

Briefing on Food Systems Summit

Convened by Amina J. Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary-General

April 23, 2021 8:30 a.m.

Link:

<http://webtv.un.org/search/briefing-on-food-systems-summit-convened-by-amina-j.-mohammed-un-deputy-secretary-general/6250061006001/?term=Food%20Systems%20Summit&sort=date>

On April 23, 2021 UN Deputy Secretary General Amina J. Mohammed and Special Envoy Agnes Kalibata hosted an update on the UN FSS to UN Member States. After a presentation on progress of the FSS, Member States were able to provide feedback on the FSS process so far.

Member States noted (see page 9) the timely nature of the Summit given COVID-19 and the pressing issues with food security. A few members noted that there are still key procedural details missing, such as a lack of clear guidance of how members can fully participate in the Summit, details of the Summit format, and what the expectations are for the outcome.

The Deputy Secretary General concluded the session by noting that the Summit Advisory Committee - Meeting May 24th - will be deciding what will come out of the Summit (ie a document - what will it be called, presented) and recommendations for how Member States might implement these outcomes.

Amina J. Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary-General

- Leading the Summit process is a huge undertaking during unprecedented times
- We have called this a people's summit and what is happening is we are hearing from diverse local voices around the world
- Hungry people and obesity rates are rising
- This is not easy work
- This is solutions summit but we are keeping our eyes on the prize of the delivery of the 2030 agenda
- First: 100 countries are participating and reflects the crisis we are facing and there is no one size fits all solution
- Second: 1000 ideas have already been suggested; we need to translate ideas and dialogues into action; women and young people need to be focus of summit as they have carried the burden of the food system for decades
- Third: We thank Italy for hosting the pre-conference meeting; we must maintain a constructive spirit to achieve the 2030 agenda; we must breathe life into how to do meet these challenges; we must rise to the moment together and hope we can realize this vision for a better world together

Agnes Kalibata, Special Envoy

- I have tapped into numerous stakeholders for suggestions to bring this to a good conclusion
- Detailed slides pictured below provide valuable information related to the status of the Summit and expected outcomes:

Food Systems are connected to all our goals. They are one of the biggest problems, when they can be one of our biggest solutions.

Right now, many of the world's food systems are failing – for people, for environment, and for our shared future

- **Hunger** – 690 million people are hungry (more than 250 million in Africa)
- **FLFW** – one-third of all food is either lost or wasted
- **Malnutrition** – now the number one factor contributing to the global burden of disease and reduced life expectancy (more than 70% of Africans cannot afford a healthy diet)
- **Obesity** – more than 2 billion people are overweight or obese
- **Climate change** – Food systems contribute up to 34% of all GHG emissions
- **Biodiversity loss** – agriculture responsible for up to 80%
- **Water use** – agriculture accounts for up to 70%
- **Deforestation** – agriculture accounts for up to 80%
- **Energy** – agriculture account for more than 25%

We must look at these agendas as inter-connected rather than trying to achieve any one of them alone.



Source: FAO

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The Food Systems Summit will serve as a turning point in the world's journey to achieve the SDGs.

With less than 10 years to go, we are not on track to achieve many of the SDGs.

There is scientific consensus that transforming food systems also offers one of the single strongest opportunities we have to change course and realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda, and to support the Secretary-General's call to "build back better" from COVID-19.

The Summit will unleash bold new actions, innovative solutions, and strategies to transform our food systems and leverage these shifts to deliver progress across all of the SDGs.

"Transforming food systems is crucial for delivering all the Sustainable Development Goals."

– António Guterres, UN Secretary-General, 2019



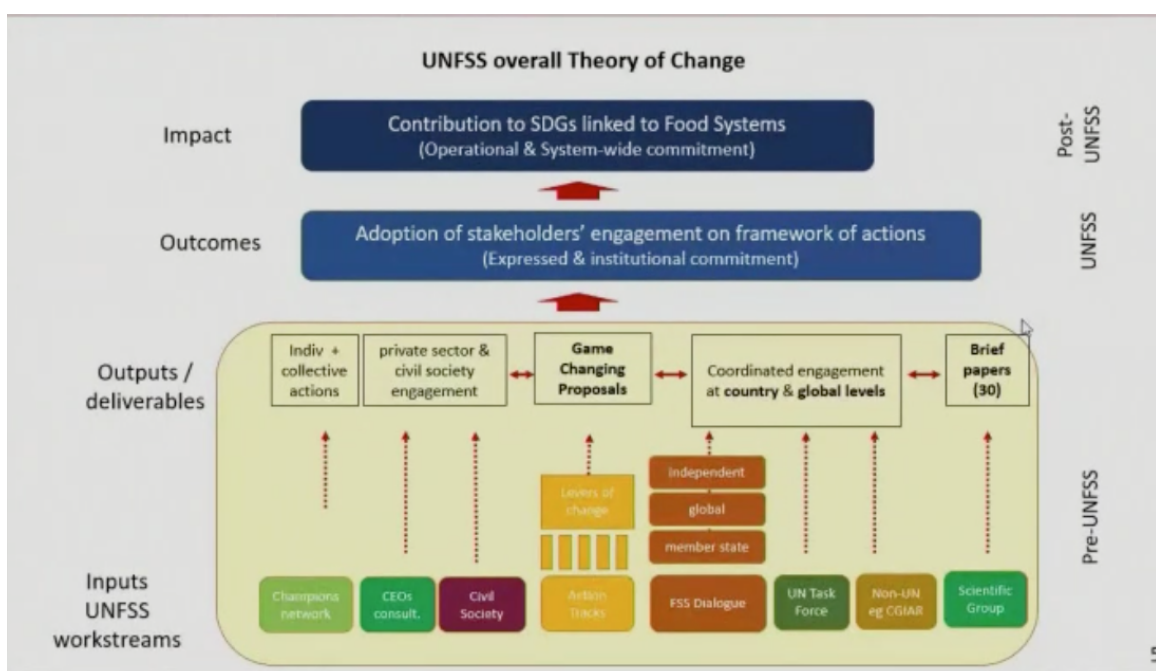
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UN Food Systems Summit Outcomes

1. **A Statement of Action by the UN Secretary-General** that offers a guiding narrative on equitable and sustainable food systems
2. **A large number of Member States making commitments** to strategies, policies and investments that advance their national pathway towards food systems transformation.
3. **A bold set of multi-stakeholder commitments, action and coalitions** emerging from cities, communities, companies, civil society, citizens, development actors, young people, and food producers
4. **Vibrant communities, in particular youth movements,** are built or strengthened worldwide to drive food systems transformation
5. **Provisions for regular follow-up and review** at national, regional and global levels

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1 Scientific Group Progress

The Scientific Group is in place to bring the foremost evidence and knowledge to the Summit. They are now well underway with the framing and initiation of their work. They have held 7 meetings so far with their most recent this week.

1. The Group continues to support the work of the Action Tracks and the Dialogues, providing scientific rigour to the discussions
2. Outline of the work plan for the Scientific Group
 - Agenda Paper
 - Five Action Track papers
 - Thematic briefs on key issues
 - Modeling agenda options
3. The Group has posted 5 of the thematic issue briefs on the Summit website and Digital Platform to facilitate evidence-based preparations
4. Science Days, scheduled for July 8-9

Potential Cross-Cutting Theme Papers

Preliminary examples:

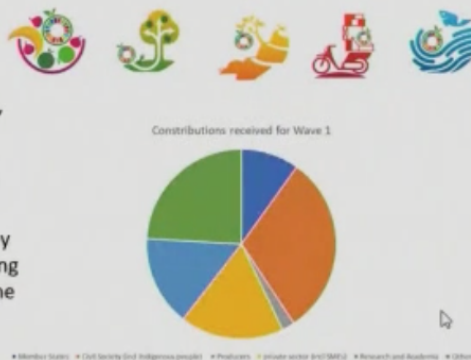
- Modelling food system transformations
- Bioeconomy
- Food loss and waste reduction
- Gender equity
- Youth inclusion
- Role of science and innovation for sustainable food systems
- Indigenous food systems
- Urban food systems transformation
- Agro-ecological approaches
- Inclusive transformation of smallholder farming
- Nexus – food, energy, water, ecology
- Blue economy

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2 Action Track Progress : From idea generation to consolidation

Wave 1: December – mid-February 2021

- More than 1200 ideas received through various channels (global public fora, online consultations and surveys, interactive meetings, scientific review, FSS Dialogues, etc).
- 123 ideas submitted by Member States; more than 400 ideas submitted by producer organisations, indigenous peoples and civil society.
- Identification, selection and clustering of propositions around 3 key criteria (impact at scale, actionability, sustainability) and 8 qualifying principles to ensure that the ideas selected align to the vision of the 2030 Agenda.
- 107 game-changing propositions across all 5 Action Tracks



Wave 2 (ongoing: mid-February- 1 May 2021)

- New ideas? Gaps emerging from wave 1 propositions? -> public fora, online surveys, FSS Dialogues, etc.
- Qualitative feedback on framing of wave 1 propositions? -> Upcoming consultation meetings and on community platform

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Action Track Progress: 15 Emerging Action Areas to Support the SDGs

All ideas submitted in the first six months of the process were integrated into synthesis papers that are currently giving rise to 15 priority action areas to support SDG achievement for feedback and consultation.



These areas will be strengthened and refined through interaction with the Scientific group and stakeholder consultations. Later in May, an updated version of these Action Areas will then serve as a **starting point of coalitions of action** which could help national governments & multi-stakeholders adopt, on a **voluntary** basis, **transformational pathways, associated policy and behavioral shifts** towards more sustainable food systems that can **help deliver progress across all 17 SDGs**.

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Connecting Action Track #1 with SDG indicator

Action Track	Cluster	Proposed reference indicator	SDG target
AT#1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all	Promote Food safety, End Hunger	Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU), 2020 estimates (8.9%)	Target 2.1: End hunger (safe, nutritious and sufficient food)
	Improve access to nutritious food	Affordability of healthy diet Food price volatility index	Target 2.2: End all forms of malnutrition
	Making food safe	Global burden of foodborne illness (number of cases)	Target 2.1: End hunger and access to safe... food

Action Area 1.2
Improve Access to
Nutritious Food

?

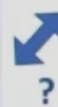


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Action Area 1.3
Making Food Safe

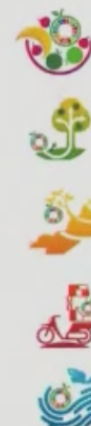


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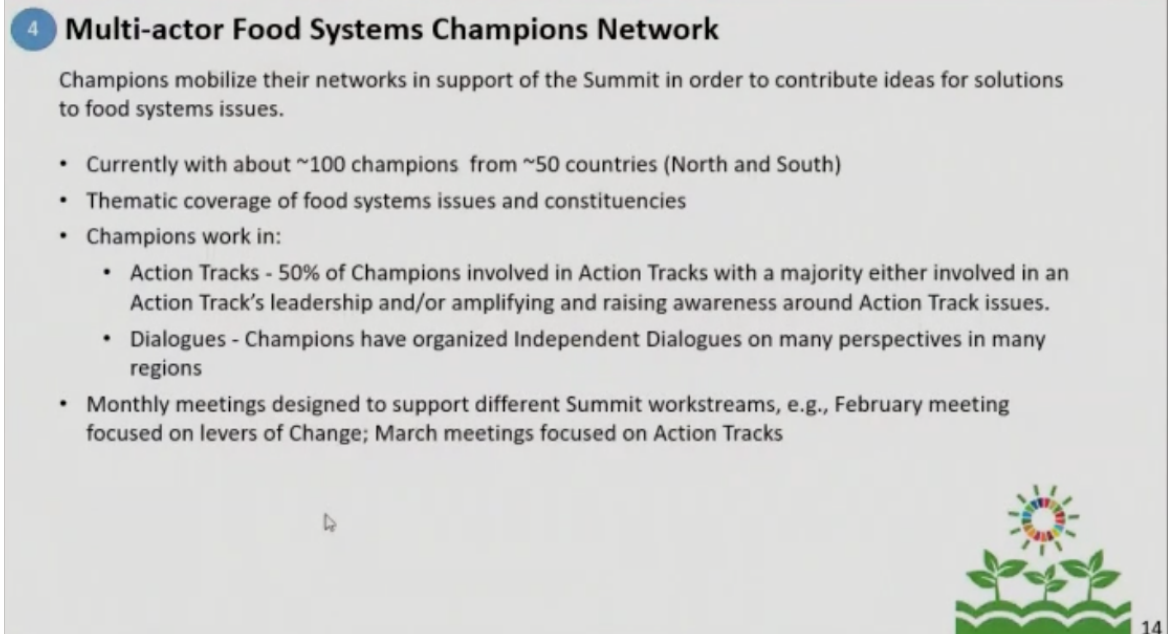
Human Rights and the Right to Food in Focus



1. Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food (Michael Fakhri) and his team (OHCHR) act as advisors for the **Lever of Change on Human Rights and Law**, and are part of the Summit's Integrating Team
2. Two former Special Rapporteurs on the RtF are involved in Action Track work as well, and act as **Action Track HR focal points**: Olivier de Schutter (AT3) and Hilal Elver (AT1)
3. Discussions organised between AT3 leadership team and **Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment**, David Boyd
4. AT4 focus on **advancing labour standards** and ILO part of leadership team
5. **Rights and international standard application** (land and tenure rights, labour rights, gender equality, non discrimination for migrant workers,- including CFS products) are part and parcel of many of the **100+ initial propositions** emerging from wave 1.



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5 Digital Platform Progress

UNFSS COMMUNITY PLATFORM

Food Systems Community



- New communities that have come online
 - Four Levers of Change communities: Finance, Gender, Human Rights, Innovation
 - Youth
 - Private sector
- Private workspaces for communities
 - Document sharing
 - Coordination and collaboration
 - Only available to approved members
 - Provides a private area for internal communication
- Game changing propositions
 - Coming online for stakeholder engagement
 - Quantitative and qualitative survey features
- +2,500 members
 - +100 new members being added on average daily
 - Dozens of new updates and content shared each day
- Stability and speed improvements
 - Migrated to virtual private server
 - Enhanced security protocols
 - Stability improvements for delivery across platforms, devices

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The Food Systems Summit Moments



• Pre Summit Moment – July 2021

- 3-days consolidation and tone-setting moment to align on top priorities and showcase bold and ambitious national, regional, and global leadership in the final months to the Summit
- Countries have an opportunity to share progress from national dialogue experiences and progress in shaping national food systems transformation pathways to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

• Summit Moment – September 2021

- A 1-day celebration of the work of countries and all constituencies
- The UN Secretary-General will give a Statement of Action and recommitment to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda through food systems transformation
- Heads of State and Government are expected to speak to their national food systems transformation pathways to achieve the SDGs by 2030 and commitments to bring these pathways to life
- Multi-stakeholder Coalitions of Action launched and scaled up

Expected Outcomes from the Summit Moments

1. A Secretary-General Statement of Action capping off thought-leadership from the Summit process
2. Commitments to action and finance from Member States and Constituencies
3. New Multi-Stakeholder Coalitions of Actions
4. Follow Up and Review using existing mechanisms

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Member State Questions/Intervention:

- Permanent Representative from Denmark: Let me confirm Denmark's commitment to the summit. We have submitted a number of game changing solutions around healthy diets, food waste, and other issues. We need to make sure the solutions become more actionable and include financing to turn this into a solution summit. We need ideas that build on existing solutions so we don't build up a parallel system. When we hosted the World Food Summit, this provided an opportunity to discuss tomorrow's food system. The Representative from Denmark followed up to discuss ways we can put this into action.
- Japan Minister: Japan has been holding meetings with 50 groups and private businesses and have been engaged in all 5 action tracks with focus on 2, 3, and 5. Our priorities:
 - We believe in order to ensure transition to sustainable foods we need financial support from the private sector
 - In order to prevent export challenges, we need a smooth distribution based on free, open and fair trade routes
 - We need balanced diets and food education to strengthen food supply chains
 - In order to take stock of nutrition in the country, Japan will host a nutrition summit in December and aim to find synergies
 - Questions:

- What are details on the outcome document and when will it will be presented?
 - How will the secretariat discuss outcomes with member states?
 - We need information on the New York event- can you provide more details?
 - When will the pre-Summit enrollment be presented to the member states?
- Deputy Permanent Representative from Italy: We need to connect healthy diets to achieve zero hunger and malnutrition. We are delighted to host the pre-Summit. This should be a science based event that doesn't have a one size fits all solution. We will host our pre-Summit national event on April 29, 2021. We are fully engaged in the Summit and will continue to be.
- Permanent Representative from Netherlands: The Summit is more than an event. COVID has reminded us that we need to translate all these inputs into game changing commitments and we need to get to result areas that are informed with best available science and with clear metrics.
 - We need informed science with a policy interface. What are your thoughts on what a science policy interface should deliver?
 - Related to accountability we need actionable metrics to measure progress to hold people accountable.
 - Success of the Summit hinges on participation and buy-in from all.
- Representative of Finland: School feeding has emerged as a major theme. Finland, Iceland, Sweden are establishing a global coalition to champion this issue. We know this is a huge priority for high and mid-income countries. This incentivizes children to participate in education. Kids are missing out on meals with closed schools. As schools open, school feeding must be built back up. School feeding will be a key result of the Summit. We are honored to serve as steering committee leader. I would encourage all countries to join the coalition as we need more to deliver results.
- Representative of Argentina: *No translation*
- Permanent Representative of Brazil: We are actively engaged.
- We have questions on procedural details
 - There is still a lack of clear guidance on how members can have full participation in the Summit.
 - We understand the Summit's non-binding recommendations and we respect them, but it would be useful to understand if the outcome document will constitute an endorsement or adoption by the UN?
 - We need the format and agenda for the pre-summit and the Summit, otherwise we can't coordinate participation. We think it will be a hybrid meeting with some being virtual and some in-person. I hope this hybrid will not be implemented in a discriminatory fashion.
 - We have major concerns around trade and how this will be addressed, particularly in light of COVID. There should be a global dialogue.

- We need to wrestle with illegal fishery issues. Dramatic loss of fish stocks is worrisome for our oceans. We need more biodiversity in our oceans.
- Representative of Iceland: Highlighted two game changing solutions:
 - Global school feeding in every country to improve health and diets of children.
 - We share concerns of Brazil around fishing stocks.
- Representative of Mexico: *No translation*
- Representative of Chili: National dialogue will be convened on April 30, 2021. We are concerned about trade implications as a result of solutions from the Summit.
- Ambassador of Norway: Need buy in because it will require governments to take action. We look forward to an aquatic dialogue in May and have similar concerns to what we heard from Brazil and Iceland.
- Ambassador from Morocco: Rights to food is like any normal rights, a right to everyone, everywhere. Need to avoid trade barriers as it relates to food.
- Ambassador of Kiribati: Many of my comments will be relatable for other Asia-Pacific countries, but am speaking on behalf of Kiribati, specifically. Recommend an outcome related to food as a source of wellness, not a source of illness (this is relevant in many countries). We have shifted from food that comes from the garden, fresh and to the table, and this shift has occurred due to globalization and business. Others have tempted us to move away from foods that are close to us- there is a temptation to get away from foods that are rich, and healthy. We become ill when we do not eat the foods that naturally grow near us. Many end up in the hospital, but our hospitals can not provide the appropriate care, so patients must go to another country for care. Sources of protein are being threatened (gave examples of various seafood) due to climate change. This needs to support. We have a huge marine protected area - we are feeding the world with our tuna and we want to protect this source of protein. Must contribute to biodiversity.
- Ambassador of France: We are entering a very defining phase of the Summit. We are committed to the Summit - we have submitted our priorities. School feeding should be a solution for the Summit. School feeding should be at the top of the agenda and so far 3 of the 5 Action Tracks have discussed school meal programs as a solution. Finland and Iceland are also particularly committed.
- Ambassador of Guatemala: Want commitments to have tangible results in the Summit - Action Track 1 national dialogue complete. Seasonal hunger and sustainable food systems will be a focus of our next national dialogue. We are also working on regional dialogues. We must create a more resilient system.
- Representative of UAE: The Summit will be the most powerful forum for cooperation this year. Earlier this morning at President Biden's Climate Summit a new partnership between the US and UAE related to public spending on agriculture research and development was formed, which will be known as the Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM for Climate).
- Representative of Peru: *No translation*.
- Representative of El Salvador: Food security issues are a concern for our country.

- Important for involvement with the Summit, and must get updates on the actions moving forward within the Summit. We must ensure that commitments and agreements are being communicated appropriately.
 - Independent scientific group is very important and must include experts in the food such as FAO to strengthen their work. Action Tracks are a great opportunity for member state involvement.
 - Dialogues are important for global, national and local levels. We are currently preparing our own national dialogue - launching in May.
- Representative of Bangladesh: The Summit is timely in light of COVID-19. We held our first national dialogue in January. We must address the roots of hunger, and create a more resilient food system as it relates to storage and distribution especially for developing countries. Women are disproportionately affected by hunger- we must address this gap in hunger through the Summit. Climate change and food production are a critical challenge, and technology is needed. Must invest in sustainable production and transform unhealthy consumption.
- Representative of the European Union: COVID-19 has demonstrated the fragility of our food systems. Food systems are at the heart of the goals for the 2030 agenda. Must address food insecurity and nutrition. We have a message of positivity and the Summit is a landmark opportunity for transformation. The Summit must include the scientific group to ensure evidence based information is considered. The Summit must highlight the connection with climate change and diet and food systems, and we must propose an ambitious framework. We can't leave anyone behind and must use the best available science. The 5 ATs are imperative for addressing our priorities. The EU is active across all ATs and in support of many game changing solutions from farmers, producers, indigenous communities, civil society, private sector and UN member states.
 - How can we use the Summit and what plans do you have to integrate and use the role of the peace development and humanitarian nexus to take into account the role of conflict as a primary driver for hunger and food insecurity worldwide and the cyclical impact of food insecurity as a driver of conflict?
 - Only through follow-up to the Summit and strong commitments can we meet the SDGs.
- Representative of India: Concerns with the fact that the livestock industry feels neglected in the Summit - this needs to be addressed.
- Representative of South Africa: This briefing is helpful to understand where the Summit is in process and is putting us on a level playing field. The Summit is very important for South Africa, and for the continent of Africa. South Africa imports ~85% of food and we are pleased to hear the Summit will address this issue. Fighting hunger helps with the health of our people. Climate change is a clear factor in South Africa as it relates to food production.

Deputy Secretary General Closing Remarks & Response

- Constructive and important feedback

- The Summit Advisory Committee - Meeting May 24th - we will be deciding what will come out of the Summit (ie a document - what will it be called?) and how we might implement these outcomes.
- We want to hear member state voices - there are very ambitious frameworks out there and we can't do this alone so partnership is critical.
- Women and young people must be at the forefront of the discussions related to the Summit and the 2030 agenda. They can't be left behind as we begin to move forward.
- How does all of this relate to the Paris Agreement?
- There are many opportunities around the transitions that we are proposing around climate action (ie green and blue economy)
 - Region by region specificities need to be addressed.
- We are trying to share as much detail in advance of public meetings (ie location, time, etc.), but in the context of COVID this is difficult. We will put out information on these details in a "best case" situation but understand they may change due to the pandemic.
 - Want to make sure that no-one is left behind in these meetings, especially as we discuss the hybrid structure.
- Response to Italy: Important leverage the leadership in the G20 that has so much involvement with the issues in the UNFSS in the G2- agenda. Particularly - China and the US are co-chairing the working group on sustainable finance, anchored by UNDP.
- The strengthening of the science interface within the Summit has to be at the country level. Invest in science at the country level so this can be more robust and collaborative. Must level the playing field for developed and developing countries.
- Pleased to hear about the coalition on school feeding. This is not new, but it is a global public good. Every child should have access to local, healthy diets. COVID has shown us gaps in this in developed and developing countries. You can count on our support at the country level with this.
- Argentina and Brazil representatives had lots of questions about the modalities. As I said, we will discuss this at the Advisory Committee. We need to make sure the whole group is aware of what we are planning. If we can be of more support in this process, please let us know. Want to ensure all representation is aware of what is being done with the Summit.
 - Other concerns will be discussed at the Advisory Committee meeting and we will get back to you with answers.
- We are taking note of the issues of trade. We are working on a meeting with the WTO and will host a dialogue in June or July.
- We will always be challenged by time and the number of responses, we only have some many resources. Please help us leverage resources.
 - The 3 Rome based agencies have provided incredible support.
- Human rights and rights to food is a priority.
- Need advice on how we are going to take outcomes from the Solutions and put them into action.
 - With Member State support we can get the outcome document right.

- Colleague from Kiribati made great points about this idea of food as wellness not illness.
- Use the UNFSS website as a reference for any resources necessary for the Summit. It is very detailed and user-friendly.
- We will likely have another meeting like this one in the coming months/during the Summit process.