

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 16 September 2021 11:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	The Rule of Law and Food Systems Transformation in The Sahel: Addressing the conflict-climate-food security nexus
CONVENED BY	International Development Law Organization (IDLO)
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/42507/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger

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

45

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

8

19-30

27

31-50

9

51-65

1

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

30 Male

15 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

9 Agriculture/crops
Fish and aquaculture
1 Livestock
1 Agro-forestry
5 Environment and ecology
Trade and commerce

1 Education
1 Communication
1 Food processing
Food retail, markets
Food industry
Financial Services

Health care
Nutrition
1 National or local government
Utilities
Industrial
25 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

1 Small/medium enterprise/artisan
3 Large national business
6 Multi-national corporation
Small-scale farmer
Medium-scale farmer
Large-scale farmer
2 Local Non-Governmental Organization
9 International Non-Governmental Organization
Indigenous People
2 Science and academia

Workers and trade union
Member of Parliament
Local authority
6 Government and national institution
Regional economic community
1 United Nations
International financial institution
1 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
Consumer group
14 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

Acknowledging the complexity of food systems and the need to act with urgency, the Dialogue strived to provide a multi-stakeholder platform for actors from different communities of practice (e.g. rule of law, land rights, food sector). The goal was to identify practical solutions, based on rule of law principles and approaches, to inform urgent responses and actions across food systems for addressing the food security-climate-conflict nexus in the Sahel. To foster diversity and inclusiveness, individuals representing specific groups and stakeholders (including lawyers, representatives from local and national institutions, civil society representatives) were identified. IDLO (the Convenor of the Dialogue) relied on its network in the Sahel region to identify key stakeholders and participants. In addition, a stakeholder mapping exercise was conducted to identify and invite crucial stakeholders acting in the intersection between the rule of law and food systems in the Sahel. Diversity was also reflected in the selection of the speakers for the plenary session of the Dialogue, which involved representatives from governments, NGOs, as well as technical experts.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

-Act with urgency and Complement the work of others: the Dialogue sought to identify and encourage the exchange of best practices and ongoing actions across food systems that are being implemented to enhance food security and nutrition, while addressing key development challenges in the Sahel, including climate change and violent conflict. -Commit to the Summit: the Dialogue was an opportunity for actors involved to share national pathways and strategies that are being adopted in the framework of the Food Systems Summit. -Complexity / Embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity/ Build trust: the Dialogue involved a wide and diverse range of stakeholders that brought to the discussion different perspectives on food systems transformation and on the challenges affecting food security and nutrition in the Sahel.

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

It is important to ensure that Principles of Engagement are appreciated both in the planning and roll-out of the Dialogue. In this sense, the role of the Facilitators is essential to stimulate the conversation in breakout sessions and ensure that all voices are heard.

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

The Dialogue explored how current rule of law and governance gaps across food system in the Sahel undermine efforts to enhance food security and nutrition and the realization of the right to adequate food, in light of the most pressing constraints in the region: climate change, land degradation, access to land and other natural resources, and violent conflict. These include, for instance, the limited success of State and traditional institutions in ensuring equal access to land and other natural resources and providing effective and accessible dispute resolution pathways, with tensions escalating into violent conflict.

Throughout the main panel discussion and the breakout sessions, the Dialogue examined the links between efforts to strengthen the rule of law across food systems in the Sahel (e.g. through policy and legal reforms, legal empowerment, and institutional capacity development), and strategies and actions to that contribute for a peaceful, equal and sustainable transformation of food systems that enhance food security and nutrition.

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

MAIN FINDINGS

-Food insecurity in the region is determined by intersecting factors, including poverty, insecure livelihood for vulnerable groups (such as smallholder farmers and pastoralist communities), poor access to agriculture technology, lack of financial resources and information, conflict and climate change

-Representatives from national governments reported some ongoing initiatives and steps that are being undertaken to enhance food security and nutrition in their respective countries and highlighted the importance of undertaking revision of legal provisions to include the right to adequate food into national constitutions, and promoting agroecological practices. It was stressed that efforts to constitutionalize the right to food should be complemented by the set up of oversight mechanisms to monitor its implementation.

-Human mobility and migration was cited as an important phenomenon to consider when addressing food insecurity and malnutrition in the region.

-Access to justice, participatory processes, accountable and effective institutions were identified as crucial elements of the rule of law that can facilitate the implementation of Agenda 2030, while laying the ground for the fair and just transformation of food systems in the Sahel.

-Participatory mechanisms were highlighted as crucial elements for transformation of food systems in the Sahel and to strengthen the right to adequate food for all. It was noted that fair and just transformation processes need the involvement of all stakeholders engaged in food systems, from production to consumption.

-Concrete solutions were identified for rule of law-based approaches that can promote fair and equal transformation of food systems including:

1. Strengthening food systems governance through intersectoral and multilevel coordination- actors operating at local level have a determinant role in food systems governance since decisions affecting food systems are mostly implemented at local level. At the same time, it is important to build coordination at regional level in the Sahel.
2. Empowering local communities to actively participate and engage in food systems governance. In this respect, civil society organizations were highlighted as crucial target groups.
3. Land tenure and rights are crucial components of strategies to enhance food security and nutrition in the Sahel, while pursuing human security and climate change objectives. In this respect, both formal and informal institutions need to be involved in actions to strengthen land governance.
4. Integrating the right to adequate food in national Constitution and establish/strengthen oversight mechanisms to monitor its implementation

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

Discussion Topic: Land rights, conflict and food security

Challenges - the main challenges reported in relation to access to land and natural resources are: youth migration, climate change, discriminatory social norms affecting women and youth, insecure land titling. It was also highlighted that the human security agenda in Sahel countries is often inconsistent with food security objectives.

Actors - State actors at all levels, traditional leaders, land owners were cited as the most critical stakeholders to involve in efforts to strengthen land governance

- Solutions proposed and actions needed:
- 1. Build coordination between formal and informal tenure systems, by integrating traditional (customary) practices and norms into land governance and management plans (statutory regulations). The "Code Rural" in Niger, integrating traditional knowledge and norms, was reported as an example of best practice in this respect.
 - 2. Legal empowerment targeting local communities and vulnerable groups on their rights to land.
 - 3. Awareness raising for formal and informal authorities on the right to land of women and vulnerable groups

ACTION TRACKS

	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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✓	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

Discussion Topic: Access to justice and the right to adequate food

Challenges: In the Sahel, justice systems are often far removed from local communities and the most vulnerable groups, due to economic and geographical barriers. Impunity contributes to exacerbate tension at local level, which escalate into violent conflict.

Actors: Traditional and informal authorities were cited as key actors to be involved in efforts to enhance access to justice in the Sahel. It was noted that, when working with such stakeholders it is important to address discriminatory and patriarchal norms and practices perpetuated in informal systems. The role of women, as custodians of traditional knowledge and agricultural practices, was also stressed.

Solutions proposed and actions needed:
1. Strengthen civil and administrative justice to prevent the escalation of tensions into violent conflict
2. Strengthen legal aid services to bring institutions closer to local communities
3. Constitutional reforms to integrate the right to adequate food into national constitution and establishment of national oversight institutions that monitor its realization. The right to seeds was also mentioned as a component of the right to food and the right to land.

ACTION TRACKS

✓	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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✓	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

Discussion Topic: Impacts of climate change on food security and malnutrition

Challenges: Climate change is affecting rainfall patterns in the Sahel, causing prolonged droughts, as well as floods, with negative impacts on agricultural yields. This is coupled by limited access to technology that could support adaptation to climate change.

Solutions proposed and actions needed:

1. Establish national and regional platforms to foster bottom up and participatory approaches in policy and decision making related to early warning systems, climate change and sustainable agricultural practices, such as agroecology and nature-based solutions
2. Water and soil management was mentioned a key sector in addressing the impacts of climate change on agriculture and food security in the Sahel.
3. Land reform
4. Support agroecology practices

ACTION TRACKS

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

KEYWORDS

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

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

N/A

ACTION TRACKS

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