let's continue to lead the way.