

UN Food Systems Summit +4 Stocktake

SESSION REPORT

All session recordings will be available after the conclusion of the session. Please send the report of your session to your focal point at the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub.

Type (click one):

- ☐ Plenary
- ☐ Ministerial Roundtable
- ☒ High-level Panels
- ☐ Featured Event
- ☐ Investment Dialogue
- ☐ Stakeholder Action Session

High-level Panel: Mobilizing High-Impact Climate Finance

29 July 2025 | 15:00 – 16:20

Name of note-taker: James Lomax, Salman Hussain

Session lead/co-lead: FAO, UNDP, UNEP, Brazil

E-mail of note-taker: james.lomax@un.org, salman.hussain@un.org

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
Doreen Robinson, Deputy Director, Ecosystem Division, UNEP	Moderator	1. Food systems transformation is a key lever to advance the Rio Conventions, the KMGBF, and the SDGs. Enabling conditions include aligned policies, redirected public finance, and stronger accountability from business and finance.

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. This session, aligned with UNFSS+4, calls for bold action and explores how innovative climate finance can drive agrifood system transformation, resilience, and inclusive growth. 3. Despite their potential, agrifood systems receive limited climate finance—only 7.2% overall and just 1.1% for smallholders—highlighting the urgent need for increased, targeted investment.
1. Wellington Dias, Minister for Social Development and Fight Against Hunger, Brazil	Panel	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The availability of overseas development aid has diminished and there is thus an imperative to seek synergies with available funding to tackle food system challenges. 2. Global Alliance for the fight against poverty and hunger can contribute in this regard is a tool that focuses on implementation to tackle hunger and social protection across many countries. 3. The Green Climate Fund's new link with the Global Alliance is an important development, linking climate with hunger alleviation. 4. We ask others to join Brazil in achieving globally coordinated actions, including on green jobs and creating nutritional security and just transition.
2. Paul Tchawa, Secretary General in the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection, and Sustainable Development, Cameroon	Panel	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chapter 6 of Cameroon's Climate Plan looks at the risks from climate 2. The BIOFIN initiative contributes. There are also other mechanisms linked to the adaptation fund
3. Ruth Davies, Special Representative for Nature, UK	Panel	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree with Brazil Minister that it is necessary to link nature and climate 2. We need the evidence base to support synergies. We can't assume that this is the case. We know appropriate metrics – there is a need for harmonization. This makes it difficult to secure a synergistic agenda 3. Smallholder farmers are underrepresented and invisible in the climate finance world.

		4. We can only address this with commonly agreed metrics that avoid duplication, e.g. multiple reporting requirements across CBD, UNCCD etc.
4. Rola Dasti, ESCWA Executive Secretary (USG)	Panel	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public finance misalignment throws everything off course. 2. We need to remove perverse subsidies. Over 80% of subsidies goes into practices that are resource-intensive. We need to redirect spending to climate-smart crops 3. Climate-budget tagging and climate risk analysis is a positive step that should be taken

Interventions from the floor

SPEAKER	QUESTION OR KEY POINT OF INTERVENTION
Audience	Audience member noted that there is a massive discrepancy between the proposals around climate finance and the reality. For instance, forest-dense countries that are the lungs of the world still aren't rewarded/compensated. The funding still seems to be designed to benefit large-scale landowners - not smallholders.

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

This session explored how to significantly increase climate finance for agrifood systems, which are vital for food security yet remain underfunded despite their high mitigation potential. Bringing together governments, financial institutions, farmers, and private sector leaders, the dialogue focused on innovative financing mechanisms — including blended finance, guarantees, and ecosystem service payments — to support smallholders and scale sustainable investments. It aimed to align public and private finance with climate and development goals, linking key outcomes from FfD4, COP28, and the upcoming COP30. The session supported the UNFSS+4 agenda by promoting inclusive, climate-resilient food systems that advance zero hunger and environmental sustainability. Important conclusions included:

- Despite their potential to mitigate up to one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions, agrifood systems receive only 7.2% of total climate finance. Smallholder farmers, vital to global food security, receive just 1.1% of adaptation finance, leaving them highly vulnerable.
- Blended and innovative finance mechanisms must be scaled and adapted to country contexts. Public and multilateral actors can play a catalytic role by using guarantees, concessional finance, and de-risking tools to attract private capital.
- Aligning finance with food, climate, and nature goals can deliver triple dividends. It is important to develop and agree harmonised metrics to achieve this. Private financial institutions and

development banks have a critical role in aligning portfolios with national targets and global frameworks like the Global Goal on Adaptation, the COP28 UAE Declaration and the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)