



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



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COLLECTIVE ACTION
FOR THE SDGs: POLICY

Food and Agriculture – Forum for the SDGs

Giving stakeholders a voice in SDG
implementation through online
dialogue and debate

The issue

Formulating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) saw the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders, eager to discuss how to advance the planet's economic, social and environmental development. With SDG implementation now fully underway, it is crucial that a wide range of stakeholders remain involved, to ensure that the SDGs remain high on global, regional and national policy agendas. But while broad participation is crucial to SDG success, it can be challenging to coordinate a wide array of stakeholders. Local and global decision-making and debate can be dominated by a powerful few and knowledge can be compartmentalized. What's more, implementation efforts can be fragmented, resulting in inefficient use of resources and the marginalisation of key participants.

As custodian of 21 SDG indicators, mostly relating to food security and nutrition, and as an organization working hand in glove with national governments to implement the SDGs through policy support and technical assistance, FAO has a key role to play in ensuring the inclusion of multiple stakeholders, particularly people who do not have a voice. Broad engagement in policymaking, planning, monitoring and implementation is fundamental to fostering greater SDG ownership and success.

The action

The Food and Agriculture –SDG Platform opens up SDG policy, planning, implementation and monitoring processes to experts, practitioners and key stakeholders within the wider food security, nutrition and rural-development community. The platform fosters policy dialogue and knowledge sharing on major themes related to food security, nutrition and agriculture, at a global, regional and national level. It provides a one-stop shop for consultation. Broad stakeholder perspectives will feed into those processes relevant to the 21 SDG indicators of which FAO is guardian.

The platform builds on the existing infrastructure, audience and expertise pioneered by the Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Forum. It also builds on FAO's experience in facilitating multi-stakeholder networks and collaborating with a large number of institutions, such as the Committee for Food Security. The new platform will enhance and deepen policy dialogue by transforming virtual discussions into face-to-face interactions at all levels, drawing on FAO's network of Country and Regional Offices and expertise in convening stakeholder meetings.

The issue in numbers



21

SDG indicators are under FAO
custodianship



Only **22%**

of developing-country leaders cite zero
hunger and climate change as top priorities



More
than **60%**

of leaders cite education, peace and
justice, and decent work as top-six policy
priorities

Programme targets



20 000

members have a platform to express
their views on SDG policy and practice



40

open dialogues boost the number of policy
processes aligned with the 2030 Agenda



15

policy processes are opened to a wider
stakeholder participation

The budget



USD 5 million



5 years



Global

Expected results

- Strengthened profile of food and agriculture across the 2030 Agenda;
- Broader and more effective participation of stakeholders in formulating, implementing and monitoring policies to realize the SDGs, in particular SDG 1 and SDG 2;
- Efficient dialogue between global, regional and country levels, allowing for mutual learning and knowledge sharing;
- Improved coordination of FAO's efforts to facilitate policy dialogue among stakeholder groups with the activities of the Rome-based agencies and other development organizations;
- Onlinedialogues turned into face-to-face consultations, informing national and regional policymaking.

Geographic focus

The Food and Agriculture – SDG Platform facilitates the global exchange of information and knowledge, as well as regional- and country-specific activities. FAO's decentralized network of offices will play a key role in identifying national needs and establishing a permanent feedback channel to ensure programme strategies and actions match country priorities.

In partnership with

This initiative partners with the Committee on World Food Security, the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition, FAO's Rome-based agency partners – the World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition, national research institutions, universities, governments, local authorities, civil-society groups, the private sector and multilateral development agencies.



Enabling multiple voices to shape the SDGs

In formulating the SDGs, FAO facilitated online dialogue through its FSN Forum, raising the profile of food security and nutrition in their conceptualization. As a result, and in contrast to the earlier Millennium Development Goal (MDGs) process, the importance of an inclusive vision and approach was strongly echoed in the targets and indicators of SDG 2 (zero hunger). FAO facilitated the engagement of over 250 stakeholders and organizations throughout the process, many of which would not have been involved through traditional means. It hosted an open, cost-efficient and transparent online dialogue that helped to shape the SDGs and lay firm foundations for inclusive participation in SDG implementation and monitoring.



Why invest?

FAO's reputation as a convenor and neutral broker, combined with its broad technical mandate, lends itself to facilitating a platform that will attract additional voices to track and shape SDG implementation. Building on the FSN Forum, the Food and Agriculture – SDG Platform will actively help to ensure inclusive stakeholder dialogue. With investment, the platform will provide a highly visible central hub for global development dialogue, giving voice to many who are seldom heard, but who are key to ensuring lasting change. Taking advantage of FAO's expertise in conveying regional and national stakeholder dialogues, the platform will bridge the gap between global online exchanges and face-to-face meetings.

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