

THE CONVERGENCE INITIATIVE – CONVERGING FOOD SYSTEMS AND CLIMATE ACTION FOR BETTER FOOD SECURITY AND A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Monday 21 October, 13:30-14:45
Sheikh Zayed Centre
Language: EN

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Abstract: Current food systems are impeding climate goals. In 2023, two global processes underscored the imperative of aligning food systems transformation with climate action agendas. Firstly, the UN Secretary-General's Call to Action at the UNFSS+2 emphasized the need to “align the implementation of national food systems transformation pathways with the continuous updates of Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans for climate action”. Secondly, the COP28 Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action endorsed by 160 countries affirmed political commitment “any path to fully achieving the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement must include agriculture and food systems” and affirming that “agriculture and food systems must urgently adapt and transform to respond to the imperatives of climate change”.

Based on the idea that more can be achieved together, the Technical Cooperation Collaborative was formed at COP28 with the mission of supporting countries with enhanced access to quality technical cooperation to achieve the objectives of the Declaration. Responding to this, the UN Deputy Secretary launched the Convergence Initiative at COP28 to enable governments and stakeholders at the national level to strengthen synergetic action for food systems transformation, supporting the achievement of the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement.

Objectives:

- Articulate the Convergence Initiative’s framework as a tool for achieving food security and environmental safeguarding, and its roadmap toward COP29, COP30, and UNFSS+4.
- Provide a platform at CFS for stakeholder feedback and collaboration on its operationalization.
- Explore synergies with existing CFS tools and share best practices to inform policy development and implementation.
- Share actionable insights aligned with the UN Secretary-General's Call to Action at UNFSS+2 and the COP28 Declaration.

- Discuss how donors and resource partners can support the convergence of food systems and climate action at the national level.
- Emphasize the priorities of developing countries in the context of the food systems and climate agendas.

Event co-organizers:

- UN Food Systems Coordination Hub
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- The Netherlands
- South Africa
- United Arab Emirates COP28 Presidency
- European Commission
- NDC Partnership

Event Agenda:

Moderator: Khaled Eltaweel, Senior Programme Coordinator, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub

Time	Segment	Speaker
5'	Opening and Welcome	- H.E Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile , CFS Chair
15'	Scene-setting (5' each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political Context: Key political efforts for aligning food systems transformation and climate action. • Technical Overview: Current status of the interlinkages between agrifood systems and climate, and illustration with the approach of the FAO Roadmap. • Bridging the Gap: Presentation on the Convergence Initiative, connecting the global political agenda with national-level actions and the pathway to COP29 and COP30. 	- H.E Mohammed Saeed Al Nuaimi , Undersecretary, UAE Ministry of Environment and Climate Change - Maximo Torero , Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - Stefanos Fotiou , Director, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub

30'	<p>Panel discussion (guiding questions):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What key lessons have emerged from efforts to converge food systems and climate agendas? • How can resource partners effectively support national efforts to align food systems with climate action? • What are the top priorities for developing countries and stakeholders in the intersection of food systems and climate agendas? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H.E Marcel Beukeboom, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations Organizations in Rome - H.E David Lane, President, The Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands - European Commission - Amanda McKee, Director for Knowledge and Learning, NDC Partnership
20'	Q&A with audience	
5'	Closing and wrap-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stefanos Fotiou, Director, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub

Register here:

https://fao.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJE1ce2rpz8rG9UhiXeUkcZUwdhuUHD_CiIL#/registration

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