

2nd UN Food Systems Summit Stocktake (UNFSS+4)

Concept Note for Session Co-leads

July 27-29, 2025 – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

1. Title of the session: Business/Towards greater corporate accountability

2. Type of the session: Stakeholders Action Session

3. Date and time of the session: Tuesday 29 July, 11:00 - 12:50

4. Session background:

The private sector has a pivotal role in transforming food systems to deliver more positive health, environmental, and social outcomes. Large companies have great influence at all stages of the food supply chain, from input production to farming, and from manufacturing to retail/consumption. More companies are taking measurable and ambitious action and promoting transparency by disclosing progress in their own operations and across their supply chains in areas such as environmental and climate action, social justice and equity, and finance & investment. While some achievements have been made, we must now accelerate the delivery of transparency and accountability of corporate action for food systems transformation.

5. Context:

Momentum continues to build around the role of responsible private sector engagement in food systems and the initiatives supporting private sector credibility and accountability. During the UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment, the UN Secretary General launched a call to action “to promote increased engagement of businesses, including through public-private partnerships, to shape the sustainability of food systems and establish and strengthen accountability mechanisms, recognizing their centrality for food systems”. Since then, different stakeholders have engaged in supporting corporate accountability within food systems transformation, helping to develop guidance and actions to drive the systemic change needed to truly transform food systems for both people and the planet. The Pact of the Future, adopted by world leaders in September 2024, also calls on encouraging the contribution of the private sector to address global challenges and strengthen its accountability towards the implementation of United Nations frameworks.

6. Session objectives:

This session will:

1. Enable Government and other stakeholders to demonstrate why corporate transparency and accountability are key for food systems transformation. The session will explore what good accountability looks like and how companies can take leadership and be supported and incentivised to improve their contributions to positive food system outcomes.
2. Provide a platform for Government, standard-setters, businesses, and civil society organisations to demonstrate progress and identify challenges and opportunities on delivering on corporate accountability.

3. Build further support among a broad range of stakeholders and experts on the key transparency and accountability parameters and metrics for large companies in food systems at UNFSS+4 and beyond. The session will discuss a common understanding on how metrics and data can support practices and policies to contribute to achieving sustainable food systems.

7. Link UNFSS+4 objectives

a. Reflecting on Progress

This session will identify the progress that has been made in corporate accountability, while underscoring the necessity to align further on transparency and accountability through clear metrics, standards and frameworks.

b. Partnerships and Tracking Commitments

Transparent data and clear metrics will help different types of stakeholders better understand, monitor and assess the behaviour of large companies. A key component of this session is to highlight that this information must be accessible to governments, financial institutions, international organisations, and civil society, to keep companies accountable to achieve a sustainable and equitable future.

c. Unlocking Finance and Increasing Investments

By building and ensuring transparency, reducing risk and demonstrating that companies are willing to align themselves with metrics and objectives to transform food systems, companies will be more credible and reliable partners for medium- and long-term investments.

8. Key message(s) of the session:

There will not be a healthy, sustainable and inclusive food system without the contribution, innovation, and willingness of large companies.

Transparent data and clear metrics will help stakeholders better understand, monitor and assess the behaviour of large companies. This information must be accessible to governments, financial institutions, international organisations, and civil society, to keep companies accountable to achieve a sustainable and equitable future.

Corporate accountability in food systems transformation can draw from global standards and frameworks. Governments, regulators and standard-setters have a singular opportunity to signal what good looks like and help create the regulatory environment needed to drive corporate accountability.

9. Session format:

This session will highlight the importance of corporate accountability in driving food systems transformation. It will feature perspectives from non-state actors on the need for transparency, followed by insights from regulators and policymakers on identifying policy support opportunities to deliver on corporate accountability. A panel discussion will explore how key metrics and data can enhance accountability practices and align corporate actions with sustainable food systems goals. The session will conclude with reflections and next steps.

10. Guiding questions for speakers:

How are you delivering on your pledges on food systems transformation by implementing credible action and supporting accountability by disclosure and transparency on its progress?

How do you call for standard-setters and regulators to ensure clarity and consistency in metrics and reporting guidelines. How do you make the case that this will spur non-state actors to safeguard climate and environment, social justice and equity, healthy diets and nutrition, and finance in food systems?

In your view, where is there consensus and where is there disagreement? Why is it difficult to agree on common parameters?

What is needed to further support and challenge the private sector in this process?

How can regulators integrate corporate accountability mechanisms into, national and subnational food systems transformation policies and processes?

How can civil society help support these efforts?

What is the role of UN agencies on setting norms and providing guidance on corporate accountability in food systems transformation?

11. Desirable outcome:

To catalyse further action, the event is expected to announce a Coalition for Corporate Accountability in Food Systems. The UN Global Compact, World Benchmarking Alliance, UNEP with partners will be taking forward a Corporate Accountability Blueprint for governments, companies, and non-state actors to clarify the responsibilities of businesses, as well as the measurements and actions needed to meet the growing demand for sustainable business practices throughout their operations. The initial findings of a stakeholder survey suggests there is broad support for this. To encourage the contribution of the private sector to address global challenges and strengthen its accountability towards the implementation of United Nations frameworks, the Coalition will support the achievement of a Corporate Accountability Blueprint in food systems. The session will help provide:

- Governments and investors with actionable insights to establish and strengthen accountability mechanisms for businesses.
- Non-state actors including the private sector and civil society organisations with greater clarity about corporate accountability mechanisms and actions at both the global and the country levels.

12. Run of Show

(1) 11.00-11.10 Setting the Scene/Opening Remarks

(2) 11.10-11.30 Fireside Chat: Why Corporate Accountability Matters

Non-state actor voices, such as companies, financial institutions and others, demonstrate why corporate transparency and accountability are key for food systems transformation.

(3) 11.30-12.00 Corporate Accountability in Food Systems Policies and Processes

Government/regulators identify policy support opportunities on delivering on corporate accountability.

(4) 12.00-12.40 Facilitated Panel Discussion and Q&A

Building further support on the key transparency and accountability parameters and metrics, this panel will discuss a common understanding on how metrics and data can support practices and policies to contribute to achieving sustainable food systems.

(5) 12.40 – 12.50 Closing Remarks and Way Forward

13. List of speakers:

Moderator: Mr. Gerbrand Haverkamp, Executive Director, World Benchmarking Alliance

Opening Remarks

- Ms. Sanda Ojiambo, Executive Director and Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations Global Compact (UNGC)

Fireside Chat

- Ambassador Ms. Ertharin Cousin, President and CEO, Food Systems for the Future and Board Member, Bayer AG Supervisory Board
- Mr. Gonzalo Munoz, Founder, Ambition Loop

Corporate Accountability in Food Systems Policies and Processes

- H.E. Dr Faniran Sanjo, Director, Social Development Department Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Nigeria
- Ms. Inaya Ezzedine, MD, MP Chairperson Women and Children Parliamentary Committee SDG2030 AGENDA Parliamentary Commission Lebanese Parliament
- Mr. Jarot Indarto, Director of Food and Agriculture, The National Planning and Development Agency (Bappenas), Indonesia
- Ambassador Ms. Wampie Libon, Director of Inclusive Green Growth and Ambassador of Sustainable Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands

Panel Discussion

- Ms. Susanne Stormer, Partner, Sustainability Services Leader, PwC and Board Member Access to Nutrition Initiative
- Mr. Fabrice de Clerck, Chief Science Officer, EAT Foundation
- Ms. Francine Picard Mukuzi, Co-founder and Director of Partnerships, Shamba Centre for Food and Climate, and Coordinator, Zero Hunger Coalition
- Ms. Christine Campeau, Global Policy Director, Food and Nutrition Systems, CARE
- Mr. Douglas Kativu, Director Africa, Global Reporting Initiative
- Ms. Laura Wellesley-Squires, Forest, Land and Agriculture (FLAG) Lead, ClimateArc

Closing Remarks

- Mr. James Lomax, Food Systems Coordination Unit, Ecosystems Division, UNEP
- Ms. Lara Blanco, Director Sustainable Development, Executive Office of the Secretary-General, United Nations

14. Contact information of the session leads and co-leads

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