

# THE UNITED NATIONS FOOD SYSTEMS COORDINATION HUB

## THE CONVERGENCE INITIATIVE Implementation in Africa



# Status of Food Systems and Climate in Africa

- Current Food Systems are **failing** our food security and climate objectives.
- Food Systems are contributing **one-third** of GHG emissions; leading to 80% of biodiversity loss and consuming **70%** of freshwater resources.
- Africa per capita emission in 2021 was 1.04 metric tons per person, compared with the global figure of 4.69 metric tons.
- Africa accounts for only 2%–3% of the world's carbon dioxide emissions, mainly from energy and industrial sources.
- **Climate change** is impacting the productivity of the agriculture sector with food security, and social and economic impacts. Food imports to increase by a factor of three to US\$ 35 billion to US\$ 110 billion by 2025 in Africa.
- 282 million people in Africa (about 20%) are undernourished, an increase of 57 million people since COVID-19. More than a **billion** people are unable to afford a healthy diet. Around 30 percent of children are stunted,
- Agriculture and food security, water, disaster risk reduction, and health are among the top priorities for **adaptation** in African NDCs.
- Energy, waste and agriculture are the top priority areas of **mitigation**.

# The urgent need to converge Food Systems Strategies with Climate Action

- At the UN Food Systems Summit+2 Stocktaking Moment in July 2023, the UN Secretary-General called on nations to **align national food systems transformation strategies with national priorities on climate, biodiversity, nutrition, and resilience/decent jobs/social protection.**
- In December 2023, the UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action was endorsed by 159 Heads of State at COP28. **Governments committed to integrating food systems and climate action** within national policies and programmes, and to reflect this in key documents by the end of 2025.
- These national integration efforts benefit from **dialogues** that engage the whole of government and society, and through the sharing of experiences between countries.

# Regional Touch Points with National Convenors (November 2023)

## **Progress:**

- Some Countries have developed multisectoral mechanisms to facilitate discussions among government sectors.
- National pathways integrate mitigation and adaptation actions to climate change.

## **Challenges:**

- Need to enhance cooperation and foster public-private partnerships.
- Remaining challenges for effective coordination across sectors and stakeholders.
- Need for a common understanding of how food systems and climate change can converge.
- Lack of access to financial resources and up-to-date technology was raised as a concern for some countries.

# Convergence Initiative

## Objective

Support national efforts to advance the alignment between the food and climate agendas to enable stakeholders at national levels, to **explore each other's mandates and priorities** to support the transformation of food systems, the achievement of the SDGs, and the Paris Climate Agreement.

The UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, with technical support from the 4SD Foundation, will provide tailored **support to these efforts** by encouraging structured dialogue among stakeholders and offering a portfolio of services as they access and debate evidence, acquire new knowledge, share experiences with each other, and implement novel working practices when addressing interconnected and complex issues.



# Linkages and synergies



## **Integrated approaches**

Integrating across sectors and disciplines to achieve sustainable food systems that contribute to the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.



## **Updating policy instruments**

Drawing on references such as the FAO Roadmap to SDG2\* and associated toolkits to update policy instruments such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).



## **Dialogues and Stakeholder Engagement**

Engaging diverse stakeholders inclusively with dialogues, for exploration among food and climate actors.

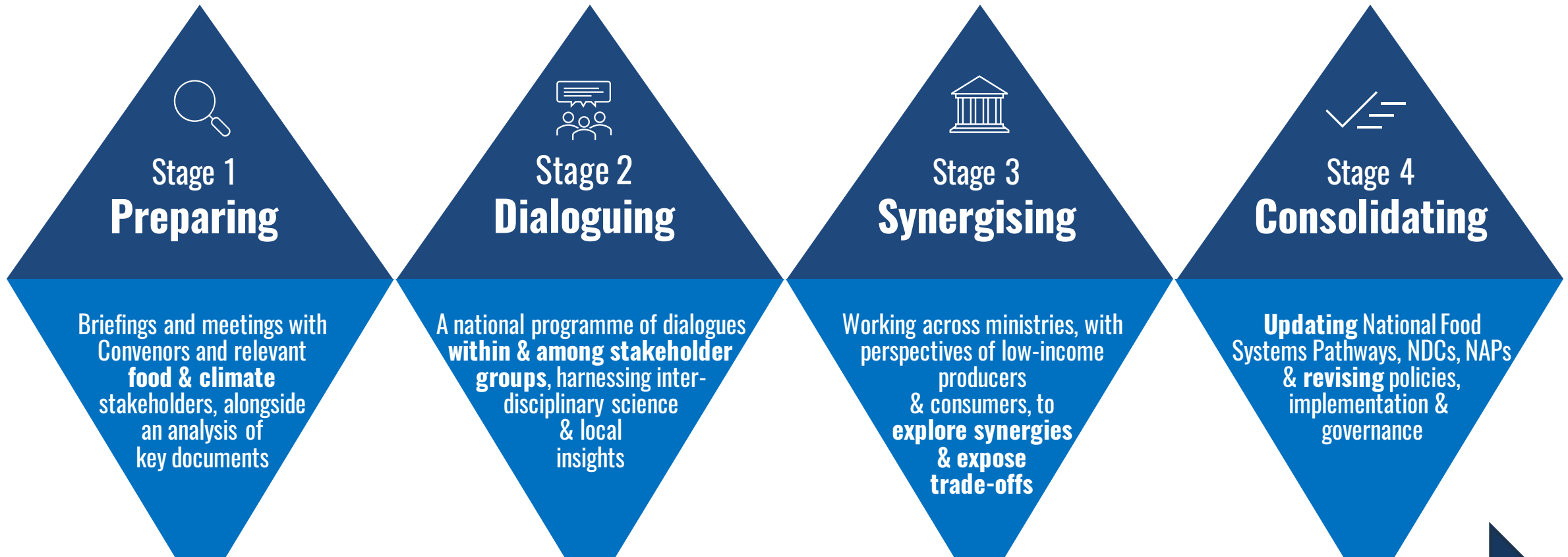


## **Support and Capacity Building**

Providing support mechanisms and capacity-building initiatives to take advantage of the convergence.

\* Achieving SDG2 Without Breaching the 1.5 Degrees Celsius Threshold: A Global Roadmap

# National Convergence Processes: 4 Stages



SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS, AND CLIMATE ACTION

# Outcomes



## Tailored support of country convergence of food systems and climate action processes

- Convergence processes aimed at transforming food systems and addressing climate change will have advanced in country.
- Food systems transformation will be incorporated into National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and National Determined Contributions (NDCs), and climate actions in National Food Systems Pathways.

## Convergence of food systems and climate action at global and regional levels

- The integration of food systems transformation and climate action will be one of the most significant paths for achieving the SDGs at the global and regional level.
- Tangible results of this convergence will be showcased during COP30 and UNFSS+4.



# Measuring National Progress

## Governance

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Are there cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder mechanisms established that include relevant sectors (e.g. agriculture, climate, nutrition, environment, health, and others)? How do they function?

## Policy

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Are food systems issues integrated into National Adaptation Plans, Nationally Determined Contributions, Long-term Strategies, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and other related strategies within the coming two years, in time for COP30?

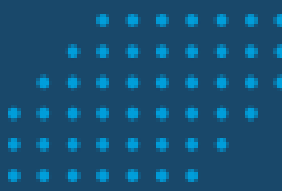
## Implementation

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Are programs, projects and initiatives being implemented that reflect convergence and collaboration between multiple stakeholders across different sectors, including agriculture, nutrition environment and climate?



# How will National Convenors be supported?



## 1. Analysis of the current context

Update national pathways, NDCs, and NAPs to address current climate challenges. – through a whole-society whole-government process.

## 2. Tailored Support

Guidance, orientation, dialogues, connection sessions, training, peer-to-peer learning, and capacity building.

## 3. Convening

Convening UN agencies and mobilization of other relevant actors from the Ecosystem of support.

## 4. Technical assistance

Facilitation of access to technical assistance to align food systems transformation and climate action processes.

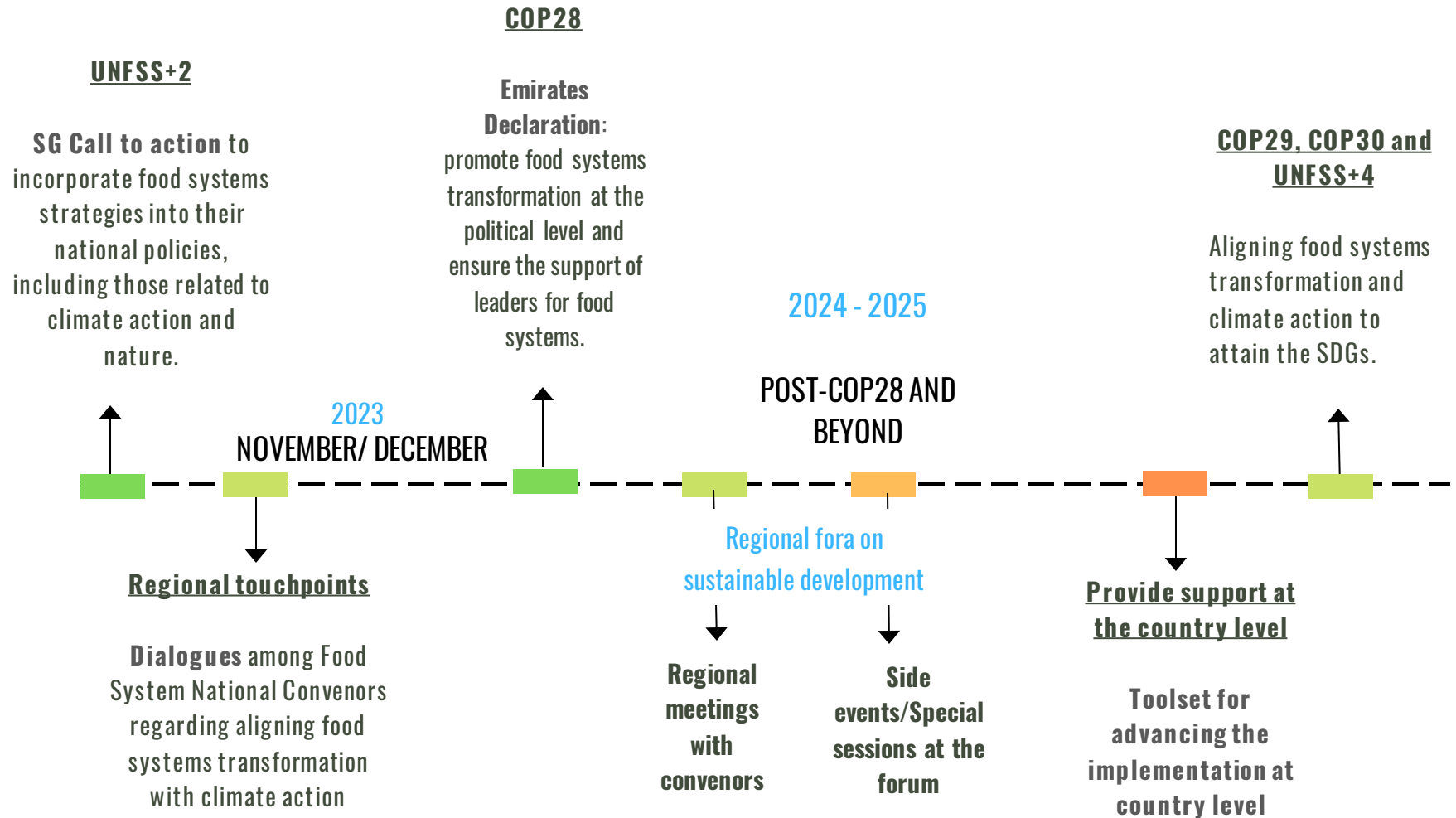
## 5. Support a System Approach

Foster collaboration and coherence across different sectors, stakeholders, and processes aimed at facilitating convergence at the national level.

## 6. Track progress

Guidance for tracking progress, based on a set of indicators.

# Milestones for the Food Systems and Climate Action Convergence

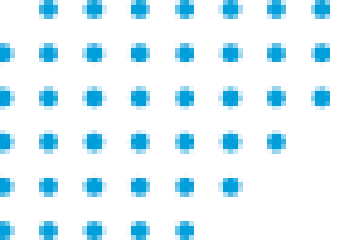


# Interactive discussion

- What is the current collaboration between the different ministries, and stakeholders connecting food systems and the climate?
- How can the initiative be implemented in your country? Who should be involved in this process?
- How can national convenors be effectively supported to access the evidence, knowledge, and skills necessary to address the interconnectivity between climate and food systems?







# The UN Food Systems Coordination Hub



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