



Permanent Mission of Italy
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PERMANENT MISSION OF
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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



COP28
UAE

78th UNGA and 2023 SDG Summit

HIGH-LEVEL SIDE EVENT

Catalysing global action for sustainable and resilient agri-food systems transformation to accelerate the SDGs

20 September (3-5 pm) - UNHQ New York, CR-12

Background

The 2023 SDG Summit marks the mid-point of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and shall mark a new phase of accelerated progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The magnitude of the global challenges affecting global food security, especially in the Least Developed Countries and among vulnerable populations are alarming. According to the “State of Food Insecurity 2023”, in 2022, there were as many as 783 million hungry people in the world - an increase of 122 million since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Over three billion people were unable to afford healthy diets. The ongoing crisis is complex and multidimensional, and those who are already poor or marginalized are the most affected and vulnerable to environmental, social and economic shocks.

It is essential to address the global food insecurity both by properly responding to the crisis and by building sustainable and resilient food system. In the face of a food security crisis, maintaining stable access to affordable and sufficient food in global and local markets is critically important, in addition to humanitarian assistance. Measures and actions by governments and the private sector could have a significant impact in ensuring, or endangering, access to food for all under crisis situations.

While the world is severely off track to achieve SDG2 – Zero Hunger – by 2030, and climate change is already impacting the livelihoods, food security and nutrition of the most vulnerable, there is still time to reverse the situation. However, this cannot be done in isolation. Ending hunger requires a systemic approach, seizing synergistic opportunities and recognizing and addressing the intersecting challenges and trade-offs that exist, including in the face of climate change.

To accelerate the transition to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems to bring about a healthier and equitable future including achieving Zero Hunger and ending malnutrition

in all its forms, reverting ecosystem degradation and adapting to and mitigating climate change and supporting rural and urban livelihoods will require whole-of-Government integrated actions - supported by whole-of-society actors- that are based on science and evidence, adopting new technologies, innovations and emerging social solutions, building on indigenous peoples' and traditional knowledge, and involving all relevant stakeholders. Countries should lead long-term structural transformation of agri-food systems, matching political commitment with concrete actions. Building upon the key actions outlined in the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Accelerated Food Systems Transformation issued in conclusion of the UN Food System Summit +2 hosted by Italy, this High-level side event will contribute to scaling up national, regional and global commitments to be converted into transformative accelerated actions. The discussion will be particularly meaningful for the SDG Summit as it will be a concrete contribution to the High Impact Initiative on "Food Systems" outlined by the Deputy Secretary-General as part of the substantive architecture of the SDG Summit.

The event will build on the G7's 2023 Hiroshima Action Statement for Resilient Global Food Security, the presentation of the programme of the Italian G7 Presidency on food security in 2024, the COP 28 Presidency's Food Systems and Agriculture Action Agenda, as well as considering the G20 related documents devoted to the issue of food systems transformation.

The High-level side event will serve as a pivotal event for international community to address food security crises and to mobilise countries for transformational and forward-looking bold commitments and ambitious actions for agri-food systems transformation as a highly potent SDGs accelerator, leading up to the target year of 2030, considering new challenges since 2015.

The High-level side event will be an opportunity to engage on transformative actions on some of the areas outlined in the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Accelerated Food Systems Transformation.

Mobilizing global high-level political commitment for food systems transformation is a prerequisite for larger and more tectonic shifts in order to lock in the early signs of transformation.

Draft Agenda

Opening statements

- Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and development cooperation, Antonio Tajani (Italy)
- Minister of Foreign Affairs, Japan
- Minister of Climate Change and Environment, Mariam Almeiri (United Arab Emirates)

Remarks of the Deputy Secretary General of the UN, Amina Mohammed (tbc)

Ministerial Interventions

High-Level Roundtable

Closing Statement

- Director General of FAO, Qu Dongyu