

# Review of Progress on Food Systems Transformation

## *Concept Note for the regional meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)*

Santiago de Chile, Chile.

**Date:** April 16, 2024

**Venue:** Hotel Double Tree Vitacura by Hilton. Santiago de Chile, Chile.

**Working day:** 8:30 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.

### Introduction

The UN Food Systems Coordination Hub is organizing a series of five regional meetings with Food Systems National Convenors as a follow-up to the United Nations Food Systems (UNFSS+2) Stocktaking Moment which took place in Rome in July 2023. These meetings are being conducted in collaboration with the UN Regional Commissions, the Regional Offices of the UN Agencies supporting the Hub, and other regional bodies.

The main objectives of these meetings are to assess the progress made in transforming food systems, facilitate regional knowledge sharing, and identify emerging patterns and solutions across different regions in response to the UNFSS+2 call to action by the UN Secretary-General.

These meetings are built upon the discussions held during the 2023 Regional Preparatory Meetings and UNFSS+2, where Member States shared their perspectives, best practices, lessons learned, and challenges related to food systems transformation. The importance of accelerating food systems transformation to achieve all the Sustainable Development Goals was emphasized during these dialogues.

The primary participants of these meetings include National Convenors from the respective regions and their teams, UN Resident Coordinators, members of UN Country Teams, and other stakeholders.

### Background

The first UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment (UNFSS+2) took place in Rome, Italy from 24 – 26 July 2023, at the premises of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). It was convened by the Secretary-General and hosted by Italy, in collaboration with the Rome-based UN Agencies (FAO, IFAD, WFP), the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, and the wider UN system.

The UNFSS+2 Moment built on the momentum of the 2021 Food Systems Summit and created a conducive space for countries to review progress on the commitments to action and identify successes, enduring bottlenecks, and priorities to close the implementation gap by effectively and efficiently utilizing the Means of Implementation for food systems transformation. It was also an opportunity to further socialize the powerful role of sustainable, equitable, healthy, and resilient food systems as critical SDG accelerators and advocate for urgent action at scale, building on the latest evidence that sustainable food systems contribute to better and more sustainable outcomes for people, planet and prosperity leaving no one behind.

The summit saw over 3300 participants, including delegations from 182 countries, 21 world leaders and 126 ministers, 225 Non-state Actor organizations, and close to 900 UN system representatives, gathered to share efforts and steer global action towards sustainable food systems.

At the end of the UNFSS+2, the Secretary-General issued a [Call to Action](#) for accelerated Food Systems Transformation. The Call focuses on six concrete priority areas: embedding food systems strategies in national policies; establishing food systems governance with a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach; investing in research, data, innovation, and technological capacities; promoting business engagement and accountability for sustainability; including full participation of all stakeholders including women; farmers, youth, and Indigenous Peoples; and ensuring financing for food systems transformation.

Furthermore, the COP28 Presidency has elevated the role of food systems in achieving the SDGs and Paris Agreement targets. [The COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action](#) prioritizes key food system objectives, such as aligning national food systems and agricultural policies with Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) by 2025. With the endorsement of 159 countries, this declaration aims to secure the commitment of Heads of State and Government that they will intend to implement these actions across their governments and with diverse stakeholders, as appropriate within their national context, solidifying global ambition and firmly establishing food systems transformation as a prominent item on the climate agenda and within the COP process for years to come.

Within the framework of the Strategic Partnership between the Hub and the UAE COP28 Presidency, the Hub and the 4SD Foundation are designing the [Convergence Initiative](#) which aims to support countries fully capitalize on the synergies between food systems transformation, climate action, as well as with nutrition, resilience, and so on. The overarching goal is to 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.

With COP29 taking place in Azerbaijan and COP30 in Brazil, this regional meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean will look to prepare countries in the region, following the momentum of food systems commitments aligned to the COP28 UAE Declaration. The regional meeting will foster regional knowledge sharing and collaboration for realizing the commitments, presenting the successful initiatives for policy convergence, tools available, and case studies for the implementation of national pathways.

In this same venue, at the regional level, Political commitment, both at national and regional levels, has led to the establishment of institutional frameworks, governance mechanisms, and comprehensive public policies for food and nutrition security. This approach allows for short- and long-term interventions, known as the "dual-track" approach. The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) has pledged to ensure food and nutrition security by implementing strategies to eradicate hunger and poverty among its member states, under [The CELAC Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger 2025](#).

## Structure and Objectives of the Regional Meeting

The Regional Meeting for LAC will take place on **April 16, 2024, in Santiago de Chile, Chile, on the margins of the LAC Forum on Sustainable Development**.

This meeting continues the dialogues held within the framework of the [Regional Preparatory Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean](#) which took place on April 25, 2023, looking at the regional priorities and good practices to transform the region's food systems.

The meeting is organized by the FSS Hub and in collaboration with the United Nations Interagency Food Systems Task Force for Latin America and the Caribbean, in direct coordination with the Regional Offices of agencies composing the Task Force<sup>1</sup> and Latin America and the Caribbean Economic Commission, and other bodies of the United Nations and regional organizations.

The event seeks to foster a collaborative and participatory space where country representatives review and analyze the current status of the implementation of national pathways for the transformation of food systems. In addition, it seeks to identify and understand common challenges related to key aspects of the implementation of national pathways. With the exchange of good practices and the identification of effective strategies, the aim is to promote the development of capacities necessary to support the transformation processes of food systems at the national and subregional levels.

The objectives of the meeting are:

- i) Review overall progress in the implementation of national pathways for food systems transformation since the UNFSS+2.
- ii) Identify common challenges in the implementation of pathways in food systems in terms of governance and political interest, financing, participation of other groups (private sector and civil society), capacity building and human resources, data and information, and monitoring and follow-up.
- iii) Identification of strategies for implementing the national pathways through the exchange of good practices.
- iv) Peer learning to support the transformation processes of national food systems.

Below is the detailed agenda for the event:

TIME FRAME	TOPIC	SPEAKERS	GUIDING QUESTIONS
8:30 - 8:50	Panel opening discussion and setting the scene	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ms. Lola Castro. On behalf of the LAC Food Systems UN Task Force. WFP Regional Director for LAC.</li> <li>2. Ms. Rosanna Polastri. IFAD Regional Director.</li> <li>3. Mr. Stefanos Fotiou. Director. UN Food Systems Coordination Hub.</li> </ol> <p>Master of Ceremony: Mr. Khaled Eltaweel. Senior Programme Coordinator. UN Food Systems Coordination Hub.</p>	
8:50-11:00	Progress on food systems transformation: Implementation of the National Pathways – Best Practices and Innovative Solutions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ms. Lola Castro. On behalf of the LAC Food Systems UN Task Force. WFP Regional Director for LAC.</li> <li>2. Mr. Svante Helms. National Pathways Manager. UN Food Systems Coordination Hub (10 mins)</li> </ol> <p>National convenors (best practices on implementation of the national pathway) (5 mins each):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Costa Rica.</li> <li>4. Chile.</li> </ol> <p>Followed by an open discussion with guiding questions.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Juan Bello. Regional Director UNEP.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Could you outline, what further steps have been taken to implement the national pathways since the UNFSS +2 last year in July, and to keep them dynamic as a driver for national food system transformation? Please emphasize entry points, specific innovative approaches or institutional changes or interesting examples at local level.</li> <li>2. Are you holding regularly national dialogues with a wide range of stakeholders? Could you share your experience regarding the usefulness of the dialogues and what are the results?</li> </ol>

<sup>1</sup> ECLAC, FAO, IFAD, PAHO, UNEP, UNWomen, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP.

			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. How can food system governance structures effectively drive the national food system agenda? (e.g. national or also local governance structures, focused or with a wide set of actors, who is chairing?).</li> <li>4. In what ways can we enhance regional collaboration to transform food systems and bolster resilience? What are the main challenges and lessons learned within the regional approaches to food system transformation?</li> </ol>
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break		
11:30-12:30	Roundtable: Alignment and convergence of food systems transformation and climate action. Country experiences.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mr. Stefanos Fotiou. Director. UN Food Systems Coordination Hub.</li> <li>2. <b>COP28:</b> Mr. David Nabarro. 4SD Foundation Strategic Director.</li> </ol> <p>Country experiences, followed by an open discussion.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Brazil</li> <li>4. Colombia</li> </ol> <p>Moderator: Mr. Khaled Eltaweel. Senior Programme Coordinator. UN Food Systems Hub.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are practical examples of work ongoing to better align the food systems and climate agendas at the country level?</li> <li>2. How is your country promoting collaboration between the different Ministries' and other relevant stakeholders connecting food systems and climate action?</li> <li>3. How can the convergence initiative support your efforts to converge food systems and climate action to support the SDGs?</li> <li>4. How can national convenors be effectively supported and accompanied to access the evidence, knowledge, and skills necessary to address the interconnected and complex issues at hand?</li> </ol>
12:30-13:30	Lunch		
13:30-14:30	Thematic Session: Ecosystem of Support	<p><b>Ecosystem of support:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>IICA.</b> Mr. Eugenio Angel Diaz Bonilla. Special Advisor to the DG of IICA - Senior Visiting Reserch Fellow IICA/IFPRI program.</li> <li>2. <b>Agroecology Coalition.</b> Mr. Oliver Oliveros. Agroecology Coalition Coordinator.</li> <li>3. Mr. Nicolas Domke Venegas. <b>Youth representative</b></li> </ol> <p>Followed by open discussion.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. María Noel Vaeza. UN Women Regional Director.</p>	Q&A from convenors and participants to the speakers.
14:30-16:00	Thematic session: Financing for food systems transformation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ms. Nadine Gbossa. Director Food Systems Coordination of the <b>IFAD</b>, and Chief Means of Implementation, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub/Mr. Christopher Brett, Lead Agribusiness Specialist. <b>World Bank.</b></li> </ol> <p>National convenors to share experience on budgeting tool.</p>	

		<p>1. Peru. Followed by open discussion,</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Rosanna Polastri. IFAD Regional Director.</p>	
16:00–16:30	Coffee break		
16:30-17:15	Wrap-up and closure	<p><b>Keynote speaker: H.E. Ms Amina Mohammed. UN Deputy Secretary General.</b></p> <p>1. Mr. Mario Lubetkin. Assistant Director General &amp; FAO Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean</p> <p>2. Mr. Stefanos Fotiou. Director. UN Food Systems Hub.</p>	