

# CHOOSING A DIALOGUE FOCUS OR THEME

The Convenor consults with diverse stakeholders to decide the focus of each Dialogue. When doing so, the Convenor considers how the Dialogue outcome may inform pathways which will lead to equitable and sustainable food systems by 2030 and deliver on the 17 interconnected Sustainable Development Goals.

Across our food system, people want different things from the same situation. The challenges facing a smallholder farmer are different to those of the CEO of an agribusiness firm. An effective Dialogue will have a focus that frames these challenges that allow an inclusive conversation to emerge between diverse stakeholders. Convenors are invited to consider:

- Challenge – What is the set of challenges facing this group of stakeholders?
- Choice – What are the possible pathways and options for food systems change?
- Outcome – What would result from these pathways, options and decisions?

A Dialogue focus can be on broad systems change, linkages between Action Tracks, cross cutting issues – e.g., finance, policy, innovation, issues affecting women, youth and indigenous groups – or specific aspects of food systems in a particular locality. The focus provides a clear sense of purpose and direction. The focus provides an inspiring framing, supported through impactful opening speeches that provide political and strategic context and set the tone for constructive discussions.

**The focus is reflected in the title of the Dialogue** and is entered when the Dialogue webpage is created on the Dialogue Gateway website. The focus can be explained in greater detail in the “Dialogue Description” on the Dialogue webpage.

Dialogue titles provide an overview of the breadth and variety of options for finding a Dialogue focus.

**Examples of Dialogues titles taken from March 2021 include:**

- Women, Work, and Food Systems – South Asia and South-East Asia Dialogue on Gender and Food Systems.
- What Farmers Need in Future Food Systems.
- Rights of Nature as an Enabler to Transforming the Food Systems in Africa.
- Japan National Food Systems Dialogue on the Measures for Achievement of Decarbonization and Resilience within Innovation with Fisheries Stakeholders.
- Preliminary Discussions for Moving Forward with Food Fortification in Cambodia.
- Arab Youth Dialogue on Food Systems.

**When framing a Dialogue, Convenors are invited to:**

- Make an ambitious projection of the future, looking ten years ahead.
- Imagine outside of what is currently known – something altogether better.

