

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 1 April 2021 14:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Enabling Agricultural Trade; An Independent United Nations Food Systems Summit Dialogue by the WTO Secretariat
CONVENED BY	Doaa Abdel-Motaal, WTO Secretariat; Gloria Manu, WTO Secretariat
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7013/
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

400

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

58

19-30

142

31-50

200

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

265 Male

135 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

40 Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

7 Agro-forestry

20 Environment and ecology

35 Trade and commerce

77 Education

Communication

10 Food processing

10 Food retail, markets

25 Food industry

30 Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

75 National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

71 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

33 Multi-national corporation

30 Small-scale farmer

9 Medium-scale farmer

14 Large-scale farmer

18 Local Non-Governmental Organization

61 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

71 Science and academia

7 Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

55 Government and national institution

20 Regional economic community

42 United Nations

20 International financial institution

15 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

5 Consumer group

Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

•In the planning phase of our dialogue, we made sure to create a panel that represented a diverse range of stakeholders in the food system to allow the audience to gain a more complete view of the challenges faced in agricultural and food trade. There were several test sessions and active exchanges with participants on the topics which were to be discussed which aimed to build trust between the conveners and curators, making sure all parties were comfortable with the scope and format of the discussion that would take place. This enabled the discussions to flow more naturally. •The dialogue included representatives of various international organizations, the FAO, the World Bank, and the OECD. It also included farmers, the agro-food industry and banking. This, in addition, to several WTO representatives specialized in initiatives and programs designed to help developing and least-developed countries build agricultural trade capacity and infrastructure. • The questions directed at the panel aimed to explore various facets of how agricultural trade can be enabled, stressing the vital role that trade plays in global food security. Panelists discussed how agricultural trade policy can itself be transformed to be made more fit for purpose for today's food systems. For example, global agricultural subsidies (which are second only to global energy subsidies) clearly need to be repurposed to achieve the goals of the United Nations Food Systems Summit and support sustainability.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The Dialogue made clear that international trade affects the (1) availability, (2) access to, (3) price stability, and (4) utilization of food, and is a fundamental part of the food security puzzle. The Dialogue demonstrated that Global Value Chains (GVCs) have become a key feature of international food trading system. The FAO estimates that about one-third of global agricultural and food exports are traded within a GVC and cross international borders at least twice. It was made clear that to “enable agricultural trade” it would be important to de-risk participation in GVCs, in particular to allow for the inclusion of smallholder farmers who have low commercialization. The WTO used the opportunity to showcase its technical assistance programs. It explained the vital role of WTO Aid-for-Trade – a coordination mechanism which in the field of agriculture allows for greater policy coherence amongst donors, a better identification of policy priorities and a more efficient targeting of aid. It also explained how the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) works, and its vital role in enabling developing and least-developed countries to meet international food quality, safety, nutrition and other standards. In the Dialogue, the World Farmers Organisation allowed the views of smallholder farmers who are often excluded from the process of policy creation to be heard; Unilever provided insights on the importance of agility, innovation and sustainability in agricultural GVCs; Rabobank's inclusion allowed the discussion to explore the crucial role trade finance plays in facilitating trade. . Wider participation and interaction was also encouraged with the panel in a live Q&A format. The dialogue provided a holistic overview of the current state of the food system.

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

1. Engage a broad range of speakers, the dialogue needs to needs to be truly multi-stakeholder 2. Ask the difficult questions 3. Address all the different facets of an issue 4. Allow ample time for Q&A

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

Our dialogue was delivered in a panel format. The panel was composed of 6 stakeholders from diverse backgrounds and 2 WTO Secretariat representatives. The event was curated/moderated by Doaa Abel-Motaal from the WTO secretariat. The event ran for 2 hours. In these two hours there were 2 rounds of questions with questions divided equally amongst the panel. In the 3rd round those participating via youtube and teams in the audience had the opportunity to feedback/engage directly with the discussion through a live Q&A function and panellists had the opportunity to discuss the points raised by other panellists.

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

•The dialogue theme was 'Enabling Food Trade'. The discussion examined the role of trade policy in ensuring access to safe and nutritious food that is produced and consumed sustainably. The role of international trade in food will only rise in importance with the onset of greater climate change, where many more parts of the world will have to rely on trade for their 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 main findings included that: (1) international trade in food and agricultural products is absolutely vital for global food security, and that its role would rise in importance in light of the climate crisis and the inability of some regions to feed themselves; (2) to “enable agricultural trade” it would be important to de-risk participation of smallholder farmers in GVCs, deploying adequate trade finance, technical support to meet standards in export markets, increased investment in infrastructure to support smallholder farmers with low rates of commercialization; (3) although international food trade is a fundamental part of the food security puzzle a better understanding of the ‘political economy of trade’ is needed so that negotiations on the transformation of agricultural trade policy can progress.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

- The repurposing of agricultural subsidies: It was agreed that a major overhaul of the current system of agricultural subsidies is needed to stop subsidizing “business-as-usual” which encourages unsustainable practices and start subsidizing “food system transformation”.
- The internalization of negative environmental externalities in international food and agricultural trade.
- The liberalization of agricultural trade, which will only become more important in light of the climate crisis and the inability of certain parts of the world to feed themselves.

ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

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

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

- Our dialogue highlighted the existing tradeoffs which present 'sticking points' in the progress of food systems transformation. One such issue is finding the balance between the desire to reduce trade restricting non-tariff barriers (such as SPS and TBT measures) to allow developing countries greater access to more lucrative export markets and the need for such barriers to safeguard against harmful foods and prioritize food safety.
- Most of the worlds farmers are smallholder farmers and through this dialogue, it was found that they needed a stronger voice at the negotiating table. Their interests should be prioritized moving forward in the discussions on food system transformation.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Event Poster**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Trade-Dialogue-Poster.jpg>

RELEVANT LINKS

- **“Enabling Agricultural Trade” A United Nations Food System Summit (UNFSS) Independent Dialogue by the WTO Secretariat**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZF9j19Cd60&t=3867s>