

## Background and objective

The UNFSS+2 Secretary-General's report highlights the transformative potential of food systems and urges integrated strategies for accelerated progress towards the SDGs. With 126 national pathways and 155 National Food Systems Convenors guiding reforms globally, leaders are called to prioritize implementing future food systems in six key areas. The upcoming event aims to provide an overview of UNFSS+2 outcomes, emphasizing their relevance to the Arab region and their impact on SDGs implementation. Through a roundtable discussion involving member states, the private sector, civil society, and regional organizations, the objective is to formulate a region-specific recommendation, aligning UNFSS+2 momentum with local priorities.

## Questions to be addressed.

- **Key Takeaways from UNFSS+2:** What were the most significant outcomes from UNFSS+2, and how do they relate to the Arab region's specific challenges and opportunities?
- **Regional Priorities:** What are the specific regional priorities and needs of the Arab region when it comes to food systems, and how can they be aligned with the global objectives of UNFSS+2? What progress has been made for food systems transformation in the Arab region?
- **The Role of Member States:** What roles and responsibilities do member states have in implementing the insights from UNFSS+2 in the Arab region, and how can they collaborate effectively?
- **Private Sector Engagement:** How can the private sector play a transformative role in enhancing food systems in the Arab region, and what incentives or commitments are needed to drive sustainable practices?
- **Civil Society Perspectives:** What are the key recommendations from civil society stakeholders regarding food systems in the Arab region?
- **Regional organizations:** how can regional organizations and researchers better support national governments and other key stakeholders for food systems transformation?

## SPEAKERS AND MORDERATORS

- **4SD foundation:** Sir. David Nabarro, Strategic Director
- **UN Food Systems Hub:** Ms. Sylvia Ekra, UN Food Systems Hub Deputy Director.
- **FAO Regional Office for Near East and North Africa:** Ms. Theresa Wong, Natural Resources Officer
- **ESCWA:** Ms. Reem Nejdawi, Chief, Food and Environment Policies, Climate Change & Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster

## PANELISTS:

- **Lebanon:** H.E. Mrs. Inaya Ezzeddine, Member of the Lebanese Parliament, Chairperson of Women & Children & SDG 2030 Agenda Parliamentary Committees, Lebanese Parliament
- **Syria:** Dr. Fayez Al-Moukdad, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform
- **Egypt:** H.E. Mr. Ehab Badawy, Assistant Foreign Minister for Multilateral Affairs and International Security, National Food Systems Convener
- **Palestine:** Mr. Hasan Ashqar, Director-General of Planning and Policies, Ministry of Agriculture
- **Iraq:** Mr. Ahmed Al-Badeery, Assistant-Director-General, Agricultural Research Department Ministry of Agriculture
- **Morocco:** Mr. Said Saghir Zarouali, Head of Agriculture Programmes and Rural Development Division, High Commission for Planning (HCP)
- **Regional Organization:** H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Eldukheri, Director - General, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD).
- **Regional Organization:** H.E. Mr. Naser Edin Obeid, Director-General, Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD).
- **Civil Society:** Ms. Razan Zuayter, Chairperson of the Board, The Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN)
- **Private Sector:** Mr. Fadi Jabr, Secretary-General. Arab Federation for Food Industries (AFFI).

**Preliminary Agenda**  
(UN House, Beirut, Lebanon, 7 March 2024)  
Timeframe: 11:15 – 12:45 (90 mins)

Timeframe	Topic	Speakers
11:15 – 11:25 (10 mins)	Opening	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Eldukheri, Director-General, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD).</li> <li>Ms. Sylvia Ekra, UN Food Systems Hub Deputy Director.</li> <li>Ms. Reem Nejdawi, Chief, Food and Environment Policies, Climate Change &amp; Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA</li> </ol> <p>Moderator: Theresa Wong, Natural Resources Officer, FAO</p>
11:25 – 11:35 (10 mins)	Setting the scene: Outcomes of the UNFSS+2 and the way forward (including main outcomes of the SDG Summit and the COP28 related to food systems).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sir. David Nabarro, Strategic Director, 4SD foundation</li> <li>Ms. Sylvia Ekra, UN Food Systems Hub Deputy Director.</li> </ol>
11:35 – 11:40 (5 mins)	Main key points and outcomes of the regional convenors meeting on March 6.	H.E. Ms. Inaya Ezzeddine, Member of the Lebanese Parliament, Chairperson of Women & Children & SDG 2030 Agenda Parliamentary Committees, Lebanese Parliament, Beirut, Lebanon
11:40 – 12:40 (60 mins)	Implications of these outcomes, the way forward and the call to action for the Arab region – Roundtable.	<p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Fayez Al-Moukdad, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, Syria</li> <li>H.E Mr. Ehab Badawy, Assistant Foreign Minister for Multilateral Affairs and International Security, National Food Systems Convener, Egypt.</li> <li>Mr. Hasan Ashqar, Director-General of Planning and Policies, Ministry of Agriculture, State of Palestine.</li> <li>Mr. Ahmed Al-Badeery, Assistant-Director-General. Agricultural Research Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Iraq</li> <li>Mr. Said Saghir Zarouali, Head of Agriculture Programmes and Rural Development Division, High Commission for Planning (HCP), Morocco</li> </ul> <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H.E. Mr. Naser Edin Obeid, Director-General, Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD).</li> <li>Ms. Razan Zuayter, Chairperson of the Board, The Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN).</li> <li>Mr. Fadi Jabr, Secretary-General, Arab Federation for Food Industries (AFFI).</li> </ul> <p>Interventions from the floor. Moderator: Sir David Nabarro, Strategic Director, 4SD</p>
12:40 – 12:45 (5 mins)	Wrap-up and closure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Sylvia Ekra, UN Food Systems Hub Deputy Director</li> <li>Ms. Reem Nejdawi, Chief, Food and Environment Policies, Climate Change &amp; Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA</li> </ol>

The meeting can also be accessed live through [Zoom](#), and will be livestreamed on [Youtube](#).