

U.S. COALITION FOR UNITED NATIONS FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT ENGAGEMENT



UNITED NATIONS
FOOD SYSTEMS
SUMMIT 2021

4/5/21

Overview

Prepared by U.S. Coalition for the UN FSS Engagement Planning Team

U.S. Coalition for UN Food Systems Summit Engagement

OBJECTIVE

Coordinate a U.S. food and agricultural industry-wide coalition (Coalition) to direct U.S. strategic active engagement in the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UN FSS).

NEED

The outcome of the UN FSS has the potential to dramatically impact all food production and trading systems including the acceptability of certain tools, practices and types of food.

Should this UN FSS proceed without strong engagement from the United States' food and agricultural sectors, the U.S. government and other countries looking toward the use of innovation in their food production systems, the outcome may likely be UN recommendations to curtail the use of advanced farming techniques, discourage centralized, efficient production systems and radically change the way food and agricultural products are financed and traded. The Summit may also recommend discriminatory policies harmful to U.S. food producers, such as food and beverage taxation and warning labeling, that remain divisive among UN Member States but popular with many Summit supporters.

MISSION

Ensure the U.S. food and agriculture sector's support for innovation, access to diverse production systems and processing technologies, and evidence-based nutrition recommendations that recognize global dietary diversity are prominently featured in UN FSS recommendations.

GOALS

1. Develop one central message for U.S. food and agriculture.
2. Coordinate and support the outreach efforts undertaken by individual organizations domestically and with international counterparts to strategically focus on specific aligned countries' governments.
3. Coordinate engagement in member-state sponsored and independent dialogues and explore holding appropriate individual dialogues.
4. Open and maintain a line of communication with U.S. government representatives and members of the various UN FSS committees, Action Tracks and Champions Network.

TIMELINE

Immediate coordination is necessary to prepare for the ongoing dialogues and forums. It is not currently anticipated that the Coalition will extend beyond the September Summit if the current UN schedule holds.

- U.S.-Hosted Member State Dialogues:
 - January 13 (past)
 - April
 - May
- UN FSS Science Day: July 8-9 (location TBA)

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- Pre-event (Rome): July 13-16
- Main Summit and UN General Assembly (New York City): September 26

A more detailed Coalition timeline can be found in Annex 1.

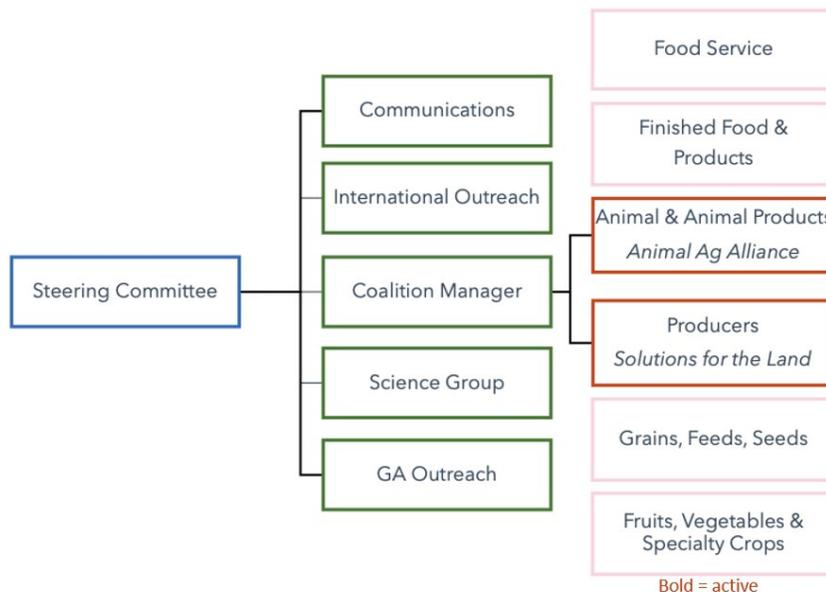
PARTICIPANTS

Open to all U.S. food and agricultural organizations, companies, and institutions in alignment with the core objectives and message. This includes those engaged in inputs, production, processing, food service, academia, and others engaged in the complex food system.

OPERATIONS

Structure

The Coalition will be comprised of a steering committee and multiple working groups coalesced around specific food and agricultural sectors. Those engaged in the Coalition may participate in any, and all, work groups they deem appropriate. Such working groups will allow for a more robust discussion around messaging, outreach, and engagement. Leads from each working group would serve on the steering committee for industry-wide coordination.



Support

Coalition management will be contracted to support all Coalition activities including convening steering committee and working group strategy sessions, ongoing intra-coalition communications, participation in UN-sanctioned dialogues and outreach to UN FSS officials and U.S. government participants.

Coalition participants are asked to contribute a minimum of \$5,000 to support Coalition management to facilitate the Coalition's activities, coordination, and messaging, as well as other related expenses.

Engage

To participate in the Coalition, please register [here](#). Contact Constance Cullman (ccullman@afia.org), president and CEO of the American Feed Industry Association (AFIA), or Mallory Gaines (mgaines@afia.org), AFIA manager of market access and trade policy, with questions.

ANNEX 1

COALITION TIMELINE

February:

- Initial core, overarching messages are developed.
- Outreach to organizations.
- RFP for Coalition Management is posted.
- Begin initiating Independent Dialogues.
- Background and informational session(s) held for interested organizations and companies.
- Coalition Management is hired and starts.

February 15:

- Action Tracks begin to compile input.

March

- First meeting with larger group commences.
- Dates and general plan on ag industry dialogues is agreed to.
- **Finalize messaging for Coalition and individual teams (and organizations if applicable).**
- **Finalize plan for domestic and international outreach.**
 - **Start outreach (domestic and international) as soon as possible.**

April-May

- Strong focus on outreach
 - Engage with U.S. government, foreign associations etc.

May-June

- Large agriculture dialogue event (if we decide to do so).
- Write-up from event.
- Increase outreach efforts from the event.

June-July

- Continued outreach.

July-August

- Continued outreach.
- Respond to report from July meeting.

August- September

- Continued outreach.

September- October

- Final preparation for the Summit.

October- November

- Respond to the Summit.

ANNEX 2

BACKGROUND: THE UN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT

On World Food Day, October 16, 2019, the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, announced that he would host a [Food Systems Summit in 2021](#) with the aim of maximizing the co-benefits of a food systems approach consistent with the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is intended to identify initiatives that will deliver on all 17 SDGs by 2030 since each relies to some degree on healthier, more sustainable and equitable food systems. The second SDG, “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture,” addresses food production specifically and is believed by the Secretary General to be lagging.

The Secretary General will convene the Summit and he alone will issue any outcome. It will not have to be negotiated by the UN Member countries or passed by the Security Council.

Providing leadership to the effort is Dr. Agnes Kalibata of Rwanda, Special Envoy for the 2021 Food Systems Summit. Dr. Kalibata had been the Minister of Agriculture in Rwanda and is currently the President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA).

Desired Summit outcomes are stated as:

1. Generate significant action and measurable progress toward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The summit will succeed in identifying solutions and leaders and issuing a call for action at all levels of the food system, including national and local governments, companies and citizens.
2. Raise awareness and elevate public discussion about how reforming our food systems can help us all to achieve the SDGs by implementing reforms that are good for people and planet.
3. Develop principles to guide governments and other stakeholders looking to leverage their food systems to support the SDGs. These principles will set an optimistic and encouraging vision in which food systems play a central role in building a fairer, more sustainable world.
4. Create a system of follow-up and review to ensure that the summit’s outcomes continue to drive new actions and progress. This system will allow for the sharing of experiences, lessons, and knowledge; it will also measure and analyze the summit’s impact.

The Summit is guided by five “Action Tracks”:

Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all

Action Track 1 will work to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition and reduce the incidence of non-communicable diseases, enabling all people to be nourished and healthy. This goal requires that all people at all times have access to sufficient quantities of affordable and safe food products. Achieving the goal means increasing the availability of nutritious food, making food more affordable and reducing inequities in access to food.



Chair: Lawrence Haddad, Executive Director, Global Alliance Improved Nutrition

Vice-chairs: Godfrey Bahigwa, Director of Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission and Janya Green, 4-H

UN anchoring agency: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations

Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns

Action Track 2 will work to build consumer demand for sustainably produced food, strengthen local value chains, improve nutrition, and promote the reuse and recycling of food resources, especially among the most vulnerable. This action track recognizes that we need to eliminate wasteful patterns of food consumption; it also recognizes that we need to facilitate a transition in diets toward more nutritious foods that require fewer resources to produce and transport.

Chair: Gunhild Stordalen, Founder and Executive Chair, EAT Foundation

Vice-chairs: Ajay Vir Jakhari, Chairman, Bharat Krishak Samaj and Lana Weidgenant, Real Food Systems, Deputy Director at Zero Hour International

UN anchoring agency: World Health Organization (WHO)

Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production

Action Track 3 will work to optimize environmental resource use in food production, processing, and distribution, thereby reducing biodiversity loss, pollution, water use, soil degradation and greenhouse gas emissions. In its pursuit of this goal, the action track will aim to deepen understanding of the constraints and opportunities facing smallholder farmers and small-scale enterprises along the food value chain. It will also strive to support food system governance that realigns incentives to reduce food losses and other negative environmental impacts.

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Chair: Joao Campari, Global Leader Food Practice, WWF International

Vice-chair: Lavetanalagi Seru, Alliance of Future Generations

UN anchoring agency: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods

Action Track 4 will work to contribute to the elimination of poverty by promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all actors along the food value chain, reducing risks for the world's poorest, enabling entrepreneurship and addressing the inequitable access to resources and distribution of value. Action Track 4 will improve resilience through social protection and seek to ensure that food systems “leave no one behind.”

Chair: Michelle Nunn, President and CEO, CARE USA

Vice-chairs: Shakuntala Thilsted, Research Program Leader for Value Chains and Nutrition, World Fish and Mai Thin Yu Mon, UN Global Indigenous Youth Caucus – Program Director for the Indigenous Peoples Development Program of Chin Human Rights Organization

UN anchoring agency: International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

Action Track 5 will work to ensure the continued functionality of sustainable food systems in areas that are prone to conflict or natural disasters. The action track will also promote global action to protect food supplies from the impacts of pandemics. The ambition behind this action track is to ensure that all people within a food system are empowered to prepare for, withstand, and recover from instability. Action Track 5 also aims to help people everywhere participate in food systems that, despite shocks and stressors, deliver food security, nutrition, and equitable livelihoods for all.

Chair: Saleemul Huq, Director of the International Centre for Climate Change & Development

Vice-chairs: Sandrine Dixson-Declève, Co-President of the Club of Rome and Mike Khunga, SUN Global Youth Leader for Nutrition, SUN CSN, and Project Officer, Civil Society Organisations Nutrition Alliance

UN anchoring agency: World Food Programme (WFP)

Advisory Committee

The advisory committee provides strategic guidance and feedback on the summit's overall development and implementation. The committee is chaired by the UN Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed, and comprises member state representatives, as well as senior officials of relevant UN agencies, other international organizations, and a wide range of individual experts, including farmers, indigenous peoples, civil society, researchers, academics, young people and business leaders.

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U.S. Participation: Because the United States, Canada and the European Union were all included in the “Western Region,” in which the EU had 27 votes, there was initially no representation by the U.S. Following strenuous objections by the U.S. government, **Ambassador to the FAO in Rome, Kip Tom**, was added to the committee. He will no longer be able to serve after January 20 and a replacement will be needed from the new administration. **Jennifer Harhigh**, U.S. State Department career staffer based in Rome, will continue to be engaged.

Scientific Committee

The scientific group is an independent group of leading researchers and scientists from around the world. Its members are responsible for ensuring the robustness, breadth and independence of the science that underpins the summit and its outcomes. It is led by Joachim Von Braun, director of The Center for Development Research (ZEF), at the University of Bonn.

U.S. Participation: **Prof. Thomas Hertel**, Purdue University; **Prof. Rattan Lal**, Ohio State University; **Prof. David Zilbermann**, University of California-Berkeley

Dialogues

There are Food Systems Summit Dialogues taking place across all countries in the world. The stated intent is to give participants input into developing approaches that will lead to equitable and sustainable food systems by 2030. Many of these dialogues will be country-led (the United States will lead three) and other Independent Food Systems Summit Dialogues are open to be organized by any community and constituency that takes an interest. There are three types of dialogues:

Member State Summit Dialogues

Member State Summit Dialogues are organized by national governments.

- U.S.-Hosted Dialogues:
 - January 13
 - March/April
 - May

Global Summit Dialogues

Global Summit Dialogues are co-convened by the Food Systems Summit Special Envoy, Dr Agnes Kalibata, with the main purpose to bring political attention to food systems in high-level thematic and sectoral meetings and processes. They are set to take place alongside key global events on climate, biodiversity, environment, nutrition, the ocean, economies, and related issues within the 2030 Agenda that have connections to food systems.

Independent Summit Dialogues

Independent Summit Dialogues are locally driven and adaptable to various contexts, convened by individuals or organizations independently of national authorities but with the opportunity to formally connect into the summit process through an official feedback mechanism. These will offer opportunities for all citizens to engage directly in proposing pathways toward sustainable food systems, exploring new ways of working together and encouraging collaborative action.

To facilitate independent dialogues, the UN has established the **Champions Network** to mobilize a diverse range of people in every region of the world to call for fundamental transformation of the world's food systems. There are two kinds of network members:

- **Food Systems Champions** are network and institutional leaders from across the food system who commit to mobilizing their networks, sharing information, and taking action to support the summit. Nominations were solicited and champions have been selected.
- **Food System Heroes** are individuals from countries all over the world who commit to learn, share, gather and act for better food systems in their communities and more broadly. It is open to broad engagement. They are asked to:
 - **Learn:** explore the summit's [resources page](#) for information on what is happening to transform food systems.
 - **Share:** engage with and amplify content and posts from the summit's social media channels on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).
 - **Gather:** host an independent Food Systems Summit Dialogue with their networks before the pre-summit in mid-year 2021.
 - **Act:** take action on food systems as priorities and recommendations emerge from the summit.