

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 5 May 2021 16:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Engaging Powerholders in Catalysing Food Systems Change
CONVENED BY	50by40 and Action Track 2 of the UN Food Systems Summit
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/10128/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	No borders

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

1. PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

59

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-18 11 19-30 20 31-50 19 51-65 9 66-80 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

Male

Female

59 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

59 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

3 Local Non-Governmental Organization

25 International Non-Governmental Organization

2 Indigenous People

6 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

6 Government and national institution

1 Regional economic community

4 United Nations

International financial institution

10 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

3 Consumer group

Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

Dialogue Curator and Convenors organised the dialogue with full respect and commitment to the UN Food Systems Summit principles of engagement. The principles were integrated and implemented during all phases- from planning to reporting.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Dialogue convenors dedicated a lot of time and effort to define the scope of the event to ensure that it respects the complexity and diversity of the food systems and speaks to the urgency of food systems transformation. In addition, the dialogue itself has a very strong focus on multi-stakeholder engagement and inclusivity. The convenors contacted more than 400 representatives across sectors and geographies. Our main focus was to engage civil society groups whose voices are often underrepresented. For that, we put additional effort into reaching out to groups, especially those based in the Global South, regardless of their position/support for the UN Food Systems Summit. The event was invitation-only to ensure a balanced representation across sectors. Trust and respect were the core values guiding the conversation.

DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

The principles of engagement are unique since they outline the invaluable aspect of an actual dialogue instead of a lecture series or debate. As dialogue is all about inclusivity, respect and a safe space for discussion, the principles of engagement should be integrated into the process as early as possible.

3. METHOD

The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?

Yes

No

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

50by40 and Action Track 2, led by Dr Gunhild Stordalen, Founder and Executive Chair of EAT, UN Food Systems Summit, convened an independent UN Food Systems Summit Dialogue 'Engaging Powerholders in Catalysing Food Systems Change'. The event brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including civil society groups, those from the private sector, national, regional, and international bodies. All in all, 59 participants joined the conversation. This was a perfect number to ensure lively and in-depth discussions in the breakout groups, simultaneously allowing a wide range of stakeholders to be represented.

The dialogue aimed to generate a critical set of suggestions from civil society representatives for each of the stakeholder groups identified below on how to ensure inclusivity and actionability of the Summit outcomes and determine a pathway for taking these outcomes forward. As a conversation starter, the event serves as an essential step towards the Pre-Summit in July.

The dialogue was curated by Lasse Bruun, CEO of 50by40 and Global Civil Society Lead for Action Track 2 of the UN Food Systems Summit.

Speakers:

- Lasse Bruun, CEO of 50by40 and Action Track 2 Global Civil Society Lead (Dialogue Curator)
- Dr Gunhild Stordalen, Founder and Executive Chair of EAT and Action Track 2 Chair
- Yon Fernandez-de-Larriñoa, Chief of the FAO Indigenous peoples Unit

Facilitators:

- Zachary Tofias, Director of the Food and Waste Program at C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group
- Helena Wright, Policy Director at the Jeremy Collier Foundation
- Lana Weidgenant, Deputy Director at Zero Hour International and Action Track 2 Youth Vice-Chair
- Vositha Wijenayake, Executive Director at SLYCAN Trust
- Jørgen Torgerstuen Johnsen, Consultant, Food and Nutrition Action in Health Systems unit at WHO
- Lina Mahy, Technical Officer, Food Systems Unit of the Department of Nutrition and Food Safety at WHO

The core part of the event was breakout discussions organised around different stakeholder groups:

- Intergovernmental
- National
- Subnational
- Citizens/Consumers
- Private Sector/Investors

Key question:

- What are the concrete steps key stakeholders/powerholders can take, from the perspective of civil society to action recommendations coming out of the Summit?

Questions addressed in the breakout sessions:

- How to ensure that the key recommendations are both inclusive, ambitious and actionable?
- How to make them applicable and linked to other existing processes and multilateral frameworks?
- What should actors at each level of food systems do to take these recommendations forward?
- How to empower key actors of the food systems to facilitate a successful implementation?

Event format:

- Introductory statements by a diverse group of relevant and esteemed speakers (30 min)
- Breakout discussions with an interactive element using an online collaboration tool called Miro to capture and share thoughts and notes. (60 min)
- Sharing key learnings/reporting back (30 min)

ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- ✓ Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- ✓ Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- ✓ Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

- ✓ Finance
- ✓ Innovation
- ✓ Human rights
- ✓ Women & Youth Empowerment
- ✓ Policy
- ✓ Data & Evidence
- ✓ Governance
- ✓ Trade-offs
- ✓ Environment and Climate

MAIN FINDINGS

- It is essential to define key areas and set one strong core message/goal/statement, e.g. Demand for Food Justice to bring to COP26 (prevent from lobbying)
- Localise solutions:
Focus on local businesses, ensure availability of healthy and plant-based food
Meet communities where they are and adapt nutritional recommendations
Tailor-made strategies for specific areas
Open communication on the politics of how the implications would be for different countries
- Distribution of power and capital in our food systems: ensure a fair allocation at all stages of the food chain and include everyone in decision making - from seed production to where we purchase our food
- Scale up CSO actions to ensure accountability and transparency (watchdog role)
- Identification of responsibilities linked to other processes at a national and international level
- Communication:
Improve clarity: who is involved in decision-making, identifying success stories and private sector leaders, i.e. who is in the leadership teams of each Action Track?
Ensure language used is inclusive, empowering and builds trust (tool kits, key areas to focus on, stakeholders who might be positive to change)
- Inclusivity:
Having policies and processes that are inclusive and participatory, which include actors who are not focused only on the food sector (holistic approach)
Multi-actor processes and having key actors including vulnerable communities at the decision making tables - all groups should be able to participate, including across civil society
- Focus on outcomes that feed into existing processes; building on existing entry points and scaling them up to ensure that it is possible to increase ambition
- More focus on capacity building and enhancing technical expertise for stakeholders and CSOs to engage in concrete actions
- Networks and Connections:
It's critical to connect the dots: Intergovernmental processes need to be better connected, such as COP and FSS
Building bridges between stakeholders/ different actors working in silos, i.e. food systems on the environment etc.; networks cross-cutting expertise/actors; national dialogues or committees;
Enhancing coordination across sectors at the national level
For sub-national governments to be fully included in advancing solution sets that emerge from the Summit, a bridge must be built into the formal National FS Dialogues and the commitments being made at national levels
- Actions leading to making the healthy choice the easy choice – accessibility, affordability
Identifying how the outcomes could contribute to different national and international processes – contributing to the integration process

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/5

Intergovernmental:

- Investing in testing and pilot projects with farmers and producers, especially in areas with limited resources, to get early feedback to include into the process is crucial
- For complete transparency, the FSS government structure should be open to civil society, and an accountability system should be set up, shared and owned by all the stakeholders
- Connect all the multilateral frameworks that exist already (including trade aspects to be built on) to change food systems, e.g. UNFCCC, SDGs, Sendai Framework, CFS, regional or bilateral processes
- Food Systems have to play an essential role at COP26 - catalyse civil society towards it; this is a role of the UN
- UNFSS representatives should take urgent action in engaging underrepresented groups more actively
- Informing about the term Food Systems is essential to raise awareness across all levels of engagement - explanation/storytelling is needed to create necessary common approach/synergies
- Engage UN Member States as champions for the solutions that the FSS recommends
- Stakeholder engagement in different states /cities is necessary to include vulnerable groups
- All actions must be transdisciplinary, inclusive, and aligned with rights-based approaches to achieve equitable food systems transformation.
- This includes building processes and policy platforms on democratic principles, including transparency, accountability, and inclusive participation to ensure that interventions are both evidence- and rights-based.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/5

National:

- To empower key actors in food systems, the focus on accessibility and affordability as well as the guarantee of technical and financial support provided for the implementation of actions are essential
- Enhance coordination across sectors at the national level
- Having a mapping of each actor's role at the end of the Summit to carry forward actions and ensure that they are concretised
- Risk management, risk transfer, social protection, and focus on resilience building factors are important
- Directly reaching out to national governments is crucial – preparations to engage with existing actors to bring in different actors
- Ensure that government subsidies are going towards supporting the vulnerable communities/farmers etc.
- Actions that focus on going back to basics – systems thinking and systems innovation, taking into account externalities and systems solutions
- Actions that focus on changing the existing thinking which is leading to unhealthy food systems, and food choices
- It is crucial to consider qualitative as well as quantitative indicators, and targets are being set up accordingly
- It is crucial to balance incremental (no bandage solutions) and systematic approaches (new ways of looking at, trade etc.)
- The UN Food Systems System is voluntary – what is the best way to engage countries? (balance to be innovative and conservative in ways that do not scare away countries)
- Shifting policies towards focusing more on broader actions and implications - tangible solutions

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/5

Subnational:

- Frame actions as collective missions that invite people to contribute to a continuous, evolving journey
- It is essential to move the needle further down towards the ground, to empower local leaders better. Resources and decision power should be transferred from the UN and nation-states more to a city-level through different mechanisms and processes. With strong fora and facilitators, we need to start asking questions and empower conversation at a lower level where the issue begins and then build up from there.
- Sub-national governments must be empowered to act with resources and tools so they can not only recognise a solution set or Action Area as a priority but also translate it into actual movement/call for change
- Layer an accountability mechanism into the summit that gives more power to cities.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/5

Individual:

- Individuals should change their consumption patterns, but the food system summit needs to create an environment of change for those patterns.
- Shared responsibility across stakeholders. The pressure shouldn't all be on individuals shoulders, and society needs to offer support for change
- Procurement is impactful. For example, food in schools/universities can contribute to change towards a more healthy & sustainable consumption which is why more focus is needed on the impact of surroundings
- It's critical to connect the dots: Intergovernmental processes need to be better connected, such as COP and FSS. The food system is a huge contributor to the climate crisis, and there is so much potential to address that issue jointly, but connections being made are not visible
- It's impossible to have an inclusive outcome without an inclusive input - efforts need to be at every level and go beyond the summit
- There is a need to come to a common consensus and build up to make change
- Acknowledge, boost power of localised advocacy

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/5

Private sector:

- Improve clarity: who is involved in decision-making, identifying success stories and private sector leaders, i.e. who is in the leadership teams of each Action Track?
- Match Private Sector goals with already established normative goals
- There are many different types of the private sector: some are big transnational ones; some are small-holders. Additionally, the split between Global North and Global South needs to be considered
- There is a need to focus more on the large corporations that are significant for the change to a more sustainable system
- Realising the importance of "unusual" alliances between NGOs, private and public sector is essential - these partnerships can be useful, but it's important to find a balance between the partnerships without the risk of greenwashing
- Major corporations are often held accountable for their actions - they change due to reputational risks since they are afraid to have these impacts reported in the media. Media transparency and reporting information are crucial to track these issues.
- Investors may only know about the environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) risks if reported in the media.
- It matters who is using and managing data should not be misused or captured.
- Climate change: things are often being defined in terms of climate targets – but for example imported deforestation is an injustice that needs to be addressed accordingly
- We need circularity of the economy and of thinking; rather than an extractive model
- Progress might come faster from the private sector than the official side of things
- For example, EAT Lancet dietary guidelines are being adopted by Denmark and that gives us hope; they have worked on changing norms and showing that people want to change their diet

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Some concerns have been raised about corporate co-optation and the legitimacy of the UNFSS as a democratic process, which was also reflected in the conversations during our dialogue. Some participants seemed to be more optimistic about the overall prospect of the summit, whereas, others expressed their concerns about perspectives of the summit itself, the way it is organized, its importance and inclusivity aspects. This divergence appeared to be especially visible in our different breakout sessions. Some groups jointly created a sense of hope and focused on future possibilities, however, other conversations turned out to be rather based on underlying legitimacy issues which undermine the process itself.

Another divergence that emerged from a breakout session was who would take on the leading role and responsibilities needed to implement and monitor the solutions proposed in the Food System Summit. Whether it should be the UN agencies or Governments while NGOs act as watchdogs. No clear conclusion was met but UN agencies were emphasized to have more of an active and leading role although the lack of power from the UN was recognized.

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