



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

10th African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD-10)

Side event Draft Concept Note

17 April 1130 – 1300 GMT+3

Virtual ([Registration link](#))

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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- 1. Title:** Food Systems Transformation as an Accelerator for the Agenda 2030 and AU 2063 Agenda Implementation in Africa: Lessons and Insights from the frontline
 - 2. Introduction:** Alongside the ARFSD-10, the UN FS Coordination Hub is organizing a series of platform meetings primarily bringing together National Convenors to network and share experiences and insights on food systems transformation efforts in their countries. These include the main National Convenors Meeting scheduled for the 22nd April 2024. This note is specifically on the pre-Main Meeting session scheduled for the 17th April 2024. Unlike the Main Meeting, which is physical, this pre-Session will be held virtually.
 - 3. Brief background:** The UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment (UNFSS+2) in 2023 marked a pivotal juncture, offering a unique opportunity to harness the potential of sustainable, inclusive, nutritious, and resilient food systems as driving forces towards Agenda 2030 goals.

Recognizing the transformative power of food systems, the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report underscores the critical role food systems play in fostering sustainability across human, the environment, social and economic realms. This perspective is echoed in the Africa Common Position on Food Systems, a synthesis priorities and ambitions of Member States. A key takeaway from the UNFSS+2 Special Event on Building Africa's Food Sovereignty and Resilience through Sustainable Investments is the need to support the African Common Position on Food Systems with catalytic policy options and strategies, and sufficient financing to enable the game-changing solutions identified.

In November 2023, the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, in collaboration with the 4SD Foundation, organized five regional touchpoints to introduce the Food Systems and Climate Action Convergence Initiative to National Convenors. The insights gathered from the National Convenors during the touchpoints emphasized the importance of aligning food systems transformation with climate action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They outlined ongoing efforts to link these agendas and welcomed the Convergence Initiative for its potential to contribute significantly at both national and regional levels, while adapting to the diverse contexts of each country. Participants also recognized its ability to foster cooperation and synergy among diverse stakeholders operating at various scales including farmers and other frontline practitioners.

4. Session objective:

The Session aims to provide National convenors an opportunity to draw insights and continued motivation from both national and regional advances on food systems transformation, connecting to strides being made in the implementation along the national FS pathways and climate action.

The Session is also expected to contribute to country-level (i.e. National Convenors) input to the overall ARFSD-10 Outcome Report, thereby contributing to global and regional momentum on food systems transformation.

Specifically, the Session will:

- discern the key actions required at both national and regional levels to effect transformative changes in food systems
- explore issues of alignment with climate action, fostering resilience while enhancing food security.

The Session will strategically build upon the conclusions drawn from global processes such as UNFSS+2 STM, the SDGs Summit, and COP28, while also leveraging insights from regional frameworks such as CAADP, the Malabo Declaration, and the African Union Common Position on Food Systems.

5. Proposed format of session:

The Session is organized as a Conversation; offering national convenors opportunity and space to share and network among themselves as well as with leading players in the Ecosystem of support

6. Key SDG(s) to be addressed in the proposed session:

SDG1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 13 (Climate), SDG16 (Strengthening institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnerships);

7. Contribution to the theme of the ARFSD-10 forum – what transformative solution(s) will be presented?

- **Addressing food insecurity**, and hence achievement of SDG2, through focusing on challenges and game changers for accelerating food systems transformation. Food system transformation would contribute to strengthening the resilience capacity and enhancing nutritional outcomes in line with global and national commitments.
- **Addressing the Food-Climate nexus:** Harness the potential of the Hub Food and Climate Convergence Initiative in supporting UN member states to align food systems' national pathways to each of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

8. Key topics/questions to be addressed by the session:

- Highlight key factors, megatrends and opportunities impacting local food systems transformation
- What are the best practices and tools that governments and stakeholders can tap into to accelerate food systems transformation?
- What policy options, actions, and mechanisms that could foster synergies between food systems and climate action?
- What are, within local circumstances and contexts, key success factors for food systems transformation alignment with NDCs & NAPs?

9. Which stakeholder groups will be included in the session? (youth groups, CSOs, etc.):

- Youth, and CSOs
- Private Sector
- International Finance Institutions

10. Will this session relate to any regional or global processes/summits?

- Follow-up to 2023 – SDG Summit, COP28, UN Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment, Africa Climate Summit and AU Post-Malabo CAADP processes.
- Preparation for 2024 – Summit of the Future, UN Regional Forums, CBD COP 16, UNCCD COP 16, COP29 and beyond, Nutrition for Growth Summit.
- Linkages with the HLPF

12. Organizing partner(s):

Food Systems Coordination Hub, FAO Regional Office for Africa, Economic Commission for Africa.

Programme and Agenda:

11:30 – 11:45 (15 minutes – 5 min each)	Opening and Welcoming Moderator: Khaled Eltaweel, Senior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - David Phiri, Special Adviser to the Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa, FAO - Godfrey Bahiigwa, Director of Agriculture and Rural Development, Africa Union.
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	Programme Coordinator, UNFS Coordination Hub	- Sylvia Ekra , Deputy Director, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub
11:45 – 11:55	Keynote addresses and scene setting – <i>how current policy frameworks in Africa are interlinked with FST/UNFS processes.</i>	- Amath Pathe Sene , Managing Director, Africa's Food Systems Forum (AGRF)
11:55 – 12:55	<p>Moderated Panel Discussion: Accelerating food systems transformation: Key lessons and insights from country level players</p> <p><i>based on guiding questions</i></p> <p>Moderator: Martin Bwalya, Senior Food Systems Specialist for Africa, UNFS Coordination Hub</p>	<p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Mithika Linturi, Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and National Convenor of Kenya • Mr. Andritiana Randrianaivomanana, Directeur Général en charge de la Coordination Générale des Projets et Partenariats (CGPP) • Aisha Hadeja, Partner Sahel Consulting • Emile Chazelle, Head of HDP Nexus Coalition Secretariat • Elizabeth Mwendu, SENA Youth Representative <p>Three (3) minutes initial intervention by each panelist followed by open discussion (questions from the moderator and from the floor)</p>
1255 – 1300 (5 minutes)		- Sylvia Ekra , Deputy Director, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub

Register to the side event here:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yyC7iuMmS8qyd5MldH9e-w#/registration

Kindly note that the side event will be available in English, French and Arabic.