

# UNFSS+4 Regional Preparatory Meetings

## GENERIC CONCEPT NOTE

### BACKGROUND

In 2021, the UN Food Systems Summit, convened by the UN Secretary-General, aimed to accelerate progress on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through a food systems approach. By leveraging the interconnectedness of food systems with global challenges such as hunger, climate change, poverty, and inequality, the summit showcased [national food systems pathways](#) submitted by National Convenors. It also facilitated the formation of [coalitions](#) of organizations and institutions to support these pathways, and it saw the announcement of hundreds of commitments from various actors.

In July 2023, the first UN Food Systems Summit Stocktake (UNFSS+2) was convened in Rome, Italy, building upon the momentum of the 2021 Food Systems Summit. With over 3300 representing a broad stakeholder base from 182 countries, the UNFSS+2 aimed to review progress on commitments, identify bottlenecks, and advocate for advancing sustainable food systems transformation as a critical SDG accelerator.

At UNFSS+2's conclusion, the Secretary-General launched a [Call to Action](#) that emphasized the importance of embedding food systems strategies in national policies, establishing inclusive governance frameworks, investing in research and innovation, promoting business engagement; ensuring all stakeholders' participation, and securing long-term finance for transformation.

The second UN Food Systems Summit Stocktake (UNFSS+4) will be organized in Addis Ababa on 27-29 July 2025. The UNFSS+4 will be a critical milestone for documenting progress in food systems transformation at the national and global levels, exploring accountability and gaps; and unlocking investment opportunities for scaling impactful solutions for transformative action, including through investment in research, data, innovation, and technology capacities.

In preparation for the UNFSS+4, the Hub, in collaboration with Regional Economic Commissions, and the broader UN system, will organize five regional preparatory meetings. Most of these meetings will be organized back-to-back with the 2025 Economic Commission Regional Sustainable Development Fora, scheduled from February to April 2025, ensuring that participants can efficiently engage in discussions that will guide regional contributions to UNFSS+4.

These regional meetings build upon the outcomes [UNFSS+2](#) in July 2023 as well as the previous food systems annual regional meetings in [2023](#) and [2024](#). The outcome of this regional meeting will be synthesized into regional key messages to be considered for the preparation of the UNFSS+4.

### MEETING OBJECTIVES

The regional preparatory meetings will aim to convene National Convenors, representatives from relevant regional institutions and other UN Agencies, civil society, academia, private sector and IFIs, and other organizations from across the region to gather inputs that will contribute to the organization of the UNFSS+4. A draft concept note for the UNFSS+4 is available on the Hub website. The objectives of the regional preparatory meetings will be identical to the objectives of the UNFSS+4 which are the following:

1. **Reflecting on Progress** in food systems transformation four years after the UNFSS 2021 and 5 years before the 2030 milestone will involve thorough reflections on what has been accomplished, the lessons learned, and the challenges that remain.
2. **Strengthening Accountability** where the roles, commitments, and contributions of both state and non-state actors in driving food systems transformation will be looked at with the purpose of surfacing critical gaps, missing actors and strengthening engagement that is essential for accelerating progress.
3. **Unlocking Investments** for food systems: The scaling of impactful solutions requires unlocking investments for transformative action. This calls for supporting countries to build strong enabling environments and addressing the barriers to investment, the reinvigoration of partnerships, application of new tools, and deployment of innovations that facilitate action-oriented outcomes.

Additionally, the regional preparatory meetings will aim to provide opportunities for enhancing the technical and operational capacities of stakeholders to design and implement transformative food systems solutions. The meetings will also provide opportunities for peer-learning and partnerships.

A comprehensive document will be drafted summarizing the progress of regional and national commitments and actions following UNFSS+2 in preparation for the UNFSS+4 as well as suggested inputs for shaping the UNFSS+4 Agenda.

## STRUCTURE AND PROGRAMME OVERVIEW OF THE REGIONAL MEETING

The regional preparatory meetings will span three days and integrate plenary sessions, interactive discussions, and peer-learning opportunities to ensure a holistic and inclusive approach. In addition, during the three days the National Convenors (or their representatives) will be invited to participate in one-to-one in-depth interviews with staff of the Hub to share more details on country-level action.

### PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

SESSION	SCOPE	DESCRIPTION
<b>Day 1 - The road towards the UNFSS+4</b>		
<b>1</b>	High Level Opening and official photo taking	High-level Opening Statements from the host country; UN agencies, RC and the Hub.
<b>2</b>	Thematic Session: Documenting Progress in Food Systems Transformation (FST)	The session will include exclusively presentations from and discussion between National Convenors on progress on FST after the UNFSS+2, lessons learned and challenges that remain in FST. National Convenors will examine how their countries are defining FST goals, assess progress, and achieve tangible results.
<b>3</b>	Thematic Session: Strengthening Accountability in FST	The session will focus on exploring mutual accountability and gaps in food systems transformation with a focus on examining the roles, commitments, and contributions of both state and

		non-state actors in driving food systems transformation. The session will be based on active interaction (panels, group discussions) between state and non-state actors.
4	Thematic Session: Unlocking Investments for FST	The session will focus on investment opportunities for FST. It will feature dialogue between National Convenors, IFIs and the private sector to discuss investment opportunities and platforms that promote scalable, sustainable solutions in line with the Secretary-General Call to Action to ensure access to finance and investments for food systems transformation.

### Day 2: Converging Food Systems Transformation, Climate Action and other key agendas

1	Setting the Scene on the Convergence Initiative	Presentations of the Convergence Initiative and other relevant work that build upon the call to align the FST Pathways and relevant processes with Climate Action including the update of NDCs, NAPs and other strategic plans.
2	Convergence Initiative pilot countries	Focus on lessons from countries that have piloted the Convergence Initiative, highlighting successful approaches, challenges overcome, and measurable impacts achieved in FST.
3	The Contribution of the UN System and the Ecosystem of Support	Interactive presentations from UN Agencies, UNFSS Coalitions of Action and other members of the UNFSS Ecosystem of Support with successful positive examples of country level work highlighting the factors that enabled progress
4	Capacity building for implementing the Convergence Initiative at national level	Presentation on additional opportunities to establish country-level convergence processes supported by the Hub and the UN System at the country level.
5	Priorities for key 2025 events	Interactive discussion to identify synergetic opportunities for aligning FST work with action under other agendas including the Paris Agreement, other RIO Conventions and contributing to key 2025 meetings like the Financing for Development, COP30 and the World Social Summit.

### Day 3 - Flagship Initiatives and Stakeholder Contributions to the SG Call to Action

1	Thematic session: Private Sector Engagement	Present and hold a consultation on the <b>Corporate Accountability Framework</b> and its role in supporting FST in line with the Secretary-General Call to Action.
2	Thematic session: Governance	Present and discuss inclusive, participatory design and food systems governance, including best practices

		and examples from the pilot countries of the <b>FST Dialogues, Joint SDG Fund with potential key messages to FFD4, Youth Leadership Program</b> , with setting up of the <b>Science-Policy Interface</b> .
<b>3</b>	Thematic session: Financing	Introduce the second phase of the <b>3FS Tool</b> as a framework to align food security goals with sustainable finance, policy frameworks, and long-term strategies. Introduce grants and funding mechanisms that can be leveraged, such as the <b>SDG Fund</b> , and present pilot countries' experiences.
<b>4</b>	Thematic Session: Science	Case studies showcasing youth-led initiatives and their contributions to science-driven food systems transformation will be presented. Deep dive into how the Hub's Scientific Advisory Committee provides scientific guidance, bridges the gap between research and implementation, and supports countries in leveraging data and technology for innovative and sustainable solutions.
<b>5</b>	Conclusion and Key Regional Messages to the UNFSS+4	

## DATES AND VENUES

REGION	VENUE	DATE
Asia and the Pacific	Bangkok, Thailand	3-5 March, 2025
Europe and Central Asia	Geneva, Switzerland	3–4 April 2025
Latin America and the Caribbean	Santiago de Chile, Chile	7-9 April 2025
Arab Region	Beirut, Lebanon	16-17 April, 2025
Africa	Nairobi, Kenya	5-7 May

Please note the dates are based on the current planning of the RFSDs (Regional Fora on Sustainable Development) and might be subject to change