

Advancing Transformation of the Coffee Value Chain

HIGH LEVEL PANEL

UN Food Systems Summit Stocktake (UNFSS+4)

WHEN 27 July 2025

TIME 16:00

LOCATION Science Museum, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

MODALITY In person; the working language of the Panel will be English

ORGANIZERS Government of Ethiopia
Government of Italy
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
International Coffee Organization (ICO)
Inter African Coffee Organization (IACO)

BACKGROUND

To accelerate progress towards the SDGs, and in line with the UNFSS+4, the Governments of Ethiopia and Italy, in collaboration with the International Coffee Organization, the Inter African Coffee Organization and UNIDO, will host a high-level panel entitled “Advancing the Transformation of the Coffee Value Chain” at the Ethiopia Museum of Art and Science. This event will offer a platform to reflect on the effectiveness of a sectoral food systems approach and on the actions taken at international and continental levels to unlock finance and investments aimed at accelerating the transformation of the coffee sector.

Coffee is one of the world’s most important cash crops, deeply embedded in our cultures and economies, sustaining over 12.5 million farms globally. Despite increasing global demand for coffee, the sector faces mounting challenges, including climate change, fluctuating global prices, and regulatory pressures, all of which threaten the livelihoods of millions of smallholder farmers. Women and youth play a considerable role in coffee production and across the value chain. Considering that women provide 70 percent of the labour in coffee production, there is a need to implement tailored approaches in the areas of improved access to finance, inputs, education, and training.

In this context, Africa contributes approximately 12% of global production. In recognition of its critical role, the Kampala Declaration—adopted at the IACO G-25 Summit in Uganda in 2023 and reaffirmed at the G-25 Summit in Dar es Salaam in 2025—builds on the African Union designation of coffee as a strategic commodity, calling for global partnerships, strengthened research and innovation in value

addition and climate-resilient varieties, as well as increased investments for a structural transformation of the African coffee sector.

The panel will showcase how public-private collaboration can address current challenges and mobilize tailored support for this strategic commodity. Through dialogue among institutions, private actors, and multilateral agencies, it will highlight concrete actions, available resources, and the sector's catalytic potential for strategic investment, innovation, and coordinated action.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF SPEAKERS

Time	Segment	Details
15:30	Guest arrival	Registration of participants and refreshment
16:00 <i>An average of 7 minutes intervention each</i>	Welcoming remarks by the Co-hosts	H.E. Girma Amante, Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia H.E. Stefano Gatti, Director General for Development Cooperation, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
	Opening Remarks	H.E. Amina J. Mohammed UN Deputy Secretary General
	Keynote	H.E. Jessica Alupo, Vice President of the Republic of Uganda
10 minutes	Keynote	Andrea Illy, President, illycaffè S.p.A. <i>"Building climate resilience in the coffee cultivation"</i>
16:45	High Level Panel Discussion Moderator: Dr. Adugna Debela, Director General of the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority (ECTA)	Vanusia Nogueira, Executive Director of the International Coffee Organization - ICO
		Wellington Dias, Minister of Social Development and Assistance. Family and Hunger Eradication (MDS), Brazil (TBC)
		TBD speaker at Ministerial level to form Latin America or Asia, depending on confirmations.
		Solomon Rutege, Secretary General of Inter African Coffee Organization - IACO
		Sam Dalitso Kawale, Minister of Agriculture, Malawi (TBC)
		Gunther Beger, UNIDO Managing Director
		Representative of Women Coffee Producers Association of Ethiopia
		Abdela Bagerish, General Manager of SA Bagarish (TBC)
17:30- 17:40	Closing by the moderator	