



联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

Organisation des Nations  
Unies pour l'alimentation  
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная организация  
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las  
Naciones Unidas para la  
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

E

## JOINT MEETING

**Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session of the Programme Committee and  
Hundred and Ninety-eighth Session of the Finance Committee**

**Rome, 6 November 2023**

**Follow-up from the UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment**

Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:

Mr Stefanos Fotiou  
Director, Office of SDGs  
Tel: +39 06570 53920  
Email: [stefanos.fotiou@fao.org](mailto:stefanos.fotiou@fao.org)

Documents can be consulted at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The first UNFSS Stocktaking Moment (UNFSS+2) took place in Rome, Italy from 24 to 26 July 2023, on the premises of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), hosted by the Government of Italy with support from FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) and the wider UN system, and facilitated by the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub (the Hub).
- An **Operations Committee** for the UNFSS+2 was established to oversee programmatic aspects of the UNFSS+2. The Committee comprised representatives of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG), Italy as the host country, FAO, IFAD, WFP, and the Hub. A **FAO Task Force** was established to oversee organizational, managerial, and logistic aspects of the UNFSS+2 and ensure efficient and effective preparation and delivery of all products and services required for a successful delivery of the event, within high-quality standards. The Task Force was accountable, through the Head of the Task Force, to the FAO Director-General.
- To ensure a professional, high-quality, and inclusive process for the organization of the UNFSS+2 and the development of the programme and substantive sessions in a way that responded to needs of countries and stakeholders, the **Hub facilitated a number of regional and global activities**.
- The active participation and engagement towards the UNFSS+2 resulted in a high-level event that witnessed the participation of over 3 300 in-person participants including 182 national delegations, 21 Heads of State and Government, 126 minister-level participants, close to 200 organizations from non-state stakeholders and additional 900 participants from the UN and other international organizations. The UNFSS+2 culminated in the launch of the **Secretary-General's Call to Action** for accelerated Food Systems Transformation.
- FAO's leading role in the UNFSS+2 reflected its commitment to delivering a seamless and impactful UNFSS+2 event. As the UN specialized agency with a primary focus on food security, agriculture and nutrition, FAO's expertise and mandate aligned with the objectives of the event. FAO also played a pivotal role in the organization of the UNFSS+2 by leveraging its core competencies and resources across diverse aspects of event coordination and execution.

### GUIDANCE SOUGHT FROM THE JOINT MEETING

- The Joint Meeting is invited to provide guidance on the activities to be implemented by the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub on supporting countries to continue their efforts on food systems transformation for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) acceleration, taking into account the substantive dialogue that took place during the UNFSS+2.

#### Draft Advice

##### **The Joint Meeting:**

- **welcomed the document and the details provided on the preparations and the delivery of the UNFSS+2; and**
- **highlighted the importance of food systems transformation for sustainable development and FAO's central role in supporting global efforts for SDGs acceleration.**

---

<b>I. BACKGROUND</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>II. PAVING THE WAY TO THE UNFSS+2</b>	<b>4</b>
A. <i>PREPARATORY ACTIONS FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNFSS+2</i>	4
B. <i>PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT IN UNFSS+2 PREPARATIONS</i>	5
<b>III. OVERVIEW OF THE UNFSS+2</b>	<b>6</b>
A. <i>PROGRAMME SUMMARY</i>	6
B. <i>FAO'S LEADING ROLE IN THE UNFSS+2</i>	7
C. <i>THE ADDED VALUE OF RBAS COLLABORATION</i>	8
D. <i>OUTCOMES</i>	8
<b>IV. THE WAY FORWARD</b>	<b>9</b>

## I. Background

1. The UN Secretary-General in his Chair Summary and Statement of Action on the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) committed to convene “a global stocktaking meeting every two years to review progress in implementing the outcomes of this process and its contributions to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.”
2. The first UNFSS Stocktaking Moment (UNFSS+2) took place in Rome, Italy from 24 to 26 July 2023, on the premises of FAO, hosted by the Government of Italy with support from FAO, IFAD, WFP and the wider UN system, and facilitated by the Hub.
3. This document presents a comprehensive overview of the activities and collaborative efforts that culminated in the successful delivery of the UNFSS+2, along with a status update on the Hub’s ongoing work.

## II. Paving the way to the UNFSS+2

### A. Preparatory actions for the organization of the UNFSS+2

4. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, the UN Deputy Secretary-General and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy jointly [announced on 3 February 2023](#), that Italy would host the first UNFSS+2.
5. Following this announcement, the UN Deputy Secretary-General, the Director-General of FAO and representatives of the Principals of IFAD and WFP met at FAO headquarters in Rome and agreed on further steps. After this meeting, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General issued an [Information Note](#) to inform Member States and key partners on main aspects of the organization of the UNFSS+2.
6. The Executive Office of the Secretary-General and the Permanent Representation of Italy to the United Nations organized two briefings for Member States inviting the Permanent Representations in New York (United States of America), Rome (Italy) and Geneva (Switzerland) to participate. The inputs from the briefings were used to finalize the [Roadmap to the UNFSS+2](#) and the [programme](#) of the event.
7. Following guidance from the Hub’s Oversight Steering Group and the UN Deputy Secretary-General, an **Operations Committee** for the UNFSS+2 was established to oversee programmatic aspects of the UNFSS+2. The Committee was comprised of representatives of EOSG, Italy as the host country, FAO, IFAD, WFP and the Hub. Convening every two weeks, the Committee, overseen by its two Co-Chairs and guided by the leadership of the EOSG, engaged in a dynamic exchange of updates and progress, discussed perspectives on pivotal milestones and deliverables, and facilitated the coordination of diverse actions aimed at converging towards the UNFSS+2 objectives and resulting outcomes.
8. Upon decision of the FAO Director-General, a **FAO Task Force** was established to oversee organizational, managerial, and logistical aspects of the UNFSS+2 and ensure efficient and effective preparation and delivery of all products and services required for a successful event, within high-quality standards. FAO Assistant Director-General Mr Maurizio Martina was appointed as Head of the Task Force. The Task Force met regularly and was accountable, through the Head of the Task Force, to the FAO Director-General.
9. To ensure a professional, high-quality, and inclusive process for the organization of the UNFSS+2 and the development of the event’s programme and substantive sessions in a way that responded to needs of countries and stakeholders, the **Hub facilitated a number of regional and global activities**.
10. As per requests from several countries, the Hub developed a template that was used on a voluntary basis by countries to systematize their preparations for the UNFSS+2 and provide voluntary reports on their actions on food systems transformation since the UNFSS. This template served voluntary efforts and did not imply any mandatory reporting request in relation to the UNFSS+2. A

total of 106 countries provided voluntary reports, and the inputs from countries were used *inter alia* to inform the report of the UN Secretary-General "[Making Food Systems work for People and Planet: UN Food Systems Summit +2](#)".

11. The Hub also developed a template for good practices and stories on food systems transformation. More than 400 submissions were received by countries and stakeholders and are available in the Hub's "[Database of Good Practices.](#)"
12. To ensure that regional priorities were identified for the UNFSS+2, the Hub, in collaboration with the UN Regional Commissions, the FAO Regional Offices and other regional partners, organized five regional preparatory meetings. These meetings served as a platform for the sharing of experiences, good practices, and lessons learned following the UNFSS, and to identify priority actions and key messages for each region (which were synthesized in a [technical report](#)).
13. To ensure that the UNFSS+2 would be an inclusive event, the Hub issued a [Call for Expression of Interest](#) for non-state stakeholders to participate in the event. The Hub received a total of 225 applications. After a validation and due-diligence process, a total of 197 non-state stakeholders were accepted to participate in the UNFSS+2. During the validation process it was observed that 8 applications had incomplete data and were automatically rejected, 13 organizations had applied twice (only one application was evaluated), and 7 organizations did not respond to the request of the Hub to provide further details that were necessary to proceed with the due-diligence process.
14. The Hub also issued a call for stakeholders inputs for the UNFSS+2. The inputs of this call have been used to inform the "[Stakeholders' Contribution Document to the UNFSS+2](#)" that was issued by the Hub's Stakeholder Engagement and Networking Advisory Group (SENA Group).
15. A call for [side events](#) was also issued by the Hub. A total of 112 applications were received, out of which 21 were allocated space to organize in-person events at FAO headquarters and 15 events were organized virtually.
16. A call for [exhibition booths](#) was also published and a total of 20 booths were hosted in the FAO Atrium, presenting a variety of products and innovations from countries and other stakeholders.
17. To ensure that UNFSS+2 participants had detailed and accurate information, the Hub issued 1) responses to a series of Frequently Asked Questions ([FAQs](#)); 2) an [Information Note for UNFSS+2 Participants](#) and; 3) a [Guidance Note for National Delegations](#).

### *B. Participation and Engagement in UNFSS+2 preparations*

18. Preparations for the UNFSS+2 were marked by a significant level of global involvement and active engagement of countries and from a wide spectrum of stakeholders. Governments, international organizations, civil society groups, academia, private sector entities and individuals collectively contributed to shaping the event's agenda, discussions, and outcomes. This robust participation showcased a shared commitment to addressing the challenges of global food systems and finding transformative solutions. The engagement spanned across regions, sectors, and expertise, reflecting a comprehensive approach to driving meaningful change. This inclusive and diverse participation not only highlighted the urgency of food systems transformation but also demonstrated a collective recognition that effective solutions require a collaborative effort on a global scale.
19. The extensive involvement of various stakeholders signified the growing importance of food systems as a cross-cutting issue that intersects multiple dimensions of sustainable development, including health, environment, livelihoods, and social equity. As a result, the preparations for UNFSS+2 not only underscored the significance of the event itself but also emphasized the growing momentum and collective determination to address the complexities of global food systems and work towards a more sustainable and equitable future.
20. A total of 106 countries submitted **voluntary country reports** prior to the event, which provided insights into the global drive for progress and efforts to transform food systems. Moreover, inputs were gathered from the UN system and the Food Systems Ecosystem of Support and stakeholders.

21. The Hub proactively supported countries in presenting their achievements, challenges, and future directions by organizing in-person and virtual meetings leading up to the UNFSS+2. This included the organization of [11 Food Systems Solution Dialogues](#) between January and July 2023, where all subjects of the dialogues were connected to the UNFSS+2.
22. The Hub also provided technical support to its “Stakeholders Engagement and Networking Advisory Group” (**SENA Group**) for the stakeholders to present their own contributions and actively participate in the UNFSS+2.
23. The Hub worked with the **Coalitions of Action** and ensured that they received a prominent space in the UNFSS+2, including a dedicated session for all Coalitions, several technical sessions, and the participation of the Coalitions in many side events and other special events.
24. Another result of the active engagement of the UN Food Systems Ecosystem of Support in the lead up to the UNFSS+2 was the development of the [Food Systems Assistance Gateway](#) to facilitate connections between governments, stakeholders, coalitions and organizations. The gateway serves as a tool for governments to access food systems transformation products and services from the Food Systems Ecosystem of Support.

### III. Overview of the UNFSS+2

#### A. Programme summary

25. The official programme of the UNFSS+2 included a total of 33 sessions comprising a high-level opening segment, three high-level-sessions during the first day, four plenary sessions, 10 leadership dialogues and 14 special events, as well as a high-level closing.
26. The overall framing for the event and the programme revolved around the narrative of “Sustainable Food Systems for People, Planet and Prosperity: Diverse pathways in a shared journey”. Underpinned by this narrative, the event served as a make-or-break moment to maintain and generate further momentum on action for food systems transformation in support of SDGs acceleration. To do so, the UNFSS+2 focused on three objectives:
- a) Convene countries and stakeholders to review progress on the commitments to action that were made during the 2021 UNFSS and identify successes, enduring bottlenecks, and priorities in order to close the implementation gap by effectively and efficiently utilizing the Means of Implementation for food systems transformation.
  - b) Socialize the powerful role of sustainable, equitable, healthy and resilient food systems as critical SDG accelerators among world leaders, national decision-makers and practitioners and food systems actors.
  - c) 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, by sharing concrete cases of transformative action led by state and non-state stakeholders.
27. To achieve these objectives the UNFSS+2 programme included 3+1 streams of sessions around the following narrative.
28. To convene countries and stakeholders to review progress and to identify challenges and opportunities, the event included four Plenary Sessions that focused on answering the following questions: i. How is food systems transformation happening in practice? (Plenary 1); ii. How can we advance food systems transformation for a more resilient future? (Plenary 2); iii. How can we use Means of Implementation in an effective and efficient way? (Plenary 3); iv. How is the food systems agenda linked to other transformation areas? (Plenary 4).
29. To further socialize with leaders and practitioners the powerful role of sustainable, equitable, healthy and resilient food systems in rescuing the SDGs, the UNFSS+2 opening session was complemented by three high-level sessions on school meals, finance and climate that showcased the transformative potential of food systems across all the dimensions of sustainable development. These

sessions featured the participation of Heads of State and Government and other leaders from the broader food systems community of state and non-state stakeholders.

30. To 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 event included: a) Leadership Dialogues intrinsically linked to the plenary sessions; and Special Events to contribute towards very practical and solutions oriented global learning.

31. Complimentary to the UNFSS official programme (three streams of Plenary Sessions, Leadership Dialogues and Special Events), 21 side events provided a space for peer-learning and brainstorming in a number of areas related to the food systems transformation agenda.

32. A detailed presentation of [all the sessions of the UNFSS+2](#) is available at the website of the Hub, including the recordings of all sessions.

### *B. FAO's leading role in the UNFSS+2*

33. FAO's leading role in the UNFSS+2 reflected its commitment to delivering a seamless and impactful UNFSS+2 event. As the Specialized UN Agency with a primary focus on food security, agriculture and nutrition, FAO's expertise and mandate aligned seamlessly with the objectives of the event. FAO also played a pivotal role in the organization of the UNFSS+2 by leveraging its core competencies and resources across diverse aspects of event coordination and execution. FAO's leading role encompassed several key aspects:

- a) Content expertise and technical know-how. FAO's extensive knowledge in areas such as agrifood systems and nutrition made it a natural fit to contribute substantively to complex discussions around food systems transformation during the UNFSS+2. The Organization's expertise in technical areas provided valuable insights, data, and research-based inputs that informed the event's multiple sessions and proceedings. This expertise ensured that discussions during the event were grounded in sound technical insights.
- b) Global reach and engagement: FAO has a broad global presence and an established network of Members, partner organizations, and stakeholders. This network facilitated engagement with and participation from a diverse array of participants, enhancing the inclusivity and impact of the UNFSS+2.
- c) Allocation of resources and expertise. FAO effectively allocated resources and expertise, ensuring necessary support to various aspects of the event, including logistics, communications, and cutting-edge technology infrastructure, while also allocating FAO personnel to support the event with expertise in relevant fields, contributing to the comprehensive planning and execution of the event.
- d) Protocol and support services: leveraging its extensive experience in organizing international conferences, FAO managed protocol and related security arrangements for the UNFSS+2. Additionally, FAO ensured efficient participant registration for both state and non-state stakeholders, maintaining accurate records and facilitating a smooth check-in process during the event. This guaranteed a seamless experience for attendees and dignitaries attending the event. Moreover, FAO delivered comprehensive support services including technical assistance, interpretation services, and facilities management.
- e) Communications and online platform: FAO's communication capabilities ensured promotion and dissemination of information about the event. Its ability to provide an online platform for virtual attendance catered to the global nature of the event, and enabled broader participation.

34. Overall, the UNFSS+2 underpinned the value of FAO as the host of the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub and demonstrated that the Hub is thriving with FAO's support. The UNFSS+2 also signified the direct link between food systems transformation and the implementation of SDGs, reinforcing the decision of the FAO Director-General to locate the management of the Hub in the

FAO Office of SDGs. The seamless integration of the work of the Hub and the FAO Office of SDGs provides value to Members and to the implementation of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31.

### *C. The added value of Rome-based Agencies (RBA) collaboration*

35. The successful organization of the UNFSS+2 also benefited from a collaborative effort of the RBAs with the wider UN system. A remarkable aspect of this effort was the joint preparation of the 33 UNFSS+2 sessions by the RBAs and other UN Agencies, reflecting a synchronized approach towards achieving the event's objectives.

36. Notably, the three-day programme was developed in close coordination with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and the Operations Committee, which was entrusted with this responsibility under the mandate of the Deputy Secretary-General. An inclusive approach ensured the alignment of efforts, resources, and expertise from the RBAs, contributing to a seamless execution of the event.

### *D. Outcomes*

37. The active participation and engagement leading up to UNFSS+2 resulted in a high-level event that witnessed the participation of over 3 300 in-person participants including 182 national delegations, 21 Heads of State and Government, 126 minister-level participants, close to 200 organizations from non-state stakeholders and additional 900 participants from UN and other international organizations.

38. UNFSS+2 provided a platform for countries to share their food systems transformation journeys and offered vivid accounts of achievements and pointed to the challenges. The global community highlighted the importance of accelerating progress on access to financing, emphasizing the urgent need for debt relief and increased liquidity for developing countries facing crises.

39. The UNFSS+2 built momentum for the implementation of national food system transformation pathways developed in the context of the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit. The event brought together countries, stakeholders and the Food Systems Ecosystem of Support to report on the progress made, and to highlight and commit to address bottlenecks through bolder action.

40. The high-level event witnessed robust participation that provided evidence to assess the advancements made by countries following the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit. Additionally, over 100 Food Systems National Convenors, who are tasked to organize National Food Systems Dialogues within their respective countries, actively engaged in the UNFSS+2. Moreover, the three-day event garnered an extensive online audience, with thousands of virtual participants and online views across various sessions.

41. The participation of Heads of State and Government at the UNFSS+2 elevated the event's stature and underscored its significance as a high-level platform for global food systems transformation. Their active participation throughout the sessions showcased their commitment to addressing food systems challenges and driving impactful change. Attendance of Heads of State and Government from diverse nations added a dimension of leadership and political will to the proceedings, highlighting the recognition of food systems as a critical component of national sustainable development agendas.

42. Furthermore, the participation of 126 minister-level delegates from various ministries brought a diversity of positions and ideas to the discussions. Their engagement signaled a shared understanding of the urgent need for bold and comprehensive action to address food systems issues and bottlenecks. By participating in the event, Heads of State and Government and Ministers demonstrated a commitment to highlighting the progress achieved and to forging a collective push to tackle existing challenges head-on.

43. The UNFSS+2 served as a platform for governments to showcase their national efforts, exchange best practices, and foster international collaboration. Furthermore, their presence added a layer of accountability and urgency, motivating stakeholders across sectors to work collaboratively



towards achieving the SDGs, reflecting a shared determination to create more sustainable, equitable, and resilient food systems for the future.

44. The UNFSS+2 effectively **delivered on its three core objectives of convening, socializing, and advocating** the value of food systems transformation through a strategic and cohesive approach. By fostering a collaborative environment, emphasizing the crucial role of sustainable food systems, and advocating for impactful actions, the UNFSS+2 contributed substantively to preparations for the 2023 SDG Summit and established a robust partnership with the presidency of the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

45. Through a participatory and structured programme, which featured a diversity of sessions with different formats and the engagement of an array of actors, the event enabled an open dialogue and knowledge exchange, catalysed awareness and tangible progress towards transforming food systems in alignment with the SDGs. The event not only highlighted the critical role of food systems transformation, but also galvanized momentum and a sense of shared responsibility for actionable commitments. Specifically:

- a) The event convened countries and stakeholders to assess the progress and commitments made since the 2021 UNFSS. By engaging representatives from various countries and sectors, the UNFSS+2 facilitated a dialogue to assess the commitments to action that were initially pledged. This enabled participants to not only identify successes but also bottlenecks and priorities, thus addressing the implementation gap. This was achieved through focused sessions that allowed for the exchange of insights, lessons learned, and best practices, fostering an environment of collective accountability and commitment.
- b) Socializing the crucial role of food systems transformation as a catalyst for accelerating SDGs was accomplished by engaging political leadership, national decision-makers and leaders from both state and non-state sectors in meaningful conversations. The event provided a platform to highlight the interconnectedness between food systems and broader global objectives, including health, equity, and environmental preservation.
- c) The UNFSS+2 was a strong advocate for urgent and impactful action at scale. By presenting concrete cases of food systems transformational actions led by both state and non-state stakeholders, the UNFSS+2 substantiated the claim that sustainable food systems contribute to improved outcomes for people, the planet, and prosperity. Evidence-based insights effectively underscored the urgency of food systems transformation, and advocacy was reinforced by demonstrating how sustainable food systems positively affect various aspects of life, fostering equitable growth and leaving no one behind.

#### IV. The way forward

46. The UNFSS+2 culminated in the launch of the [Secretary-General's Call to Action](#) for accelerated Food Systems Transformation. Crafted as a comprehensive roadmap, the Call to Action outlines six concrete objectives that echo the event's core themes and priorities: embedding food systems strategies in national policies; establishing food systems governance with a whole-of-society approach; investing in research, data, innovation, and technology capacities; promoting business engagement and accountability for sustainability; including full participation of marginalized groups including women, farmers, youth and Indigenous Peoples; and ensuring long-term, concessional finance for food systems transformation.

47. The Call to Action signifies a turning point, marking a resolute commitment to a future where food systems serve as catalysts for positive change. As nations and stakeholders respond to this call, the legacy of the UNFSS+2 reverberates in the actionable steps taken to create meaningful impact, both locally and globally, contributing to the overarching goals of a more sustainable and equitable world.

48. The Call to Action presents a **robust mandate for the Hub, outlining the priorities for its operation** in the coming years, which include a focus on increasing the capacity of National Food

Systems Convenors to shepherd inclusive national processes as well as coordinating UN entities, leveraging international Coalitions of Action and aligning with other actors to optimize support for national and global action. In line with this directive, the Hub will continue its pursuit of evidence-based and multistakeholder food systems transformation processes, through the promotion of independent scientific advice.

49. The Call to Action underscores the strategic utilization of resources, tasking the Hub to draw on the newly created Window for Food Systems Transformation within the UN Joint SDG Fund to enable fast-tracked transformation processes, working with the Resident Coordinators, the UN Country teams and the broader ecosystem of support.