

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 4 May 2021 09:00 GMT -04:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	UN Food Systems Summit Global Youth Dialogue – Good Food For All
CONVENED BY	Dr. Agnes Kalibata, UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy to the Food Systems Summit; and Henrietta Fore, Executive Director of UNICEF
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/13264/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Global
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

143

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

6 0-18 105 19-30 32 31-50 51-65 66-80 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

56 Male 87 Female Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

64	Agriculture/crops	7	Education	3	Health care
3	Fish and aquaculture	18	Communication	7	Nutrition
3	Livestock	8	Food processing	6	National or local government
	Agro-forestry		Food retail, markets		Utilities
9	Environment and ecology	6	Food industry		Industrial
	Trade and commerce	2	Financial Services	7	Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

8	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	5	Workers and trade union
5	Large national business		Member of Parliament
	Multi-national corporation		Local authority
20	Small-scale farmer	10	Government and national institution
1	Medium-scale farmer		Regional economic community
3	Large-scale farmer		United Nations
21	Local Non-Governmental Organization		International financial institution
43	International Non-Governmental Organization	2	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
5	Indigenous People	4	Consumer group
5	Science and academia	11	Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

While the participant list was intentionally skewed toward a younger demographic, the dialogue organizers sought out multi-stakeholder inclusivity through diversity in geography, culture, and interest areas. To assist with a diverse range of participants, interpretation was provided during the opening session, and participants had the option to express a language preference for the breakout sessions. The breakout sessions were designed to allow for the complexity and inclusion of several perspectives to come through by using a question that probed personal experiences and context-specific knowledge: "what does good food mean to you?" The dialogue also tasked participants with a challenge to go out and convene their own Independent Dialogue, highlighting the need to act with urgency.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Act with urgency: There was a specific call to action to take on Independent Dialogues and work towards real change. Commit to the Summit: The Dialogue served as a launch pad for the Food Systems Summit engagement campaign, "Good Food For All" which will encourage not only youth, but everyone to take action towards transforming food systems. Be respectful: Participants were encouraged to share freely; only the opening session was livestreamed to allow for a safe and private space to talk during the breakout session. Recognize complexity: Facilitators of breakout rooms were encouraged to lead the discussion around the following topics: access to healthy diets, social inclusion, resilience (pests, conflicts, COVID-19, etc.), healthy people in a healthy planet Embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity: The dialogue welcomed a diverse array of perspectives and provided interpretation to allow for greater inclusivity. Participants came from around the world, representing 45 countries.

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

Having a very talented and engaging curator and group of facilitators makes all the difference! The Youth Dialogue was fortunate to have Dustin Liu and Mofiyin Onanuga serve as curator and host for the event--having two curators can sometimes be very helpful to literally and figuratively add another voice to the discussion.

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

Overview:

Gathering youth voices from around the world, the Food Systems Summit Global Youth Dialogue invited a curated group of 100 youth for a discussion on the future of our food systems.

The Global Dialogue brought together youth advocates from across the globe who champion a range of issues in their local contexts – from agriculture to climate to education. The Dialogue opened with high-level welcome remarks, followed by guest speakers answering the question, “What does ‘good food’ mean to you? Youth participants were then divided into groups for a dynamic discussion on the varied meanings of ‘good food’ sharing their ideas to help shape the future of our food systems in diverse contexts. To close the Dialogue, youth facilitators shared key insights from their groups and participants were issued a challenge to run 100 Independent Dialogues in their own contexts and communities. The Dialogue closed with the launch of the #Act4food #Act4change campaign.

Opening Session:

The opening session kicked off a conversation around youth engagement in food systems and how to inspire others to drive forward inclusive and sustainable actions to change the food system.

The opening session featured:

1. Launch of series on Netflix with Waffles and Mochi exploring the wonder of food across the world
2. Ms Amina J Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary-General - spoke about those who are suffering from climate change are the most vulnerable, but highlighted that youth are most resilient. What is important is mobilising peer-to-peer support and having intergenerational partnerships.
3. Jessica Vega Ortega, Coordinator of the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus - spoke about experiences of indigenous groups and her community's different relationship with food, production, and on being linked to the land. She highlighted how we need to reinvent our practices and decolonise the existing food system to make it inclusive and equitable
4. Ms. Henrietta H. Fore, Executive Director of UNICEF - raised 4 key issues that need to be reformed: the quality of what children eat; the quality of food environments; improving feeding practices in early childhood; reducing carbon footprints of production and minimising environmental damage.
5. Ms. Janya Green, youth co-chair for Action Track 1 - spoke on her own experience of setting up a community garden at age 12 and the importance of having initiatives be locally-owned and sustainable. Ms. Green also expressed support for new initiatives such as #actforfood #actforchange.
6. Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth - shared her thoughts on the intersection of food systems with climate action, such as how leaders are paying more attention to these issues but need to make sure they are translated into action. The Envoy on Youth also noted there is a huge potential for a new food system to create decent work, but this needs to be supported by policies, decision-makers, and finance.
7. Ms. Agnes Kalibata, UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for the 2021 Food Systems Summit - encouraged youth to be bold and highlighted the importance of these dialogues. The Special Envoy also highlighted that we need to be clear about what youth are bringing to the table, discuss what we expect from the Summit, and what actions youth would like to see in the future.
8. Ms. Emi Mahmoud, UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador – shared an emotive spoken word poem touching on family, sharing food, and Ramadan.

The initial session was broadcast on UN web TV, but for the breakout sessions the participants were split into 10 breakout rooms that employed Chatham House rules.

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

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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> | Policy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Innovation | <input type="checkbox"/> | Data & Evidence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Human rights | <input type="checkbox"/> | Governance |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Women & Youth Empowerment | <input type="checkbox"/> | Trade-offs |
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MAIN FINDINGS

Key themes from the dialogue

Identified Problems

1. Low interest among youth in farming
2. Nutrition and unhealthy diets
3. Perspective that junk food is cheap and healthy, nutritious food is expensive
4. There is a disconnect between what is consumed and produced - long value chains
5. Exploitation of smaller producers by middlemen
6. Food waste -- both on a large scale (e.g. transportation and post-harvest losses) as well as smaller scales (individuals, households, and businesses)
7. Lack of support to smallholder farmers and the dominance of monopolies and corporations
8. Human rights – indigenous, smallholder farmers, women, and children's rights are not recognized enough
9. Food is not valued as filling spiritual and emotional needs; decreased communal sharing of food
10. Deforestation and land degradation caused by food production
11. Climate change – concerns of industrial pollution, unsustainable consumption of meat and dairy, transportation, and the impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable, small scale producers, and subsistence farmers
12. Lack of diversification in the food system; domination of a handful of staple goods, negative ramifications for the environment and human nutrition.
13. Limited education – both information for farmers and awareness of the food system and nutrition
14. Digital divide – unequal access to the internet and other technologies
15. Limitation of youth's voice in politics and industry

What needs to be done:

1. Make farming attractive to youth – this includes changing the narrative and image of farming as well as providing access to sustainable finance, information, and proper training to make working in agriculture as attractive as traditionally white-collar jobs. More support needs to be given to empower and encourage agripreneurs by both businesses and government policies. Incubators could also be created as hubs for young farmers to share ideas and interests.
2. Cut out the middleman – long food chains prevent farmers from connecting to consumers properly and result in lost income. Farming cooperatives and collectives should be supported to help with this. Waste management could also be improved this way.
3. Digitalisation – support to farmers in accessing technologies and enabling a sense of ownership so they are not controlled or priced out by large monopolies. Technologies are important in improving climate resilience, productivity, reducing waste, and marketing.
4. The right government subsidies
 - a. Subsidies should facilitate and encourage more sustainable land management (e.g. forest regrowth, crop diversification, and carbon sequestration).
 - b. Encourage growth of more sustainable food sources e.g. away from large scale meat and dairy production – food that is locally available and culturally relevant
 - c. Stop subsidizing biofuels, as this takes land away from food
 - d. Incentivise a more circular economy approach
 - e. Support the growing and eating of more nutritious food rather than consuming 'junk food' – additional policies could also support this by requiring certain standards to be met and limiting the sale of empty-calorie foods.
5. Governments to deliver land reforms where necessary in line with indigenous rights, as well as stopping land grabs and giving priority to large scale corporations over smallholder farmers
6. Education
 - a. Governments
 - i. National or regional health campaigns to promote nutrition and healthy eating – as well as where food comes from
 - ii. School syllabuses should include more information on the food system and encourage students to think critically about where food comes from and how it is produced
 - b. Private sector
 - i. Be transparent about value chains, how food is produced, and its nutritional content - better transparency should also be required by governments
 - ii. Could run CSR activities to help broaden awareness on multiple topics
 - c. Individuals – share and explain stories – this could tie in with any of the larger-scale initiatives as it was acknowledged that collectively lots of different individuals and actions have a substantial impact. Farmers also need better and more equitable access to information to improve sustainability and production.
7. We need to encourage youths to learn how to plant their own foods and to make them understand the importance of what they grow and what they eat – this would be a key part of reconnecting consumers and producers and building communities.
8. Home gardening and school feeding programs are effective in communities. Encourage people to grow their own vegetables, and help with the restoration of land through such means as planting fruit trees; by planting fruit trees, people are less likely to cut them down for fuel.
9. Youth inclusion – need to be more widely engaged in decision making either via youth parliaments, youth boards, or wider campaigning and advocacy. Existing youth groups could also do more to connect to those who may not have the same digital access.
10. Policies on GMOs could be developed to restrict intellectual property rights and to develop checks to stop monopolies.
11. Fortify food to improve nutrition.
12. Advertise nutritious food – there should be limits on advertisements for 'junk food' (led by governments) – but businesses should also be encouraged to do this through consumer advocacy and movements
13. We need to acknowledge the spiritual and emotional value of food more widely

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KEYWORDS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

All groups discussed the same topic: "What does good food mean to you?" Summaries were prepared by the group's notetaker.

Group 1

There needs to be more recognition of our producers' efforts because they are the one who feeds us, yet they are going hungry. This could include building the network of goodness to protect the sectors we are serving and advance our advocacies. Agriculture needs to be rebranded to make it more appealing to young people and land rights is also key to this engagement.

Food industries and producers should use their power to shine the light to healthy diet/food. We want adverts of junk foods stopped in the UK and around the world, so obesity can be tackled.

We need to encourage youths to learn how to plant their own foods and to make them understand the importance of what they grow and what they eat – this would be a key part of reconnecting consumers and producers and building communities. Young people are experts at their own experience and should be considered as equal partners.

Group 2

Food loss and waste is a major issue; need ideas for how to upcycle and prevent food loss and waste, including better storage, reduction of time travelled/better transportation options, improved seed varieties.

Smallholder farmers are often not paid fairly due to a reliance on middlemen, so more investment is needed for smallholder farmers in terms of both knowledge and finance

Home gardening and school feeding programs are effective in communities. Encourage people that they can grow their own vegetables and help with the restoration of land by planting fruit trees; by planting fruit trees, people are less likely to cut them down for fuel. Not all the community members are knowledgeable about home gardening and how to take the plants. So, we have to create sessions to brief people on what to plant how and how to take care of the plants especially as most of the manure used is organic

People only eat certain food because of branding and marketing and social media influence. We need to hold the industry accountable and need to restructure our consumption patterns – there is equality which has been exacerbated by COVID-19.

Group 3

All participants conveyed that youth are not attracted to farming, and this is a big issue nowadays. Youth have limited access to finance and the opportunity to invest in food value chains due to lack of collateral securities, limited access to technologies to ease post-harvest handling and value addition. There has also been a failure to digitize the food system. In many places, food is basically produced in rural areas where ICT service access is still a dream, and limited access to business clinics and business incubation centres to support start-ups engaged in the food value chains.

Some of the solutions proposed were; having sufficient finance for people to be more enthusiastic and attracted to agriculture or farming; there also needs to be better resources including access to land; respect indigenous rights; rethink the distribution of power so that governments reflect what young people need. Through policy change, we can ensure that people representing us can translate into policy young people's inputs.

From the consumption's point of view, we have health issues related to unhealthy food and unhealthy habits. Undernourishment is a key issue.

*continued in number 2.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

Group 4

Farmers and rural youth, especially those typically marginalized, need to be included in global dialogues to influence more directly policy makers. Also, addressing the digital divide is key as many rural communities remain isolated and also many slums in big urban areas, for instance there are programs that also focus on reform youth in criminal activities and give back to their communities by being involved in transforming food consumption.

The role of artists and youth as trend-setters and culture shifters is key. Other than promoting spaces for youth to interact, youth's ideas and proposals need to be considered and more opportunities for youth need to be opened. Businesses need to support agri-preneurs.

Policy makers need to address healthy and unhealthy foods as well as policy to promote nutritious food. The food industry needs to take into consideration the health and nutrition of consumers. This could also include raising awareness of where food comes from.

Fair wages for farmers and a reduction of "the middleman" is important to rethink agricultural value chains. Labour rights in agriculture need to be respected and decent employment needs to be promoted. Child labour must be addressed as well as a gender focus on rural interventions, recognition of indigenous rights and land tenure.

Group 6

Discussed the triple burden of nutrition and that there is not enough focus on prevention of malnutrition and unhealthy consumption. There is a lack of awareness of healthy food communication is not happening and instead there is focus on packaged and marketed food. There needs to be a stronger educational element in primary and secondary school on where food comes from, how it is produced and how it can be improved for people and the planet. There is opportunity for advocacy and changing mindsets e.g. invest in responsible consumption, but this also needs to be met by government action. The UK was provided as an example, referring to the sugar tax. There was support for continued fortification of food to tackle malnutrition.

How we produce and transport food was also discussed as last mile delivery is large problem in the developing world – need better access to innovative technologies, digitalisation and also better information for farmers. GMO technology was also discussed as a positive option, providing there are checks to stop a monopoly and unfair access and distribution of these technologies.

Governments could subsidise carbon incentives for producers to tackle climate change aspect of the food system as well as acting to shorten production value chains.

Group 7

Small holder farmers usually lack access to financial credit or land rights which both significantly impede their ability to obtain food sovereignty. It's hard to begin to build a productive farm when the land can be snatched, and it's impossible to bring your production to market if you don't have the right up-front credit sources.

The conversation about advocacy really was rooted in awareness. It all has to start with people knowing what's right and what's not right for our planet and our bodies. Food should be regional, seasonal, reasonable, and spiritual and people who connect to food should think about these four qualities to analyse the damage potentially being done by their diets. Awareness then allows us to start small, and bring small incremental change that can get to systemic levels of change when enough people join in. We don't all have to immediately be a Greta, because we know she just started with a small incremental change at her own level too. However, this individual awareness raising needs to also lead to demanding policy action for change. We need to push our governments to re-write the economic incentives to shift the entire system, so that healthy and sustainable diets are the easiest to access, the most affordable, and the most desirable.

*continued in section 3

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

Group 8

The group's discussion centered primarily on accessibility issues. There was significant discussion around the importance of access to high quality, nutritious foods to improve outcomes for education. There was also significant discussion about the importance of adequately compensating farmers for the work, improving the transportation system and eliminating middlemen where possible to ensure fair payment to farmers.

There was high consensus from the group that investment must be made in nutritious foods for children in order to pursue country-wide advancement. Providing young people with a healthy diet is a surer investment than pumping money into youth clubs, etc. Short term changes lead to long term consequences. Meal plans in schools must be well implemented to be effective. Work closely with food foundations or corporate social responsibility branches of corporations to implement better policies.

Group 9

Youth are more attracted to white collar jobs, and there is no youth involved in food production. People with influence have gotten money through businesses that do not produce food. And youth is looking up to these influential people as models, and abandoning food production, agriculture. We need to revise and see how we can have the youth get more into food production, agriculture, food processing factories. We can benefit from empower young, smallholder farmers, especially those using sustainable practices. Grant them more spaces in the market.

Need to tackle the problem of affordability – we need to urge the lowering of prices of food, healthy foods are not very affordable. The food that is affordable is not healthy, and people will only consume that because this is all they can pay for. Affordability is key for healthier lifestyles and diets.

It was raised that there could be more conversations and dialogues. Discuss what it means to actually transform the food systems. The group also discussed youth leaders and people in power and developing this capacity – tackling corruption was also raised as an important step.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There was very little divergence expressed in the breakout rooms, or at least very little was recorded by the notetakers and facilitators. However, many different views of what "good food" actually entailed were expressed; good food was defined as healthy, nutritious, culturally relevant, sustainable, spiritual, emotional, diverse, local, home-grown, fresh, communally shared, produced with dignity, affordable, tasty, and more.

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