



# COUNCIL

## Hundred and Seventy-fifth Session

Rome, 10-14 June 2024

### Developments in fora of importance for the mandate of FAO

#### Executive summary

In keeping with established practice, the Council is informed of developments in other fora of importance for FAO's mandate:

- 1) Biennial UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum;
- 2) Scaling up digital solutions for the sustainable transformation of agrifood systems, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Digital Public Goods (DPG);
- 3) Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition and latest developments on FAO's engagement with the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDG) regarding the SDG indicators under FAO custodianship; and
- 4) Update on the 28th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and outcomes of the Sixtieth Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Further information on the above topics will be posted as Web Annexes to CL 175/INF/4.

#### Suggested action by the Council

The above topics are presented to the 175th Session of the Council for information only.

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## I. Biennial UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum

1. The biennial United Nations Global Indigenous Youth Forum (UNGIYF) plays a pivotal role in shaping global policies concerning youth development and the rights of Indigenous Youth, providing a critical platform for dialogue addressing the future of Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems in the context of various topics, including [climate and biodiversity action](#), pesticides, extractive industries and ultra-processed foods, the protection of Indigenous plant genetic resources and the importance of Indigenous-led education.
2. The establishment of the UNGIYF follows a 2019 recommendation made to FAO by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs/United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. With a clear commitment to raising the voices of Indigenous Youth, the first Session of the UNGIYF was held in 2021: a milestone dialogue between Indigenous Youth representatives, FAO Members, UN agencies and other stakeholders, channelling Indigenous Youth's recommendations and game-changing solutions directly into the UN Food Systems Summit, and culminating in the [Indigenous Youth Global Declaration on Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems](#). The II Session took place in 2023, with the attendance of 186 Indigenous Youth from all seven sociocultural regions, representing 54 countries and 98 Indigenous Peoples' groups. The resulting Rome Declaration on Safeguarding Seven Generations in times of Food, Social, and Ecological Crisis was read at the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), demonstrating the tangible outcomes of this forum.

## II. Scaling up digital solutions for the sustainable transformation of agrifood systems, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Digital Public Goods (DPG)

3. Digitalization efforts in agriculture are key to achieving sustainable agrifood systems for all and underscore FAO's commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) by advancing concrete, integrated and targeted policies and actions to drive Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) transformation. In the past few years, keeping abreast of the accelerated development of global trends, including the emergence of new and disruptive digital technologies, FAO has been actively exploring digital solutions and advisory services to further unlock their transformative potential and enhance new capabilities to make a greater impact worldwide, including through the implementation of targeted interventions in the field.
4. As proposed in the [United Nations Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation](#), DPGs are open-source software, open standards, open data, open AI systems and open content collections, promoted by multistakeholder campaigns with significant UN backing that highlight alignment on global actions to leverage digital public infrastructure for societal advancement. Building upon the DPGs' openness as the core feature of these digital solutions, and with FAO being part of the [Digital Public Goods Alliance](#), the Organization's newly launched DPG-First approach is a commitment to supporting global ecosystem for digital technologies in agriculture and promoting the digital solutions that are: Safe (ensuring the security and privacy of data); Inclusive (providing equitable access to all, especially marginalized communities); Scalable (capable of adapting to growing needs and complexities in countries); and Sustainable (supporting long-term environmental, economic and social well-being).
5. Scaling up digital solutions can help address the current food crisis by using new, high-impact, sustainable digital-based solutions; this includes embracing new technologies, such as generative AI, which has the potential, if used in a safe and ethical way, to revolutionize agriculture by improving efficiency, productivity and sustainability, through enhanced data-driven decision-making, precision farming, resource management, climate adaptation and resilience of agrifood systems, that are relevant to FAO's mandate and the achievement of the *four betters*.
6. FAO is thus continuing its active participation in international fora, with the aim of adopting a coherent and unified response through common mechanisms and guidelines for the Organization, internally and externally, and building on existing recommendations and policies, including the

[United Nations Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation](#), [Personal Data Protection and Privacy Principles](#), the [UN's Principles for the ethical use of artificial intelligence in the United Nations system](#), as well as the [UN 2.0](#).

7. Building on these overarching strategic UN entry points, FAO has already identified five strategic priorities for the integration of AI in the delivery of its mandate under the new AI Ready Strategy that include: a) advancing science, technology and innovation using AI; b) advancing the transformation of agrifood systems to be more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable through responsible use of AI; c) ensuring inclusive and fair implementation of AI in agrifood systems for everyone; d) improving global governance, collaboration and partnerships for responsible AI in agrifood systems; and e) enhancing FAO's delivery model and efficiency by leveraging AI solutions.

8. Some of the key actions recommended to the Organization to achieve these priorities include: a) bridging data gaps; b) integrating and building on FAO's existing knowledge; c) enhancing the use of AI in all relevant areas of work to increase FAO's impact; d) optimizing resource allocation; and e) public-good AI service provision.

### **III. Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition and latest developments on FAO's engagement with the IAEG-SDG regarding the SDG indicators under FAO custodianship**

9. The Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition seeks to strengthen political commitment, propose concrete initiatives for legislation on food security and nutrition, foster partnerships between parliamentary alliances and stakeholders, enhance intersectoral coordination and promote regional parliamentary consensus to reduce inequalities in food and nutrition.

10. The first Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition in 2018 was followed by a second Summit in 2023, which resulted in the Global Parliamentary Pact against Hunger and Malnutrition, a historic milestone in progress to end hunger and achieve food security for all. While non-legally binding, the Pact explicitly outlines the political commitment of participating parliamentarians to guarantee the right to adequate food, promote agrifood systems transformation and achieve the SDGs. The Summit attracted widespread global media coverage, and FAO has been requested to organize a third Global Parliamentary Summit by 2026 in Africa.

11. In document CL 175/INF/4 WA3, Members will also receive an update on FAO's latest engagement with the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDG), a subsidiary body of the United Nations Statistical Commission in charge of overseeing the implementation of the global SDG indicator framework. In particular, Members will be briefed on the ongoing 2025 Comprehensive Review of the SDG indicators framework – the second and final Comprehensive Review within the 2030 Agenda's time horizon, in which SDG indicators may be added, deleted, replaced or otherwise changed. This document also responds to the regular request by FAO Members to be kept abreast of developments in statistics, particularly the SDG indicators.

12. In addition, Members will be informed about the efforts of FAO and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to jointly propose a new indicator under SDG Target 2.2 on the "Prevalence of minimum dietary diversity, by population group (children aged 6-23.9 months and non-pregnant women aged 15 to 49 years)" (percentage), whereby UNICEF would be responsible for the component on infants and young children and FAO for the component on women. The proposal aims to cover a critical gap in the SDG indicator framework, which currently lacks any direct measure of healthy diets.

#### **IV. Update on the 28th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and outcomes of the Sixtieth Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**

13. The 28th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP 28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change took place from 30 November to 12 December 2023 in Dubai, under the Presidency of the United Arab Emirates. Among the outcomes is the first global stocktake,<sup>1</sup> which recognized the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger, encouraging the implementation of sustainable land-use management, agriculture and food systems, and emphasized the importance of halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030. Food and agriculture are also mentioned in the decision of the work programme on the global goal on adaptation,<sup>2</sup> urging countries to attain climate-resilient agricultural production, supply and distribution of food; increase sustainable and regenerative production; ensure equitable access to adequate food and nutrition for all, and address water scarcity; and mitigate the impacts of climate change on ecosystems. Additionally, countries agreed to launch a two-year United Arab Emirates – Belém work programme on indicators for measuring progress achieved towards adaptation targets.

14. A fund for responding to loss and damage<sup>3</sup> was established and will be hosted by the World Bank, while functioning as an independent entity under the UNFCCC's financial mechanism. The Secretariat of the Santiago Network<sup>4</sup> was established to link countries with the technical expertise to address loss and damage. It will be co-hosted by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the United Nations Office for Project Services, with FAO supporting the process as a technical agency.

15. Under the COP28 Presidency's agenda, the *COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action* was endorsed by 159 countries;<sup>5</sup> the Declaration emphasized the crucial role that agrifood systems play in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, both in terms of mitigation and adaptation. Furthermore, the COP28 United Arab Emirates Presidency, FAO, the Consortium on International Agricultural Research Centres, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Bank established the Agrifood Sharm-El Sheikh Support Program, aiming to facilitate dialogue among agriculture negotiators and foster knowledge exchange, and integration of the COP agriculture-related decisions into national policies.

16. The Sixtieth Session of the IPCC, hosted by the Government of Türkiye, took place in Istanbul, from 16 to 19 January 2024. The Session adopted<sup>6</sup> the programme of work of the new IPCC Cycle. It will provide a comprehensive Assessment Report (AR7) consisting of three working group (WG) contributions: WG I – The Physical Science Basis; WG II – Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability; and WG III – Mitigation of Climate Change.

17. The next Session will decide the AR7 strategic plan for the delivery of these reports. A synthesis report for this cycle will be produced by late 2029, after the completion of the WG reports. A distinct product revising and updating the 1994 *IPCC Technical Guidelines on impacts and adaptation*, including adaptation indicators, metrics and methodologies will be scoped, developed, reviewed and should be considered for approval and acceptance, in conjunction with the WG II report; they will be published as a separate product. A Special Report on Climate Change and Cities will be provided in early 2027 and the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI) will provide a *Methodology Report on Short-lived Climate Forcers* by 2027. The Panel further decided

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<sup>1</sup> Concluding text available here: [Decision 1/CMA.5](#)

<sup>2</sup> Concluding text available here: [Decision 2/CMA.5](#)

<sup>3</sup> Concluding text available here: [Decision 5/CMA.5](#)

<sup>4</sup> Concluding text available here: [Decision 2/CP.28](#)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cop28.com/en/food-and-agriculture>

<sup>6</sup> Decisions adopted here: [https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2024/02/IPCC-60\\_decisions\\_adopted\\_by\\_the\\_Panel.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2024/02/IPCC-60_decisions_adopted_by_the_Panel.pdf)

that the TFI will hold an Expert Meeting on Carbon Dioxide Removal Technologies, Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage, and provide a methodology report on these by the end of 2027.