

# UN Food Systems Summit +4 Stocktake

## SESSION REPORT

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## Healthy diets for all: Transforming food systems for healthy diets and nutrition

28 July 2025 | 16:30 – 18:00

Name of note-taker: Lina Mahy

Session lead/co-lead: SUN Movement, UN-Nutrition, WHO (co-leads)

E-mail of note-taker: [mahyl@who.int](mailto:mahyl@who.int)

List of speakers, in all segments, and key messages

NAME AND TITLE OF SPEAKER	SEGMENT (opening, panel, closing, etc.)	KEY MESSAGES OR/AND RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS
1. Dr Najat Mokhtar, UN-Nutrition Chair	Welcome	Position nutrition and health at the core of food system transformation; we have to do better.

		<p>Access to adequate food is human right – by extension, good nutrition is a human right too. Good nutrition is central to achieving all SDGs, nonetheless malnutrition continues to contribute to over half of child deaths. We must intensify and align efforts.</p> <p>Policy coherence and coordination must be prioritised – N4G commitments, analyzed by the Global Nutrition Report, showed that of the 2021 N4G commitments that were linked to the UNFSS, only 40% had reported on progress, of which 30% were off course or had no progress. We need to identify entry points to ensure healthy diets and nutrition become a key part of countries’ food system transformation pathways.</p> <p>We are deeply saddened by the passing of Dr David Nabarro, thoughts are with family.</p>
2. Kyakulaga Fred Bwino, Minister of State of Agriculture, Uganda (on behalf of H.E. Jessica Alupo, Vice-president of Uganda)	Opening remarks	<p>Unprecedented stress on food systems from climate change, rising food prices, lasting effects of COVID-19, and conflict.</p> <p>Uganda stands with the global community in reaffirming that transforming food systems is no longer optional, but essential. “It is not only about feeding people, it is about nourishing them, it is about promoting health, it is about equity it is about resilience in our societies”</p> <p>Uganda has made progress in improving nutrition outcomes (from 2016 to 2022: child stunting reduced from 29 to 26%, underweight from 14 to 10%) but challenges remain – anaemia, wasting, NCDs. Dietary shift towards UPF threatens individual and national health, displacing traditional foods. Access to safe water remains a problem.</p> <p>Examples of progress in Uganda: Supporting smallholder farmers, particularly women, through introduction of a bank at smallest unit of government</p>

		<p>in Uganda, (2) Targeted investments in nutrition, through scaling up nutrition-focused enterprises, (3) updating FBDGs and Nutrient Profile Model (NPM) to support regulation of marketing etc., (4) baby-friendly hospital initiative, (5) behaviour change through raising awareness, and (6) linking nutrition to social protection.</p> <p>Encourage regional cooperation, including on food labelling, safety, and cross-border marketing.</p> <p>Healthy food is not a privilege, but a right. Let us build a food system that not only feeds but nourishes.</p>
3. Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General, World Health Organization	Video message	<p>Unhealthy diets are among the world's leading killers, we need political commitment to putting nutrition and health at the center of food systems transformation.</p> <p>Much of the burden of unhealthy diets is driven by aggressive marketing. Thus important that we not only focus on producing more food, but doing it better – healthy, affordable, environmentally friendly.</p> <p>Need political commitment, not techno-industrial solutions that work for a few. Need policy coherence and sustainable investments. Food must be the foundation of health.</p>
4. His Majesty King Letsie III, Lesotho	Video message	<p>N4G marked a turning point, with the world mobilizing historical financial and political commitment to accelerate progress against all forms of malnutrition. Paris N4G joint statement reminds us that nutrition is a fundamental right.</p> <p>All AU member states must maintain political will and increase investment. We need to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty and malnutrition.</p> <p>Lesotho has included nutrition into 50% of food systems strategies and created dedicated funds to support their implementation. This, and other</p>

		examples from across Africa, show that a lot is possible when nutrition is treated as everybody's business. Nutritious food is not a privilege, but a universal right.
5. Dr. Lynnette Neufeld, Director, Nutrition Division, FAO	Panel 1 Moderator	<p>The Nutrition community was left wanting more after UNFSS+2 – on healthy diets, food systems and nutrition. UNFSS+4 shows healthy diets are clearly central now. <i>'We cannot be naive in thinking that food systems are going to pivot instantly from the challenges we have hearing to food systems that deliver for healthy diets'</i>. Food systems are still not optimized to deliver optimal nutrition, they serve many competing objectives including national economic growth. At the same time food systems are under threat from climate change. Focus on better production doesn't necessarily lead to healthier consumption – we need to go from farm to fork, but also fork to farm.</p> <p>Dietary guidelines and data are essential – FAO is the custodian of minimum dietary diversity score for women as a new SDG2 indicator. At N4G FAO committed to integrate nutrition across our work and to deliver data and evidence to support food systems transformation in countries.</p>
6. The Honorable Reuben Mtolo Phiri, Minister of Agriculture of Zambia	Panel member	<p><i>How is Zambia working to not only boost production but also shift towards healthier consumption patterns?</i></p> <p>The most important element for transformation is political will – in Zambia, nutrition is led by VP's office.</p> <p>Zambia is committed to enhance food production. Currently the economy is dominated by mining but the aim is to move back to agriculture and ensure food sovereignty. Ambition to support food supply in the region – Zambia is land-linked, not land-locked.</p> <p>Secondly, Farmers are instruments for better nutrition, better environment, better life. We need better balance between production by the many Zambian small-scale farmers which are in competition with a</p>

		<p>few large livestock farms. Zambia identified the expansion of extension services, financing, irrigation and mechanization and market access as priorities to boost production by small-scale farmers.</p> <p>Thirdly, we are working to improve consumption patterns: feeding has been very poor in Zambia – looking to learn from other countries to improve diets, e.g., via crop diversification. The national food-based dietary guidelines are available and the VP is leading a campaign on healthy diets and promoting local and indigenous foods.</p>
7. The Honorable Rachmat Pambudy, Minister of National Development Planning of the Republic of Indonesia		<p>Food systems transformation is integrated into national planning – important that nutrition is not treated as a stand-alone sector but systematically integrated across food systems, climate, health education and social protection. For this, cross-sector collaboration is key. We work with SUN to mainstream nutrition priorities and generate good practices to promote awareness, access to new solutions and innovation</p> <p>Indonesia's food system transformation is implemented through nutrition- sensitive agriculture, local food production and climate resilient crops. For example we are exploring government incentives to push the production of and access to affordable, nutritious, diverse, local foods in partnership with the World Bank.</p> <p>We engage with the private sector through multi-stakeholder partnerships not only to incentivise small holder farmers and less privileged communities but to also work towards aligning CSR with government priorities.</p> <p>Food security early warning system monitors the status of vulnerable regions and we are linking smallholder / family farmers to the nutritious meal program; using</p>

		<p>this to introduce climate resilient practices and create healthy ecosystem to provide food at the local level</p> <p>Indonesia has a national policy to promote healthy living and community movement - it's not only about awareness on living health but also about responsible consumption. Equity is an important consideration as not all communities have the same ability to purchase healthy foods.</p>
8. Afshan Khan, SUN Movement Coordinator	Panel member	<p>N4G was a huge opportunity to build synergy and a vision for integration. Food as a driver for resilience, development, and peace. N4G allowed countries to come forward with commitments to bring nutrition outcomes into food systems transformation. This includes strong commitment of countries to not only look at production but also the ability of consumers to make informed choices (Botswana, Egypt, Cambodia) and the need for policy coherence (Indonesia).</p> <p>A key question from N4G is how we now turn the pledged financing into action. We are still facing a series of silos that don't bring together the nutrition elements strongly enough – David Nabarro's vision for the SUN Movement was to be a platform bringing all stakeholders together in a unified way to integrate nutrition across sectors.</p> <p>Healthy diets are still unaffordable for over 80% of people in fragile and conflict affected states. Access to financing remains a barrier, including limited agricultural budgets, debt burdens, reduced ODA, limited fiscal space to increase domestic revenue, capacity and market infrastructure. We need to look at opportunities for countries to unlock resources available in the development and climate finance space (e.g., green climate funds, support from MDBs), but only a fraction is currently used for funding nutrition interventions. SUN is working with partners to help countries access new financing sources. Pakistan</p>

		<p>illustrates what can be done to make nutrition financing more predictable. Peer-to-peer learning and multi-stakeholder platforms can support sharing of successful examples and approaches.</p> <p>Investments and innovations must work for people most at risk and leave no one behind. In particular, we need more dedicated fragile state lenders, and financial innovation to facilitate going forward. We need partnerships to make nutrition not just a development goal, but a foundation for resilient, equitable, and peaceful societies.</p>
9. Mauro Brero, Food Systems, UNICEF	Panel 2 Moderator	<p>Children and the prevention of all forms of malnutrition must be at the very heart of the food systems agenda. Children have limited access to nutrient-rich foods driving rising child food poverty. On the other hand, ultra-processed foods (UPFs) are a key driver of the obesity pandemic. We must – and we can – shift course.</p> <p>It is important to advance regulatory and legal frameworks to improve food environments and drive investment in companies whose core business is healthy food. We need principled engagement with the private sector which can help deliver the food systems we need.</p>
10. Lilian dos Santos Rahal, National Secretary for Food and Nutrition Security, Ministry of Development, Social Assistance, Family and Fight against Hunger, Brazil	Panel member	<p>Brazil continues to face a multidimensional food and nutrition crisis; there is a growing presence of UPFs, erosion of traditional food cultures, and increasingly unhealthy food environments have contributed to this crisis. Climate change adds to this a new layer of complexity.</p> <p>Brazil implements three interconnected initiatives aimed at advancing healthier diets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) New obesity prevention strategy, acknowledging that obesity is a social problem: obesogenic environments, racism, marketing of unhealthy food, social stigma. Intersectional</li> </ul>

		<p>and system-wide action is crucial based on three key pillars: 1) healthy urban space, food environments; 2) social protection and critical care; and 3) social engagement and mobilization.</p> <p>b) Basic food basket as a strategic policy instrument to realign food systems with health, equity, culture, and environmental sustainability. It is grounded in the Brazilian dietary guidelines. UPFs are explicitly excluded from the basket; it respects regional diversity and promotes dietary patterns rooted in local traditions. It is being used also to guide policies and programs, e.g., via tax exemption for food basket products.</p> <p>c) New initiative on food systems and climate policy, aiming to guide the development of more just and integrated public policies (will be launched formally at COP30).</p>
<p>11. Prof Dr Radi Hammad - First Undersecretary and Head of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, Ministry of Health and Population, Arab Republic of Egypt</p>	<p>Panel member</p>	<p>Continuous improvement in food systems is a national development priority. Egypt is positioning nutrition and healthy diets at the heart of the national food system.</p> <p>Following the COP27 launch of the Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition (I-CAN), Egypt has launched various initiatives in line with the commitment to align food systems transformation with health and climate goals. In the area of health, this includes reformulation of food (fortification of bread and iodization of salt), child feeding programs, and guidelines for Egyptian families to prevent NCDs.</p> <p>Coordination and cooperation are cornerstones. Egypt's commitment to healthy diets is underpinned by multisectoral collaboration. The governance structure includes establishment of a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral food and nutrition committee, chaired by the Prime Minister.</p>



		Food more than sustenance; it's a future for our children to grow together.
12. Sara Mbago-Bhunu, IFAD's ESA Regional Director		<p>Food is everybody's business. Nutrition is threaded through our life – in line with this, IFAD mainstreams nutrition and nutrition financing across our investment portfolios through different financing streams.</p> <p>We need to be able to measure impact. IFAD uses the minimum dietary diversity for women as the main indicator for nutrition impact, looking at whole systems, value chains, as well as private sector.</p> <p>We have an opportunity to unlock smarter financing for nutrition, including through development banks. We can learn from examples such as Zambia on the impact that access to financing can have on nutrition.</p>
13. Mauro Brero, Food Systems, UNICEF	Moderator dialogue with the audience	[no time]
14. Chrysoula Zacharopoulou, France's Special Envoy and former Secretary of State for Development, Francophonie and International Partnerships	Closing remarks	<p>Human dignity is at the core of food systems. Within food systems, there can be opposing economic, social, and health priorities. Nutrition is not an isolated objective but cuts across and investment in nutrition helps advance all of these priorities.</p> <p>Investing into nutrition is investing into development, peace, and stability.</p> <p>Nutritious food is a key part in building more resilient, productive societies. As such, nutrition needs to be tackled everywhere. France is investing in nutrition in Africa, as the continent plays a big part in our common future.</p>
15. Afshan Khan, SUN Movement Coordinator	Thank you	[no time]

## Interventions from the floor

SPEAKER	QUESTION OR KEY POINT OF INTERVENTION
	[no time]

## Overall session summary, conclusions and recommended actions (max 250 words)

This High-Level Panel focused on the need to catalyze cross-sector action to integrate nutrition into food systems transformation, demonstrating how nutrition integration can deliver multiple wins—across health, climate, equity, and economic development. High-level speakers, in their opening remarks, highlighted the importance of placing nutrition as a human right at the core of food systems transformation and the SDG agenda. Countries shared their experiences to mobilize political commitment and resources for nutrition integration and action within their national food systems, including production of healthy and nutritious foods at the local level for greater food sovereignty and changing unhealthy consumption patterns. Speakers also provided examples of good governance, multisectoral coordination, including the SUN platforms, and innovative and sustainable financing and investments. The N4G commitments were highlighted as an opportunity to accelerate progress. Main messages included:

1. Integrating nutrition into food systems delivers multiple wins, including co-benefits for health, environmental sustainability, resilience, economic prosperity, food sovereignty and equitable livelihoods.
2. Agriculture must include food security and nutrition, through a focus on the local production of diverse, quality, and nutritious foods, and ensuring the affordability of healthy diets as measurable objectives.
3. Governments play a critical role in strengthening healthy food environments as part of food system transformation. This requires evidence-based and context-specific policy, fiscal and regulatory measures, including reformulation and fortification, combined with social protection measures, to ensure healthy diets are accessible and affordable to all.
4. Healthy diets and nutrition represent a powerful social and economic investment case, with proven high return on investment. They must be integrated across the development, humanitarian, and climate financing agendas.
5. There is an urgent need for increased financing and investment in nutrition, aligned with national priorities to integrate nutrition and healthy diets into food systems. This is particularly urgent in fragile and conflict affected countries.
6. Multisectoral collaboration is essential for effective food system transformation from production, processing, distribution, marketing, and consumption; it requires political leadership and multi-stakeholder and multisectoral platforms to build equitable partnerships that meet both people and planetary needs.