

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 24 March 2021 08:30 GMT -04:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Building Food and Water Security in an Era of Climate Shocks
CONVENED BY	UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/8014/
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

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

2 0-18 152 19-30 451 31-50 340 51-65 29 66-80 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

533 Male 412 Female 28 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops	Education	Health care
Fish and aquaculture	Communication	Nutrition
Livestock	Food processing	National or local government
Agro-forestry	Food retail, markets	Utilities
Environment and ecology	Food industry	Industrial
Trade and commerce	Financial Services	973 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan	Workers and trade union
Large national business	Member of Parliament
Multi-national corporation	Local authority
Small-scale farmer	Government and national institution
Medium-scale farmer	Regional economic community
Large-scale farmer	United Nations
Local Non-Governmental Organization	International financial institution
International Non-Governmental Organization	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
Indigenous People	Consumer group
Science and academia	973 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

This first session of UN DESA's Global Policy Dialogues for Climate Action "Building a Global Coalition for Sustainability after COVID-19" series focused on "Building Food and Water Security in an Era of Climate Shocks." Experts looked at how climate change is affecting people's access to water for sufficient, safe and nutritious food. Cross-cutting issues such as financing, governance, gender, energy, data and statistics also were part of the discussion. For this event, UN DESA worked closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), which is the specialized agency of the UN that leads international efforts to defeat hunger and the UN anchor agency for the UN Food Systems Summit Action Track 1 on "Ensure safe and nutritious food for all," as well as the UN World Food Programme (WFP), which is the UN anchor agency for the Summit's Action Track 5, "Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress." UN DESA invited leading experts working to implement Sustainable Development Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation to the discussion. The event also supported World Water Day (22 March), to be celebrated during the same week, and the Department's upcoming policy briefs on climate action and food security and nutrition. To enhance engagement, the event was held on Zoom and streamed live on UN DESA's Facebook page. Participants were invited to submit questions online at the time of registration and in the Zoom and Facebook chats during the event. A survey also was conducted throughout the event, through the Zoom platform. In addition to supporting the Food Systems Summit, the results of the discussion have been shared with UN leadership and will inform future UN DESA policy briefs on the economic and social impacts of the pandemic and strategies for better recovery, as well as the Department's support for climate action.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Our Dialogue embraced multi-stakeholder inclusivity by including in the panel representatives of the UN system, academia, the private sector and civil society. The panelists included experts from all regions, about half were women (4 of 9), three were youth, and more than half represented developing countries. All panelists treated each other with respect including during the preparatory meetings when they were invited to meet. Furthermore, the event brought together people from these multiple sectors to because UN DESA recognizes the complexity of food systems and how we need to look at the issue from a lens beyond just SDG 2, Zero Hunger, with particular attention paid to climate change. We need a broad integration of the entire 2030 Agenda, with all stakeholders' voices amplified. Our Dialogue built on the ongoing work of the UN System, in particular our work at UN DESA and that of our partners for this event, FAO and WFP.

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

We would recommend a journalist be used as the moderator for these types of discussions because the journalist skill set allows for sharp, to-the-point conversations.

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

On 24 March 2021, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), together with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), held a Global Policy Dialogue focusing on building food and water security in an era of climate shocks. The event served as a UN Food Systems Summit Dialogue supporting Action Track 1 on ensuring safe and nutritious food for all, and Action Track 5 on building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress. The dialogue also supported World Water Day, commemorated annually on 22 March. As the first Global Policy Dialogue on Climate Action, UN DESA invited experts both from within and outside the UN system to look at how climate change is affecting people's access to water for agriculture and sufficient, safe and nutritious food.

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

Overall, panelists noted that water scarcity, floods and long-term drought are some of the factors leaving food production and distribution systems fragile and vulnerable to collapse, and that the COVID-19 pandemic offers the opportunity to examine these systems clearly and build back better. 2021 is a critical year for mobilizing the global coalition for carbon neutrality and panelists stressed that net-zero emissions would give us the best chance for protecting our water resources and ensuring an adequate food supply for all.

Furthermore, climate change is increasing variabilities in the water cycle and the distribution of water, which will lower the predictability of water availability and demand, affect water quality, exacerbate water scarcity, and disrupt the livelihoods of millions of rural people who depend on agriculture. Experts stressed that we need to embrace a holistic approach, given that competition and demand for water is growing in all sectors. A more efficient use of water resources is needed in both rain-fed and irrigated agriculture. Three major entry points for action to address water and climate-related challenges in agriculture were proposed: 1) build the business case to make sustainable investments at technical and management levels; 2) ensure good governance, such as effective institutional and legal frameworks to create an inclusive, enabling environment for all actors; and 3) structure the overall policy environment to provide the right incentives and disincentive measures to encourage favorable investment for adaptation.

Finally, humanitarian needs are rising faster now than at any other time in the 21st Century and the number of people who depend on life-saving humanitarian assistance is growing day by day. The rapid rise in global hunger is driven by an intersection of different crises, or what WFP refers to as the 3Cs: conflict, climate change, and COVID-19. Food and water security are inextricably linked, and if farmers don't have adequate access to water resources for food production, people will continue being hungry. The "RAP" method can also help: RESTORING land and water sources using natural solutions against future climate hazards; ANTICIPATING those climate hazards and acting before lives need saving; and PROTECTING the most vulnerable with climate risk insurance and other safety nets.

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/2

Key takeaways from Discussion 1: Ensuring sustainable access to water and food for all in an era of climate shocks

To open the panel discussion, Ms. Sasha Koo-Oshima, the FAO Deputy Director of Land and Water, said that the lives of more than a billion people are threatened by water scarcity and shortages, and noted the importance of utilizing digital platforms and promoting investments at the local scale to ensure better productivity per unit of water for both food and non-food production. Mr. Mark Gordon, the WFP Head of Asset Creation and Livelihoods Unit, echoed this message and stressed the need to look at particular vulnerabilities of local communities regarding droughts and floods and their effects on livelihoods. In this regard, he noted the importance of ensuring better local infrastructure, introducing conservation agriculture and utilizing community-based and community-owned technologies to ensure both an increase in productivity and better preparation for future shocks.

Several panelists represented the experience of local and smallholder farmers and noted the increasing difficulties of responding and adapting to the changing climate due to their negative effects on agricultural production. Ms. Betty Chinyamunyamu, CEO of the National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi, noted that climate change and water management are highly interlinked and unpredictable weather patterns, such as heavy rains and droughts, affect regional productivity and bring with them other problems like pests and disease. Ms. Cherrie Atilano, CEO and President of AGREA, shared her experience from the Philippines, noting that volcanic eruptions and flooding from more frequent typhoons are negatively affecting farmers, especially rice and coconut farmers who are the most vulnerable of all farmers in the country.

Panelists including Mr. Mike Khunga, Youth Chair of the UN Food Systems Summit Action Track 5, also shared their ideas for improving agriculture resilience using new technologies. They suggested: 1) developing low-cost technologies driven by local needs; 2) implementing climate-resilient crop systems, such as the intercropping of primary products with root crops (e.g. turmeric and ginger), which are not only more resilient to harsh weathers but also nutrient-dense; 3) introducing solar water pumps during drought seasons; and 4) applying the concept of agrilogogy for more long-term sustainable agriculture practices that protect ecological resources and ensure the health of future generations.

With regard to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on agriculture, several panelists noted how smallholder farmers faced the difficulty of maintaining food production and distribution, especially during the lockdowns, by engaging more youth workers to fill the gap of elderly workers who are more vulnerable to the virus. They also relied heavily on digital platforms to aggregate information for market access and distribution, which is especially beneficial for female workers who comprise a significant portion of production labor but who experience more challenges to access markets. In this regard, one panelist especially thanked the effort of WFP's Purchase for Progress (P4P) programme, which has pledged to source 10 percent of its food purchases from smallholder farmers.

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 - 2/2

Key takeaways from Discussion 2: Innovative solutions for improving access to clean and safe water

In keynote remarks leading into the second part of the discussion, Ms. Kelly Ann Naylor, the Vice Chair of UN-Water and Associate Director for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene at UNICEF, said that today's greatest consumer of water is irrigated agriculture, which comprises about 70 percent of global water withdrawals, and of which about 40 percent are not compatible with sustaining ecosystems. In this regard, she proposed three actions for improving access to clean and safe water: 1) shift perspectives on water, by considering water as part of a solution and not an issue; 2) accelerate collective action on SDG 6, Clean Water and Sanitation, under the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework launched by UN-Water in 2020, focusing on five key areas (optimized financing, data and information to target resources and measure progress, capacity development for a better-skilled workforce, innovation for smart practices and technologies, and governance with collaboration across boundaries and sectors); and 3) broaden dialogue by inviting and interacting with participants from different sectors at all levels. She further emphasized that progress is possible only if we take advantage of the interconnected, universal and integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda.

In the panel discussion, the experts showcased some examples of innovative solutions put into practice at local levels. Mr. Felix Reinders (South Africa), Chair of the Global Framework on Water Scarcity for Agriculture (WASAG), highlighted an example of a "Drinkable Book" by Water is Life, which includes tear out pages of actual water filters, each inscribed with hygiene and sanitation education tips. Ms. Tania Eulalia Martinez Cruz (Mexico), member of the Global Hub on Indigenous Peoples Food Systems, also noted that there are many ways in which indigenous knowledge can be combined with modern knowledge and technologies, such as making the best use of native crops and seeds which can be harvested to scale, while also combatting local challenges such as deforestation.

Another focus of the discussion was how to successfully operationalize and make best use of existing technologies, rather than spending time and efforts to create "new and cross-cutting" technologies. For example, Mr. Samir Ibrahim (Kenya), co-founder of SunCulture, was able to commercialize the use of existing solar-powered water pumps in Africa, by combining it with other key technologies such as battery storage and the Internet of things, while also ensuring ways to secure and allocate enough funding for the project. Mr. Zahin Razeen, founder of Hydroquo+ and UN Young Leader for SDGs Class of 2020, shared the example of how his company helps optimize existing water infrastructure in Bangladesh by incorporating a set of standard operating procedures with decision-supporting models to ensure that water quality is monitored in a more streamlined manner. Furthermore, Ms. Martinez Cruz added that from policy side, any plan needs to be maintained beyond the cycle of political changes, to ensure that projects under implementation are provided with enough time to yield results and provide longer-term solutions.

ACTION TRACKS

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

KEYWORDS

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

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Panelists noted that, from the policy side, any plan needs to be maintained beyond the cycle of political changes, to ensure that projects under implementation are provided with enough time to yield results and provide longer-term solutions.

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

ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Watch the full event on UN DESA's Facebook page**
<https://www.facebook.com/121245281298034/videos/145276477507804>
- **Event programme**
https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/programme-policy_dialogue_march_2021.pdf
- **Speaker biographies**
https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/speaker_bios-policy_dialogue_march_2021.pdf