

## 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:

*Youth-led Session: From Bangkok to Addis Ababa, co-led by the Hub YLP and the Youth UNFSS+4 Task Force*

#### 2. Type of the session:

*Stakeholders Action session*

#### 3. Date and time of the session:

*Monday, 28 July, 16:30 - 18:00*

#### 4. Session background (max 300 words):

*Provide a concise summary of the session, including its thematic focus, why it is relevant, how it links to the UNFSS+4, who it will bring together, and how it contributes to food systems transformation and the SDGs. Include any key highlights or elements that will define the session.*

#### 5. Context (max 300 words):

*Briefly explain the background and relevance of the topic within global and national food systems transformation efforts. You may refer to recent developments, gaps, or opportunities that justify the session.*

*Over the course of the last four months, global consultations have gathered the views of thousands of young people – from across all regions – to update the ‘Youth Declaration on Food Systems Transformation’ which was presented at the 2021 UNFSS. A process to capture global and regional youth priorities ahead of UNFSS+4 has been coordinated by a Youth Task Force – which has mobilized youth through online surveys and consultations hosted by the World Food Forum Youth Assembly and the SENA Youth representatives in collaboration with the UN Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY).*

*A pivotal point in this process was a Preparatory Youth Conference that took place in Bangkok where more than 100 changemakers, including alumni of the Hub’s Youth Leadership Programme, from more than 50 countries, gathered to consult a ‘UNFSS+4 Youth Declaration on Food Systems’. The UNFSS+4 Youth Declaration will be presented at this event, including a call to action from youth for more inclusive, participatory and rights-based decision making in food systems.*

*In addition to the creation of the UNFSS+4 Youth Declaration on Food Systems, youth have actively participated in the 5 Regional Preparatory Meetings, positively influencing and enriching regional processes on the road to Addis Ababa. The vital contributions of these youth, from organizations, networks, constituencies and Indigenous Communities to these processes highlights their unwavering commitment to be a driving force for a more sustainable, just, and food secure future.*

## **6. Session objectives:**

*Clearly state what the session aims to achieve.*

*This session aims to catalyse action on the UNFSS+4 Youth Declaration by advancing youth engagement in food systems policy processes at all levels. It seeks to transform political commitments into tangible actions through inclusive governance, direct investment in youth-led initiatives, and efforts that create an enabling environment to promote and amplify youth-led solutions. By disseminating the key priorities in the Declaration and showcasing the vital contributions of youth and Indigenous communities, the session will promote coherence across global platforms and encourage all stakeholders to align efforts for urgent and systemic change in food systems, ultimately bridging political commitments with real change on the ground*

## **7. Link UNFSS+4 objectives**

*Please complete at least one of the three sections below. Feel free to fill in more than one where relevant.*

### **a. Reflecting on Progress**

*This session will showcase progress since UNFSS 2021, highlighting achievements, lessons learned, and remaining challenges in food systems transformation, with a focus on youth engagement and governance.*

### **b. Partnerships and Tracking Commitments**

### **c. Unlocking Finance and Increasing Investments**

## **8. Key message(s) of the session:**

*List 3-4 concise key messages or takeaways the session will deliver — preferably actions- or solution-oriented.*

- *To take action based on the UNFSS+4 Youth Declaration on Food Systems and to facilitate youth engagement in food systems policymaking at all levels - facilitating advocacy, action and empowerment.*
- *To treat the priorities identified for each region with due importance- catalysing the impact of the Declaration from a consulted statement to a shared mandate for urgent and systemic action.*
- *To turn political commitments into change on the ground, with youth participation in inclusive governance and co-ownership of food systems action guaranteed, alongside bold investment in youth-led initiatives and direct financing that connects national action to global platforms.*

- *To encourage all stakeholders to take stock on progress under the identified priorities, including at upcoming multilateral environmental and food policy making processes.*

## **9. Session format (max 100 words):**

*Describe the proposed structure of the session (e.g. Panel; Panel and Q&A; Roundtable; Multiple Panels, Keynote and Discussion, etc.)*

*The session will open with framing remarks, detailing the journey of youth engagement since UNFSS 2021 to the present; followed by a presentation of the key messages of the UNFSS+4 Youth Declaration on Food Systems. The presentation will also cover the various ways that youth have engaged in the UNFSS process through the Regional Preparatory Conferences. The session will then move to a panel discussion including youth from various regions. A second panel will follow which will include presentations from national convenors, government representatives and YLP alumni on the engagement of youth within national pathways.*

## **10. Guiding questions for speakers:**

*Provide 3–5 thought-provoking, outcome-oriented questions that align with the session objectives and key messages.*

### **PANEL 1 questions**

- 1. How have young people been meaningfully engaged in the UNFSS processes so far, and what have been the key achievements or challenges from your perspective?*
- 2. What barriers still exist for youth to participate effectively in shaping food systems policy at local, national, or global levels, and how can these be addressed?*
- 3. In what ways can youth-led innovation, knowledge, and activism influence food systems transformation post-UNFSS, especially in implementation of the Youth Declaration and accountability mechanisms?*
- 4. What commitments or support do you believe are most critical from governments, institutions, or other stakeholders to strengthen youth participation in the ongoing UNFSS pathways?*
- 5. Which of the priorities identified in the Youth Declaration resonate most with you and host can we ensure that we move from commitments to change following UNFSS+4?*

### **PANEL 2 questions**

- 1. How has your country's initiatives or food systems transformation pathways integrated youth priorities, and what has been the impact so far?*
- 2. How has the YLP program elevated your engagement in food systems transformation in your country? How does a collaboration with youth organizations such as the WFF National Chapters help to amplify these efforts?*
- 3. What role have national food systems hubs or multi-stakeholder platforms played in supporting meaningful youth engagement and leadership?*

4. Can you share specific success stories or lessons learned from youth-focused interventions or programs supported through country-led initiatives?
5. What strategies are needed to ensure that youth priorities remain central in national implementation plans, especially as we move from dialogue to action and accountability?

### 11. Desirable outcome:

State what the session seeks to deliver in terms of concrete outcomes (e.g., recommendations, commitments, collaboration opportunities, input to policy/strategy, etc.)

- **Disseminate the main outcomes of the UNFSS+4 Youth Declaration** on Food Systems, which had youth engaged in the 5 Regional Preparatory Meetings, positively influencing and enriching regional processes on the road to Addis Ababa.
- **Stress the vital contributions of youth** organizations, networks, constituencies and Indigenous Communities as a driving force for a more sustainable, just, and food secure future.
- **Communicate key data and knowledge** about the opportunity of engaging youth in agrifood systems to accelerate the implementation of National Pathways, while calling for converging strategies in other forums, such as COP30, UNEA and upcoming multilateral engagements.

### 12. Tentative run of show

Provide a high-level outline of the session flow — e.g.:

The session will include two panels, one focusing on the key messages of the UNFSS+4 Youth Declaration on Food Systems and a second with government leaders, who will react to these messages. The presentation will also cover the various ways that youth have engaged in the UNFSS process through the Regional Preparatory Conferences, including Youth Conference for the 2nd UN Food Systems Summit in Bangkok in May 2025.

### 13. List of speakers:

Welcoming remarks from the UNFSS+4 Youth Task Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr Opeyemi Elujulo</b>, SDG2 Global Focal Point, MGCY and Member of the UNFSS+4 Youth Task Force</li> <li>• <b>Mr David Giles</b>, World Food Forum Global Youth Action Initiative, Member of the UNFSS+4 Youth Task Force</li> <li>• <b>Dr Nicole de Paula</b>, Technical Officer (Science for Food Systems), UN Food Systems Coordination Hub</li> </ul>
Presentation of the renewed Youth Declaration: key messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr Zack Ahmed</b> - World Food Forum Youth Policy Board</li> <li>• <b>Ms Dina Kebede</b> - Youth Leadership Programme</li> <li>• <b>Mr Nicolás Domke</b> - SENA Group Youth Representative and Member of the UNFSS+4 Youth Task Force</li> </ul>
	<p>Video screening - Insights from the Preparatory Youth Conference in Bangkok</p> <p><u>3 minutes</u></p>
Panel Discussion - Youth perspectives on	<b>Mr Musa Juwara</b> , YLP Alumn from the Gambia / WFF Gambia Chapter Lead

<p>engagement in UNFSS processes</p> <p><b>Moderated by Mr David Giles</b></p>	
	<b>Mr Rino Dominic Cabungcal</b> , YLP Representative Philippines, Science Research Specialist and Innovation Hub Manager at Department of Science and Technology
	<b>Ms Elizabeth Mwende Mwendwa</b> - SENA Group Youth Representative, YLP Representative from Kenya and Member of the UNFSS+4 Youth Task Force
	<b>Mr Mathews Vichr Lopes</b> , YLP Representative Brazil, and Assessor no Gabinete do Ministério do Desenvolvimento Agrário (MDA)
<p>Panel Discussion - Reactions from various stakeholders (Science, Policy, National Convenors)</p> <p><b>Moderated by Dr Nicole de Paula</b></p>	<b>Prof Nitya Rao Swaminathan</b> , Professor of Gender and Development at the University of East Anglia, Director of the Norwich Institute for Sustainable Development - SAC Member
	<b>Dr Inaya Ezzeddine</b> , Chairperson of the Women and Children Parliamentary Committee, National Convenor Lebanon
	<b>Mrs Paulina Addy</b> , Food Systems National Co-Convenor Ghana / Director, Women in Agricultural Development (WIAD)
Q&A	<b>All speakers</b>
Closing Reflections	<b>Dr Andreas Schaumayer</b> , Head of Division for Food Security and Fisheries, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

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

*Include contact information of the session leads and co-leads.*

- *David Giles, World Food Forum Global Youth Action Initiative -[David.Giles@fao.org](mailto:David.Giles@fao.org)*
- *Nicolás Domke, SENA Youth Representative- [nicolas.domke.v@gmail.com](mailto:nicolas.domke.v@gmail.com)*
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- *Opeyemi Elujulo, MGCY SDG2 Focal Point -[opeyemi.elujulo1@gmail.com](mailto:opeyemi.elujulo1@gmail.com)*
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