

Food Systems Summit Dialogues

BE A PART OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT

In September 2021, the [UN](#) will hold its first food systems summit. CCRP grantee Global Alliance for the Future of Food will contribute in multiple ways. Its executive director, Ruth Richardson, for one, is leading the Champions Group and is thus part of the executive committee. Across the CCRP we plan to gather relevant input and share dialogues that are being tracked using a Blue Marble Evaluation framework which McKnight, through the CCRP, supported early in its development.

SUMMIT BACKGROUND

UN Secretary-General António Guterres will convene the [UN Food Systems Summit \(UNFSS\)](#) as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The Summit will launch bold new actions to deliver progress on all 17 SDGs, each of which relies to some degree on healthier, more sustainable and equitable food systems.

The Summit seeks to awaken the world to the fact that all organizations and individuals must work together to transform the way food is produced, consumed, and thought about. It is a summit for everyone everywhere: a people's summit. It is also a solutions summit that will require everyone to take action to transform the world's food systems.

Guided by five Action Tracks, the Summit will bring together key players from science, business, policy, healthcare, and academia, as well as farmers, Indigenous peoples, youth organizations, consumer groups, environmental activists, and other key stakeholders. Before, during, and after the Summit, these actors will strive to bring about tangible, positive changes to the world's food systems.

This being the first-ever such summit, the inherent opportunity cannot be overstated. Recognition is increasing that food systems connect to the source of many of today's critical issues, from climate change to migration, public health to racial justice and gender equity. Recognition likewise exists that food systems are a brilliant pathway to solutions. That is, if we get right how to re-envision and rebuild food systems, multiple interconnected objectives can be achieved, such as adequate, safe, and accessible nutrition, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, sustainable resource use, and equitable employment, to name a few.

Summit organizers have created various mechanisms for broad outreach and engagement. Below are the main ways people and organizations can engage in the UNFSS.

HOW TO ENGAGE

When is the Summit and where?

To date, the exact dates and locations of the Pre-Summit and Summit have not been publicly released. Key dates will be posted as they become known, including timelines and deadlines for providing input into recommendations, etc. See below for platforms on which to check for updates.

How is input being solicited?

Five [Action Tracks](#) will draw on the expertise of actors from across the world's food systems. The tracks offer stakeholders from a wide range of backgrounds a space to share and learn, with a view toward fostering new actions and partnerships and amplifying existing initiatives. To advance the work for each Action Track, the tracks' leadership teams are looking for game-changing ideas from everyone everywhere. To share yours, click on Access Public Survey" under each [Action Track](#) on the UNFSS website.

What opportunities exist beyond the survey?

- **Independent Summit Dialogues**

Everyone is welcome to use the formal Independent Food Systems Dialogue toolkit which includes a template for submitting outputs to the Dialogue Gateway. Parties can convene any way they deem appropriate and useful—through Independent Summit Dialogues or other means—including, for instance, the Global Alliance’s [Come to the Table Toolkit](#). Regardless of the convening method, the important thing is to draft outputs (report, list of recommendations, manifesto, etc.) and submit them on the [Dialogue Gateway](#). It’s a simple process, and all inputs are welcome.

- **Global Summit Dialogues**

[Global Summit Dialogues](#) bring political attention to food systems in high-level thematic and sectoral meetings and processes. They are co-convened by Food Systems Summit Special Envoy Agnes Kalibata with relevant co-convenors depending on the event. The first such dialogue took place December 1, and was hosted by the third global conference of the UN One Planet Network’s Sustainable Food Systems Program. View the opening session [here](#). Official feedback will soon be available on the Dialogues Gateway [here](#). More dialogues are planned for 2021. Watch for details.

- **Member State/National Food Summit Dialogues**

To support Member States in developing national pathways toward sustainable food systems in the coming months, the UN Deputy Secretary-General has encouraged them to initiate multi-stakeholder Food Systems Summit Dialogues between November 2020 and May 2021. Dialogues will take place in three stages within different sub-national settings as well as nationally. Member State Dialogues are organized by a national convenor nominated by the government. To date, 20 Member State Dialogue convenors have been officially nominated. **Find out [here](#) if which countries are holding dialogues and their national coordinators, to whom you should reach out to get involved.** Country convenors are listed on the website. Get in touch with them directly to indicate your interest in participating. If the convenor is not listed but your country is hosting a dialogue, let Ruth Richardson know. She can put you in touch with those who are supporting the National Dialogues.

- **Scientific Papers**

The Scientific Group is an independent group of leading researchers and scientists from around the world. Its members are responsible for ensuring the robustness, breadth, and independence of the science underpinning the Summit and its outcomes. New versions of the scientific papers can be found [here](#).

Where can I get additional information or find updates?

- Find out more about Food Systems Summit Heroes [here](#).
- Stay informed on the UN Food Systems Summit activities on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).

SEVEN BOLD CALLS TO ACTION INVITE ENGAGEMENT

Ensuring the sustainability, security, and equity of food systems is one of today's most defining issues. In line with its mission to help transform food systems and its belief in the deep, lasting change that dialogue can bring, the Global Alliance for the Future of Food has developed seven bold [calls to action](#) that it considers critical pathways for creating a better future of food. The calls are the result of eight years of hard work forging insights, developing strong networks, building relationships with key decision-makers, and nurturing the Alliance's reputation as a high-integrity thought leader in the global sphere.

Elevated time and again by members, partners, allies, and others in a variety of contexts and formats, the calls to action address the critical underlying structures that hold back much-needed food systems transformation. They draw on the outcomes of international dialogues large and small that the Alliance has held since 2012 as well as on the following global reports: [Synthesis of Global Reports](#), [Beacons of Hope](#), [Seeds of Resilience](#), [Climate Change and Food Systems Report](#), [Food-Health Nexus Report](#), [TEEBAgriFood](#), and others. Both individually and as a suite, the calls to action are underpinned by a commitment to food systems thinking as a prerequisite for action and acting on Alliance principles.

Nos. 2 and 6 of the seven stand out as central to the work of the CCRP, which will focus on how to share its experience and learnings by way of contributing to their advancement.

No. 2 increases public research for the public good, supporting ambitious, transdisciplinary, inclusive, and systems-based approaches with an emphasis on the indivisible ecological, health, social, and economic goals. It is about embracing adaptive learning; diverse evidence such as traditional, farmer, and Indigenous knowledge; and recognizing that holistic understanding of food systems impacts is essential.

No. 6 creates enabling environments for agroecology and regenerative approaches where investments can flourish and benefit all. It is about ensuring a whole-systems approach that supports the advancement of agroecology and regenerative approaches, including a strong role for local institutions and communities, the protection and expansion of rights, public investment in parallel infrastructure (roads, schools, markets), policy coherence, coordinated governance, true cost accounting, and a greater role for smallholder farmers, Indigenous peoples, and women.

The CCRP looks forward to understanding your experiences related to the bold calls as the year progresses.