

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Tuesday, 6 July 2021 14:00 GMT +02:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Trade, an Essential Piece of the Food Systems Puzzle
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Dr. Agnes Kalibata, Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Food Systems Summit 2021 and the World Trade Organisation
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/17206/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/17206/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Global
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	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

120

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

6

19-30

52

31-50

54

51-65

8

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

73 Male

46 Female

1 Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

13 Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

1 Livestock

Agro-forestry

1 Environment and ecology

31 Trade and commerce

4 Education

Communication

6 Food processing

1 Food retail, markets

11 Food industry

4 Financial Services

1 Health care

Nutrition

18 National or local government

Utilities

1 Industrial

28 Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

3 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

1 Multi-national corporation

1 Small-scale farmer

1 Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

5 Local Non-Governmental Organization

25 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

8 Science and academia

4 Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

21 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

12 United Nations

5 International financial institution

24 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

10 Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

Act with urgency: The Global Dialogue on Trade was designed to stress the importance of international trade for global food security, and the vital role it plays as a “means of implementation” of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The Dialogue was convened immediately prior to the UNFSS pre-summit to drive home the urgency of achieving a trade outcome both at the Summit, and the WTO’s 12 Ministerial Conference to be held at the end of 2021. Earlier this year, sixteen agricultural exporting nations, all of whom are WTO members, circulated a joint statement at the Summit calling upon the international community to reduce trade barriers and restrictions to trade in food that endanger global food security. Over half of these WTO Members were represented at this Global Dialogue. Commit to the Summit: The Global Dialogue on Trade was organized by the WTO Secretariat in collaboration with the UNFSS to demonstrate the WTO and the trade community’s commitment to the success of the Summit. Organisations participating in different summit action tracks were invited to participate in the ten different breakout rooms. National convenors were notified of the Dialogue. Be respectful: The Global Dialogue on Trade was designed in a way that would allow participants to address the multiple dimensions of sustainability; economic, social and environmental. To achieve this goal, it included participants from across sectors and engaged them in discussions under Chatham House rules. Recognize complexity: The ten breakout rooms of the Global Dialogue on Trade were designed to illustrate the many complex issues that the multilateral trading system is required to grapple with to tackle trade in food and agricultural products. Topics ranged from trade in food in times of crisis, all the way to trade and nutrition and the human right to food. Continued in next section...

### HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Continued from previous question... Embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity: The Global Dialogue on Trade was a by-invitation only event designed to ensure multi-stakeholder engagement, and was attended by 120 of its 130 invited participants who included: • Heads of major grain associations from across the globe • Heads of major farmer unions from across the globe • Heads of major farmers’ associations from across the globe • Agri-business CEOs from across the globe • Heads of important agricultural think tanks from across the globe • All major international organizations working on food and agriculture • WTO Ambassadors and high-level representatives (original invite went out to all group coordinators, subsequently replaced if unavailable) Complement the work of others: The goal of ensuring complementarity was achieved through the broad list of participants, and engagement of multiple stakeholders at the highest level. Build trust: To build the trust, the WTO Secretariat carefully curated the event. It invited expert facilitators for each of the ten breakout rooms, who were themselves selected from across different sectors of society (academics, think tanks, farmers, NGOs and more). In addition, all facilitators were well-known and well-respected individuals in their field. The WTO Secretariat worked carefully with facilitators on the questions that would be debated in each breakout room. The breakout rooms were held under Chatham House rules to allow for more open and frank discussions in a secure environment. Answer to "How did your Dialogue reflect specific aspects of the Principles?" The Principles were fully built-into and integrated into the design of the Global Dialogue on Trade and each of its breakout rooms. Assistance from the UN Summit Secretariat and the moderator (Dr. David Nabarro) and his office, proved invaluable.

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

The WTO Secretariat would advise other Dialogue Convenors to allow themselves to be guided by the UN Summit Secretariat, that provides excellent orientation for these events. In addition, breakout room topics and questions must be reflected upon very carefully, and breakout room facilitators carefully selected. They must be well-known and well-respected individuals, so they are able to generate the required conversations and trust.

# 3. METHOD

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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

The Global Dialogue on Trade departed from the Convenors manual in only one important way. Breakout room questions did not adhere to the generic questions listed in the manual but were carefully targeted to the topic of the room, and carefully selected and agreed with each breakout room facilitator.

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

The major areas of focus were reflected in the topics of the ten breakout rooms, which cut across all Summit Action tracks and Sustainable Development Goals and included:

1. International Trade in Food In Times of Crisis
2. Can the Reform of Agricultural Subsidies Contribute to Food System Transformation?
3. The WTO Agreement on Agriculture (AoA); The Way Forward
4. Trade Facilitation and the Cutting of Red Tape for Food System Transformation
5. Global Agricultural Value Chains
6. Realizing the Human Right to Food
7. Ensuring Sustainable Food Trade
8. Nutrition Security and International Trade
9. Food Security and International Trade
10. Food Safety and International Trade

Under each of the breakout rooms, the Sustainable Development Goals relevant to each room were identified so as to carefully frame the discussions.

In addition, a high-level opening and closing plenary allowed for a clear political signal to be sent by the WTO and UNFSS leadership on the need for international trade for global food security.

### 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

The three main topics of discussion, by breakout room, included:

### 1. International Trade in Food In Times of Crisis

- Can international trade in food be made more resilient in times of crisis?
- How can food export restrictions best be addressed?
- How can Global Food Value Chains (GVCs) be protected from disruption during crises?

Facilitator: Shenggen Fan  
Senior Chair Professor  
College of Economics and Management  
China Agriculture University

### 2. Can the Reform of Agricultural Subsidies Contribute to Food System Transformation?

- Are current agricultural subsidies enabling food system transformation?
- What are current projections for global agricultural subsidies?
- How can agricultural subsidies be repurposed to achieve the UN SDGs?

Facilitator: David Laborde  
Senior Research Fellow  
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

### 3. The WTO Agreement on Agriculture (AoA); The Way Forward

- What are the most pressing reforms of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) for food system transformation?
- Can current agriculture negotiations in the WTO deliver the required transformation?
- What are the "trade-offs" between different areas of the agriculture negotiations, and how can they be addressed in a balanced and meaningful manner?

Facilitator: Alexandre Guido Lopes Parola  
Permanent Representative of Brazil to the WTO  
& Other Economic Organizations in Geneva

### 4. Trade Facilitation and the Cutting of Red Tape for Food System Transformation

- What are the pressing trade facilitation measures required in the area of food trade?
- Can the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement reduce food waste?
- Will border controls for internationally traded food move into the digital era?

Facilitator: Trudi Hartzenberg  
Executive Director  
Trade Law Center (TRALAC)

### 5. Global Agricultural Value Chains

- How much food moves through agricultural global value chains (GVCs), and are GVCs a growing phenomenon?
- Is trade in services fundamental to the growth of GVCs?
- What is the role of investment and competition policy in supporting GVCs?

Facilitator: Joe Glauber  
Senior Research Fellow  
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

### 6. Realizing the Human Right to Food

- What does the right to food mean?
- What type of governmental trade policies can best fulfil people's right to food?
- How can the international trade regime ensure fair and equitable food systems?

Facilitator: Michael Fakhri,  
UN Special Rapporteur on Right to Food

### 7. Ensuring Sustainable Food Trade

- How can the international trading system promote more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable trade in food?
- How can trade policy help governments better manage climate-related shocks to the food system?
- What are the key changes needed to promote more environmentally sustainable food trade?

Facilitator: Carin Smaller  
Director, Agriculture, Trade & Investment  
International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

### 8. Nutrition Security and International Trade

- How can international trade contribute to better nutrition? What is the role of the CFS's newly adopted Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition?
- What governmental policies are required to ensure positive outcomes between international trade and nutrition?
- Are nutrition labels the way to go?

Facilitator: Chris Hegadorn  
Secretary  
Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

### 9. Food Security and International Trade

- How can international trade boost food security at the global level?
- Under what circumstances can international trade undermine food security?
- Which policies should be prioritized by WTO Members in a joint effort to ensure positive outcomes between international trade and food security?

Facilitator: Arianna Giuliadori  
Secretary General  
World Farmers' Organisation (WFO)

### 10. Food Safety and International Trade

- What is the role of international standards in food safety?
- What new approaches can the international community offer to facilitate compliance of lower and middle-income countries (LMICs) with international standards?
- How can unnecessary obstacles to trade be avoided in the food safety area?

Facilitator: Jamie Morrison, Director  
Food Systems and Food Safety Division  
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

Key outcomes of the Global Dialogue on Trade include:

On process:

- Continued multi-stakeholder dialogue on trade in food must go forward
- Farmers must be at the table, whether in conversations on agri-food systems at the UNFSS or at the WTO

On substance:

- Agreement that international trade in food is critical for global food security, and that it acts as the transmission belt that moves food from the parts of the world with a surplus to the parts with a deficit
- Agreement that international trade in food must be made more resilient in times of crisis, and that there is a need to continue to rely on and strengthen the G20's Agricultural Monitoring and Information System (AMIS) which was created in the wake of the 2008 food price crisis
- Agreement that current agricultural subsidies are not delivering the required food system transformation, and that there is a need for deeper reflection on how to repurpose these subsidies
- Agreement that the WTO Agreement on Agriculture requires reform, and that WTO agriculture negotiations must be continued and must seek a balanced outcome by the WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference (end 2021)
- Agreement that the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement must be deployed to prevent food loss and food waste as food perishables travel across borders
- Agreement that food and agricultural global value chains (GVCs) must not be disrupted and must be made more resilient, especially in times of crisis
- Agreement that the "human right to food" has to reflect the adequacy, availability and accessibility of food, in particular to the poorest of the poor
- Agreement that there is a need to internalize negative social and environmental externalities to make international trade more sustainable
- Agreement that international trade can allow greater access to food and to a more diverse diet, but that it needs proper accompanying policies, including trade policy
- Agreement that the trade and food security interlinkage is complex: that trade is necessary but not sufficient and that there is a need for complementary policies
- Agreement that there is a need to continue to build international standards for greater food safety, but to ensure that the developing world is able to contribute to and to use these standards
- Agreement on the need to promote trade digitalization and e-commerce

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Throughout the Global Dialogue on Trade, while participants tended to agree on the broad objectives and way forward for the international food trade, they tended to disagree once discussions came down to “how” achieve certain changes.

There was disagreement on how to reform the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, how to repurpose global agricultural subsidies, how and whether to remove food export restrictions, how to achieve a balance between global and local food security, how to achieve the human right to food, how to internalize negative social and environmental externalities associated with international trade, how to ensure greater developing country participation in international trade and in the building of international food safety and nutrition standards, and more.

The disagreements reflected a healthy debate that must continue to go forward, and that must continue to be inclusive and multi-stakeholder in nature. There was also concern and lively debate on whether Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and regionalism contribute to greater trade in food/or lead to a fragmentation of the global food market.

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