

White House UN Food Systems Summit Briefing
Friday, August 6, 1:00-2:00 PM EST

Moderator: Will McIntee, Associate Director of Public Engagement at The White House

Dr. Jewel Bronaugh, Deputy Secretary, USDA

- Priorities at the Pre-Summit
 - Hunger and nutrition
 - US is the largest provider of international agriculture assistance, including through providing school meals
 - School meals coalition - ambitious goal of expanding school feeding programs to ensure universal access by 2030
 - Climate change
 - Strategic investments in ag innovation, research, and development
 - Encouraged other countries to join our AIM for Climate initiative to launch at COP 26 in November
 - Announced support from an additional 10 countries at the Pre-Summit
 - Food is Never Waste Coalition
 - Inclusivity and Equity
 - Focused on the following fundamental principles throughout each of our priorities: 1) leading with science and innovation 2) enabling trade 3) rural infrastructure and investment
- **USG Achievements**
 - Strong presence as a delegation at the Pre-Summit signaled the US is at the table
 - Many of our stakeholders still have concerns about the UNFSS
 - USDA is playing a key role in USG positioning
 - Still opportunities to convey concerns, priorities, aspirations leading up the Summit
 - Weakened the solution clusters - many were not based on science and had little proof of efficacy
 - Assured by UNFSS they will not be in the SG's Annex
 - Strong US involvement in development of Coalitions of Action
 - Bilateral meetings allowed us to convey concerns about these Coalitions of Action were formed, our intentions to participate in future coalitions, and contribute to the final list of emerging coalitions
 - UN Member State involvement was acknowledged as critical by UNFSS leaders
 - Coalitions of Action are not finalized
 - US delegation engaged in outreach regarding other coalitions, including one on innovation for climate smart agriculture (and resource management?)
 - Innovation will be key to the implementation of all other Coalitions of Action

- Nothing is set in stone and there are still opportunities to shape coalitions

Monique Nowicki, State Department

- Food Systems Coordinator, Bureau of International Organization Affairs
- Coordinating with 28 state agencies and bureaus on a very regular basis
- Pleased with Dr. Bronaugh's leadership at the Pre-Summit
- Been involved since 2019 in formal and informal channels
 - Seat on advisory committee
 - In contact with Summit Secretary regarding priorities
 - US-UN Rome, Jennifer Harhigh
 - USG has representation on all 5 Action Tracks
 - Meet with group of friends and Member States
- Private sector engagement is crucial to advancing these goals

David Hegwood, USAID

- Administrator Power's video remarks noted commitments the US will make at the Summit
- Feed the future initiative
- Food safety was discussed at the Pre-Summit
- USAID technical experts participated in other sessions

Questions + Answer

- Q: We appreciate that the US intergovernmental working has engaged throughout the Food Systems Summit development process. What is the status and drafting process for the expected Secretary General's statement to be issued at the Summit? How is the United States engaging to ensure that the statement and other FSS outcomes reflect the principles the United States expressed at the pre-Summit?
 - A: M. Nowicki - The Secretariat has provided us drafts at every stage and we have provided input at every opportunity, and given written responses as well. We are pleased at the feedback we have been able to provide. The same goes for US interests - we will continue to engage in those areas, in advisory committee meetings, member state conversations, and we still expect our action track representatives to be engaged.
- Q: Are the 7 Coalitions of Action set in stone? Can additional coalitions be formed? For example, one on sustainable livestock?
 - A: J. Bronaugh - The coalitions are not set in stone. I expect many changes and new coalitions to emerge. Deputy Secretary General Amina Mohammed said these will be refined under direction of the special envoy, the Rome agencies, and the Advisory Committee. In a one-on-one discussion with her, she reassured me there is space for new coalitions, particularly ones that have potential for meaningful impact. If anyone has ideas for ones that could get traction, contact Elise Golan, the UNFSS lead at USDA.

- Q: The US is promoting sustainable agricultural productivity growth. How can the US help Africa raise their yields?
 - A: D. Hegwood - Increasing agricultural productivity in Africa and other countries is a core objective of Feed the Future. We continue to look at ways to increase productivity to promote income growth, nutrition, and reduce poverty. Investing in research, consultant group on agricultural research, partnering with land grant universities, promoting seed systems, work on improving extension systems.
- Q: For food systems to actually change, semantics are important - saying it's a crisis even. The term sustainable production or consumption encourages different thinking about food system transformation. Why were the terms sustainable diets and consumption not included at the Pre-Summit?
 - A: J. Bronaugh - This was discussed in the session on unleashing the power of the plate. Can't talk about production and consumption without talking about reducing food loss and waste. As for terminology on "sustainable" diets, the international community has moved away from this terminology because it implies some foods are intrinsically more sustainable than others, when it is actually production practices not the food itself that determines sustainability. The preferred term is "healthy diets from sustainable food systems." There is a coalition on this that is under consideration.

Monique Nowicki, State Department

- Hosting a listening session on September 3rd as we prepare our engagement for the Summit, the official announcement on this is coming shortly
- Anticipate the Summit will occur around high-level week, or the 20th of September