

Web Annex 3:

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

1. 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.
2. The Summit directly results from the successful collaboration with the Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO) over the last 15 years, and which FAO has expanded to every region, with over 60 parliamentary networks around the world and more than 100 laws related to food security and nutrition and agriculture-related issues developed and adopted as a result. Evidence shows that the improvement in food security and nutrition is directly related to policies, programmes and frameworks that are anchored in legislation.
3. The first Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition in 2018 in Madrid, Spain, was followed by a second Summit in 2023 in Valparaíso, Chile, both attracting widespread global media coverage. The second Summit resulted in the Global Parliamentary Pact against Hunger and Malnutrition, a historic non-legally binding instrument that crystalizes the political commitment of parliamentarians to guarantee the right to adequate food, promote agrifood systems transformation and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Global Pact also requests FAO to organize the third Summit in Africa by 2026, and FAO is already exploring the most appropriate arrangements in that respect.
4. FAO is consolidating a permanent global platform to provide consistent support to parliamentary networks to implement the Pact and influence legislative agendas towards zero hunger and agrifood systems transformation. The engagement of Members and international partners to support this mechanism will be crucial for FAO to fulfil its mandate to coordinate, facilitate and monitor parliamentary action anchoring food security and nutrition in legislative frameworks.
5. This strategic engagement of FAO is in line with the United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/77/159, *Enhancing the role of parliaments in accelerating the achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals*, which acknowledges the role and responsibility of parliaments with regard to national plans and strategies aimed at fully implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), including its monitoring.
6. Under this item, 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.
7. By the time of the FAO Council in June 2024, the 2025 Comprehensive Review of the SDG indicator framework will be in full swing. This is the second (after the Review of 2020) and final Comprehensive Review within the 2030 Agenda's time horizon, in which SDG indicators may be added, deleted, replaced or, otherwise, substantially changed.

8. Between 1 and 30 April 2024, the IAEG-SDG organized an open call for proposals, during which proposals for such substantial changes were collected. The IAEG-SDG is currently examining all proposals received based on the following key criteria:

- The review will aim to maintain the same number of indicators currently in the framework so as not to increase the reporting burden on national statistical systems.
- Any proposed new indicator must have an agreed methodology and data available for at least 40 percent of countries.
- An additional indicator may be considered only in exceptional cases when a crucial aspect of a target is not being monitored by the current indicator(s) or to address a critical or emerging new issue that is not monitored by the existing indicators.
- A deletion may be considered when a Tier II indicator has not been able to submit any data to the global SDG monitoring or is proven to be challenging for countries to implement, and a replacement will be proposed if the deleted indicator is the only indicator monitoring the corresponding target.

9. Taking these considerations into account, FAO is currently focusing its efforts on two fronts: on the one hand, it has redoubled its capacity development initiatives in support of the Tier II indicators under FAO's responsibility, to stave off any risk of these SDG indicators being dropped or replaced. On the other hand, FAO, together with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and a coalition of supporting countries and agencies, has developed a proposal for a new indicator 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)".

10. Regarding FAO's work on Tier II indicators, FAO continues to prioritize investment in statistical capacity development interventions on the SDG indicators with the lowest country coverage. It is doing so through an array of complementary initiatives, including International System for Agricultural Science and Technology (AGRIS), the 50x2030, the FAO World Programme for the Census of Agriculture (WCA), as well as the direct support offered to countries on monitoring the SDGs, funded both by Regular Programme and extra-budgetary funds.

11. A comprehensive update on these activities was provided by FAO to the IAEG-SDG as part of the 2025 Comprehensive Review. Indeed, in mid-April 2024, the IAEG-SDG requested all custodian agencies of Tier II indicators with less than 30 percent country coverage to submit "Tier II workplans" for each such indicator, explaining the reason for the low data coverage for the given indicator, as well as the plans and timeline for increasing data coverage in the near future.

12. Among the Tier II indicators for which FAO submitted workplans in April, FAO has recognized that the data coverage of SDG indicator 2.4.1 on productive and sustainable agriculture is not likely to increase sufficiently fast in the near future. Even in an optimistic scenario of accelerated capacity development efforts and country commitment to collect the necessary data, this indicator will struggle to reach 50 percent country coverage by 2030 – a 50 percent country coverage granting it "Tier I" status and enabling FAO to publish regional and global aggregates.

13. Bearing this situation in mind, and with the primary aim of providing an interim measure of regional and global progress, FAO has developed a provisional proxy indicator on "**Progress toward productive and sustainable agriculture**". This proxy indicator was first proposed to the IAEG-SDG in October 2022, and went through a series of reviews and adjustments, before it was finally approved by the IAEG-SDG in October 2023, and hence by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its latest session in February/March 2024.

14. In particular, the United Nations Statistical Commission: "Took note of the proxy indicator proposal for SDG indicator 2.4.1 as a practical interim solution [...]; and encouraged the custodian

agency to work with countries to strengthen capacity building activities for the official indicator” which has been approved by the IAEG-SDG. In this spirit, FAO has already published data on the proxy indicator on the global SDG database and on its own data dissemination platforms, as well as provided a storyline describing regional and global trends, to be part of the 2024 global SDG report. In parallel, FAO continues to work with countries to strengthen their capacity in producing the official 2.4.1 indicator, and it has provided a “Tier II workplan” to the IAEG-SDG.

15. In addition to its work on the Tier II indicators, FAO has also used the opportunity of the 2025 Comprehensive Review to submit a proposal for a new SDG indicator under SDG target 2.2. In particular, on a technical level, FAO has allied with UNICEF to develop a proposal for a new indicator 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 (Minimum Dietary Diversity for children) and FAO responsible for the component on women (Minimum Dietary Diversity for women [MDD-W]).

16. The proposal aims to cover a critical gap in the SDG indicator framework, which currently lacks any direct measure of healthy diets. This is a critical oversight, given that healthy diets are fundamental to SDG 2 and are a prerequisite for achieving many other SDGs. Indeed, unhealthy diets are the leading cause of poor health and non-communicable disease worldwide, and diet diversity has therefore been a long-standing public health principle widely advocated in food-based dietary guidelines, the World Health Organization’s (WHO) “Healthy Diet” fact sheet, FAO and WHO’s guiding principles for “Sustainable healthy diets” and UNICEF’s Conceptual Framework on Maternal and Child Nutrition. The proposed new indicator also fulfils all other key IAEG-SDG criteria, having a long-established methodology and having data already available for at least 40 percent of countries.

17. The proposal was submitted under the leadership of Switzerland to the 2025 Comprehensive Review’s open call for proposals in April, and it is currently under consideration by the IAEG-SDG. In addition to the lead support of Switzerland, the proposed indicator is also supported by Bangladesh, Brazil and Malawi, as well as the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Programme and World Health Organization (WHO). FAO remains fully engaged in all relevant consultation processes, with a view to maximizing the chances for the proposal to be accepted, notwithstanding the IAEG-SDG’s strict criteria and general insistence on “maintaining the same number of indicators currently in the framework.”

18. Additionally, updated information on the proposal’s trajectory will be provided to FAO Members in Rome in an event during the week preceding the 175th Session of the FAO Council, organized by the Swiss Permanent Mission to the United Nations, FAO Food and Nutrition Division, and the support of the Group of Friends on Nutrition in Rome.