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COAFR 307
COHAFA 93
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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	United Nations Food Systems Summit Stocktaking +2 (Rome, July 24-26, 2023) <i>- Information from the Presidency</i>

Delegations will find in Annex an information note from the Presidency on the above mentioned subject to be raised under "Any other business" at the meeting of the Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") on 18 September 2023.

United Nations Food Systems Summit Stocktaking +2 (Rome, July 24-26, 2023)***- Information from the Presidency***

The stocktaking meeting took place in response to the UN Secretary-General's announcement in his September 2021 Food Systems Summit Statement of Action that a meeting would be held every two years until 2030 to review progress in transforming food systems.

Following the 2021 Summit, and to provide continuity to the process, a Coordination Hub for the Summit was created, based in Rome at the FAO headquarters. Since 2021, 116 countries have presented their roadmaps for the transformation of food systems, and 155 have appointed 'national convenors'. In April 2023, the Hub circulated a questionnaire to the Member States to evaluate progress up to this point. 101 countries responded and their replies formed the basis for the [Progress Report](#) that served as a starting point for this assessment meeting. After the meeting, the UNSG issued his [Call to Action for accelerated Food Systems Transformation \(FST\)](#). The Food Systems Summit +2 Stock Taking Moment will inform upcoming processes, including the SDG Summit, COP 28 and the Summit of the Future for 2024.

The meeting was held over three days, with three parallel sessions taking place each day: plenaries, leaders' dialogues, and special sessions; side events were held outside meeting hours.

The Italian Prime Minister, Giorgia Meloni, and the UNSG, Antonio Guterres, inaugurated the event, which was attended by 22 Heads of State or Government and more than 100 ministers, mainly from the Global South, as well as more than 150 non-governmental organisations, the United Nations and other international organisations.

Many EU Member States and the Commission actively participated. The Commissioner for Agriculture, Janusz Wojciechowski, and the Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, Virginijus Sinkevičius, attended, and at Member State ministerial level, the German Minister for Food and Agriculture, Cem Özdemir, and the host, Minister Francesco Lollobrigida of Italy took part.

Meeting results

The 2023 United Nations Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Meeting provided an opportunity for countries to:

- review the action commitments made during the Summit, as well as those in the national roadmaps;
- share success stories and the first signs of transformation;
- maintain the momentum for bold action to promote the resilience of food systems;
- advocate for their adaptation to climate change;
- promote actions to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda.

The main topics discussed were:

- a) **Financing:** at this summit, the need to increase financing sources was discussed, either by mobilising domestic resources or increasing international flows. The need to involve the private sector was emphasised. Several actors highlighted the usefulness of guarantee mechanisms and ‘blended finance’ to mobilise capital towards low-income countries, which have the most deficits. In relation to public flows, the need to increase Official Development Assistance (ODA) for food systems was presented, which, after years of growth, contracted in 2021. Many defended a reform of the Multilateral Development Banks that would increase their ability to act, and the potential to redirect Special Drawing Rights through these was discussed. The balance in the use of ODA and public funds between humanitarian aid and investment in long-term development projects was also debated.

- b) Climate change: climate change is of primary importance in the transformation of food systems, on the one hand because food systems pollute soil, water and air, contribute to more than a third of greenhouse gas emissions and to the loss of up to 80 % of biodiversity and use up to 70 % of fresh water. On the other hand, the increase in extreme weather and climate events has exposed millions of people to severe food insecurity and reduced water security. In their roadmaps, approximately half of the countries recognise the urgency of adapting food systems to climate change and promoting environmental resilience. Steps have been taken to address land restoration, water management, and soil health, among many other things. Most countries have also turned their attention to crop production and diversification to drive nature-based solutions and improve the resilience of their food systems.
- c) Infrastructure, technology, and innovation: technology and innovation are widely considered to be one of the keys to the transformation of food systems, while the infrastructure deficit is a serious bottleneck for developing countries. Several countries insisted on the importance of guaranteeing that scientific advances and technological innovations are shared, the exchange of knowledge is facilitated, and technical assistance and capacity building projects are multiplied in countries with lower incomes. Likewise, the importance of quality data and analytical capacity in guiding decision-making processes and monitoring progress was emphasised.
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