

## 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:**

*Data and AI for Food Systems Transformation*

**2. Type of the session:**

Investment Dialogue

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

*Monday 28 July 2025 | 16.30 – 18.00 EAT*

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

*This session, hosted by the World Economic Forum and UN Global Compact, will focus on strategies to mobilize private sector investments, implement market-based solutions, and elevate the transformative potential of data and technologies such as Artificial Intelligence for agrifood systems, emphasizing their capacity to optimize productivity and improve quality. The discussion will address persistent inequities – shaped by uneven resource distribution and the under-valorization of data – by showcasing practical examples of inclusive innovation, such as solutions co-developed with farmers and tailored to the real needs of local communities. By convening diverse stakeholders, the session aims to foster inclusive approaches that build trust, drive investment, and advance more equitable and resilient food systems.*

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

*This session, hosted by the World Economic Forum and the United Nations Global Compact, will focus on strategies to mobilize private sector investments, implement market-based solutions, and elevate the transformative potential of data and technologies such as Artificial Intelligence for agrifood systems, emphasizing their capacity to optimize productivity and improve quality.*

## 6. Session objectives:

By convening diverse stakeholders, the session aims to foster inclusive approaches that build trust, drive investment, and advance more equitable and resilient food systems.

## 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

The discussion will address persistent inequities – shaped by uneven resource distribution and the under-valorization of data – by showcasing practical examples of inclusive innovation, such as solutions co-developed with farmers and tailored to the real needs of local communities

Policy Insights: A view on key policy instruments needed to catalyze and scale digital solutions and AI.

### Partnerships and Tracking Commitments

Informed Decision-Making: A comprehensive understanding of the context-specific status of active interventions and programs.

Strengthened Collaborations: Alignment and multistakeholder partnership opportunities around data and digital readiness

### b. Unlocking Finance and Increasing Investments

Investment opportunities: A focus on understanding innovations as well as effective implementation and opportunities for investment in digital solutions

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

Accelerated mobilization of private sector investments, implementation of market-based solutions, and elevation the transformative potential of data and digital technologies.

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

*The session will feature opening remarks, followed by a keynote presentation setting the context. Two sequential panels will then explore key themes from different perspectives.*

*The first will address what it will take to bridge the tech gap and build trust and investment in these technologies for the agrifood system.*

*The second will focus on farmer empowerment and creation of solutions for food system equity. The session will conclude with closing remarks, followed by a dedicated Q&A segment where audience questions will be addressed.*

## 10. Guiding questions for speakers:

*How can data and AI be leveraged to drive both productivity and equity in agrifood systems? What are the main barriers to the adoption of data-driven and AI solutions among smallholder farmers and local communities? How can we ensure that the benefits of digital innovation are accessible to marginalized groups, including women and youth?*

*How can we build trust among farmers, investors, and technology providers to accelerate the adoption of digital tools? What role can public-private partnerships play in scaling up investment in data and AI for food systems transformation? What mechanisms can help ensure that farmers and local organizations have a voice in the design and deployment of new technologies?*

*How can we address persistent inequities in access to data, technology, and investment across regions and communities? What accountability mechanisms are needed to ensure that investments in digital transformation deliver on their promises for all stakeholders? What commitments or actions would you like to see emerge from this Summit to advance inclusive, data-driven food systems?*

## 11. Desirable outcome:

*A spotlight on successful country-level transformations, innovative practices, and commitment to the broader public-private efforts to shape a coherent global narrative on key SDG transitions.*

## 12. Tentative run of show

### 16:30 – 16:40 Opening Remarks

- **Public Sector Representative:** Option 1) Paula Ingabire, Minister of ICT & Innovation, Rwanda, Option 2) Government of Italy (tbc)

### 16:40 – 16:50 Keynote Presentation – Unlocking Data and AI for Equitable Food Systems

- **Joachim von Braun**, President of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences; Professor (em.) for Economic and Technological Change Center for Development Research (ZEF), Bonn University (tbc)

### 16:50 – 17:20 Panel – Bridging the Tech Gap: Building Trust and Investment in Agrifood Systems

Introduced and moderated by:

- **World Economic Forum**

With:

- **Private Sector Representative: Debra Mallowah**, Head of Africa & Bayer Crop Science (tbc)
- **Private Sector Representative: John Matogo**, Corporate Social Responsibility Leader for Middle East and Africa, IBM (tbc)
- **Member State Representative: Fatema Al Mulla**, Director of Partnerships and Special Projects, Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, United Arab Emirates (tbc)
- **Philanthropy Representative: Martien van Nieuwkoop**, Director, Agricultural Development, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundations

### 17:20 – 17:50 Panel – Empowering Farmers: Co-Creating Solutions for Food System Equity

Introduced and moderated by:

- **Christine Gould**, Founder and CEO, GIGA

Speakers:

- **Civil Society Representative: Juan Lucas Restrepo**, Global Director of Partnerships and Advocacy, Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT (tbc)
- **Private Sector Representative: Wim Vanhelleputte**, CEO, Safaricom Ethiopia (tbc)

- **Farmers Association Representative: Mwenda M'Mailutha**, Chief Executive Officer, Kenya National Farmers Federation (*tbc*)
- **SME Representative / Innovator Representative: Snehal Verma**, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder, NatureDots (or another Asia & Pacific SME)
- **Investor Representative: Michelle Kagari**, Senior Director, Government Relations and Policy, One Acre Fund (*tbc*)

#### 17:50 – 18:00 Closing Remarks

- **Private Sector Representative: C.D. Glin**, President, PepsiCo Foundation (*tbc*)

### 13. Speaker List

Name	Affiliation/Title	Country/Region	Gender	Contact Information (email/phone /whatsapp)
Paula Ingabire	Minister of ICT & Innovation, Rwanda, Option 2) Government of Italy ( <i>tbc</i> )	Rwanda or Italy	F	
Joachim von Braun	President of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences; Professor (em.) for Economic and Technological Change Center for Development Research (ZEF), Bonn University ( <i>tbc</i> )	Germany	M	
Debra Mallowah	Head of Africa & Bayer Crop Science ( <i>tbc</i> )	Africa Region	F	
John Matogo	Corporate Social Responsibility Leader for Middle East and Africa, IBM ( <i>tbc</i> )	Africa Region & Middle East Region	M	
Fatema Al Mulla	Director of Partnerships and Special Projects, Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, United Arab Emirates ( <i>tbc</i> )	UAE	F	
Martien van Nieuwkoop	Director, Agricultural Development, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundations	Global (Netherlands)	M	
Christine Gould	Founder and CEO, GIGA	Global	F	

<b>Juan Lucas Restrepo</b>	Global Director of Partnerships and Advocacy, Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT (tbc)	<b>Colombia</b>	<b>M</b>	
<b>Mwenda M'Mailutha</b>	Chief Executive Officer, Kenya National Farmers Federation (tbc)	<b>Kenya</b>	<b>F</b>	
<b>Snehal Verma</b>	Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder, NatureDots (or another SME Representative)	<b>India/ Asia &amp; Pacific</b>	<b>F</b>	
<b>Michelle Kagari</b>	Senior Director, Government Relations and Policy, One Acre Fund (tbc)	<b>Global</b>	<b>F</b>	
<b>C.D. Glin</b>	President, PepsiCo Foundation	<b>Global</b>	<b>M</b>	

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

- *Gabriel Torres, Partnerships Officer, UN Global Compact*
- *Federico Ronca, Lead, Data and Digital Solutions, Food and Water, World Economic Forum*
- *Levi Orero, Hoffmann Fellow, Data and Digital Solutions, Food and Water, World Economic Forum*