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Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions

From summits to systemic change: progress in food systems transformation since the United Nations Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

By offering a synthesis of developments that have taken place since the United Nations Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment was held in 2023, the present report presents the key takeaways from the Stocktaking Moment, including the Secretary-General's call to action for accelerated food systems transformation. The call to action serves to signal the collective ambition, determination and vision among the international community to meet its goals on zero hunger, food security and nutrition. Building on this momentum, the present report underscores advances made on specific tracks, highlights significant initiatives and partnerships that have emerged as critical drivers of accelerated food systems transformation and advocates for future actions that are needed to meet the ambitious goals of the next Stocktaking Moment, in 2025.

* E/HLPF/2024/1.



I. Advancing global food systems: key takeaways from the United Nations Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment

A. 2023 United Nations Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment in numbers

1. The United Nations Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment, convened by the Secretary-General and hosted by the Government of Italy in Rome from 24 to 26 July 2023, gathered a diverse assembly of stakeholders from across the globe, with over 3,300 in-person attendees, including government representatives of 182 national delegations, 21 Heads of State or Government, 126 ministerial-level participants and 100 food systems national conveners, alongside representatives of more than 200 non-State actor organizations and nearly 900 participants from the United Nations and other international bodies. The event also attracted a significant online audience, with thousands of virtual participants and an extensive real-time viewership across the sessions, further amplifying its global reach and impact.

2. The impressive attendance at the Food Systems Stocktaking Moment solidified the position of this biennial event as a key forum for advancing global food systems transformation. The Stocktaking Moment not only sustained the global commitment to transforming food systems as a pivotal catalyst for sustainable development, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, but also provided a platform for assessing progress made since the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit, including through the national food systems pathways launched in 2021. A thorough depiction of the progress that countries have made, based on a comprehensive analysis of the 101 country reports that were voluntarily submitted to the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub between May and June 2023,¹ is presented in the 2023 report of the Secretary-General entitled “Making food systems work for people and planet: UN Food Systems Summit +2”.

B. Country progress and challenges during the first biennium

3. The global stocktaking exercise, as outlined in the above-mentioned 2023 report of the Secretary-General, revealed that two thirds of the participating countries had successfully embedded their food systems transformation vision into their national strategies and sectoral plans. In addition, a quarter of countries had started to reflect food systems priorities in their national laws and regulations, revealing the increasing legislative engagement in that critical space.

4. Progress in terms of planning and governance was also notable, with 60 per cent of countries reporting that they had started to develop implementation plans for their national pathways and approximately the same proportion had either established platforms for national food systems governance or enhanced their platforms. Notably, 70 per cent of countries had modified their governance processes to incorporate a food systems approach more effectively.

5. Decentralization efforts were reported by one third of countries, by moving food systems initiatives into subnational jurisdictions with dedicated coordination mechanisms. Local engagement was complemented by nearly half of the countries continuing food systems dialogues at both the national and subnational levels, with a view to refining their pathways further.

¹ The total number of voluntary reports received as at 31 July 2023 stood at 109.

6. Financial strategies to support these transformations had also started to take shape. Overall, 40 per cent of countries were actively assessing their financing gaps and 36 per cent had developed investment strategies to attract both public and private financial resources. In addition, approximately 37 per cent of countries reported that domestic public funds were being specifically allocated to support activities related to food systems transformation.

7. With respect to engagement with stakeholders, countries reported that they had prioritized engagement with stakeholders involved in food production, processing, trade, distribution and retail. While women's organizations were also frequently engaged in food systems transformation efforts, young people and Indigenous Peoples networks were still not systematically involved. Most Governments had also reported being closely engaged with scientific groups, both for developing information systems and for building the capabilities of personnel involved in food systems. Finally, nearly two thirds of countries indicated that their information systems were being upgraded, while over two thirds reported that action had been taken to facilitate access to knowledge, science, evidence and technology.

8. Notwithstanding the encouraging signs that countries were moving in the right direction, their depictions of the challenges that they faced show that they continued to grapple with a variety of bottlenecks. In complex, ever-changing crisis contexts, it was necessary to respond and adapt continuously, often without sufficient political support for both immediate crisis responses and long-term systemic changes. Transitions in political leadership further disrupted the continuity of food systems transformation efforts, although in about 15 per cent of cases, having established national pathways had helped to align new administrations with existing broader transformation agendas.

9. Other operational challenges included the pending endorsement by Governments of new policies and laws and the slow, strenuous process of operationalizing action plans, in particular when financial and technical resources were scarce. This was particularly acute in small island developing States and conflict-affected areas. Financially, the fragmentation of funding sources complicated efforts to mobilize the necessary capital. With a mix of domestic and international, public and private funds, aligning financial streams with transformation goals remained a daunting task.

10. Technical capacity deficits also presented significant hurdles, with a pronounced shortage of skilled personnel to implement a holistic, systems-based approach. This was especially critical in low-income countries, which struggled to obtain the technical assistance that they needed. Infrastructure deficiencies in many countries exacerbated issues, as inadequate facilities for storage, transport and processing led to significant food losses and restricted market access.

11. The labour-intensive nature of coordinating inclusive participatory processes for food systems transformation presented additional challenges. Those processes demanded extensive time and effort to manage stakeholder engagement, address power imbalances and build trust. National conveners also had to be able to communicate the long-term nature of changes, which required sustained commitment and adaptive strategies to achieve meaningful and sustainable transformation.

C. Food systems at the centre of global development challenges and solutions: key messages from the United Nations Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment

12. Throughout the Food Systems Stocktaking Moment, several key messages emerged, resonating across the 33 sessions. The messages reflected a universal recognition of the urgent need for transformative action and intrinsic interdependencies within food systems and among other key transitions. Another recurring message was the importance of a whole-of-society approach, promoting collaborative efforts involving multiple stakeholders, such as young people, women and Indigenous communities, at all levels of governance. The messages also focused on enhancing the role and involvement of key stakeholders as key contributors in shaping sustainable solutions and on prioritizing gender equality and the role of young people in leading and implementing change.

13. The Food Systems Stocktaking Moment highlighted a growing global realization that improving food systems can significantly influence broader sustainability goals, including economic growth and stability, social protection, gender equity, health and nutritional outcomes, environmental sustainability, waste and post-harvest losses and resilience. Participants acknowledged the evolving complexities of food insecurity and malnutrition, exacerbated by economic shocks, climate change, extreme weather variability and ongoing global conflicts, and called for more integrated, innovative solutions that address the multifaceted challenges.

14. Over the three days of the event, the interconnections between climate action and food systems were prominently featured, with discussions on aligning efforts to address climate change impacts, in particular with respect to water, and food security simultaneously, especially in the context of the upcoming global climate summits. The discussions underscored the urgent need to embed sustainability and resilience at the core of food systems practices, using such approaches as the circular economy and sustainable consumption and production models to mitigate the environmental impact, secure integrated natural resources management and promote long-term resilience. Enhancing nutrition and health through sustainable food systems was another central point of discussion, the focus of which was on promoting healthy diets that are culturally appropriate and environmentally sustainable. Enhancing nutrition and health also included addressing the global rise in malnutrition by supporting accessible and healthy food choices and ensuring access to clean water and sanitation services.

15. With respect to the means of implementation, there was a strong emphasis on the need for innovative financing and trade measures to support the transformation of food systems across the full food value chain. During discussions, various financial tools and mechanisms that could be utilized to redirect resources more effectively towards food systems transformation were highlighted, thus fostering collaborative partnerships, including between the public and private sectors.

16. The importance of a whole-of-society approach was a recurring theme, thus stressing the need for collaborative efforts involving multiple stakeholders at all levels of governance. A whole-of-society approach included enhancing the role and involvement of key stakeholders such as young people, women and Indigenous communities, ensuring that they are key contributors in shaping sustainable solutions and prioritizing gender equality, and enhancing the role of young people in leading and implementing change.

17. A unanimous call was made to move from conceptual frameworks to the practical implementation of solutions, which entailed adopting context-specific, innovative and coordinated policy measures, investment strategies and governance models that were tailored to unique local and national circumstances. The discussions

reinforced the need for data-driven approaches and the application of scientific knowledge to inform and guide food systems policies and practices. Finally, the significance of global collaboration and the exchange of knowledge and practices among countries was highlighted.

D. Beyond consultations: stakeholder contributions to the global food systems transformation

18. Stakeholders played an important role in shaping the discussions and outcomes of the Food Systems Stocktaking Moment. They were involved, in various capacities, in the preparations for the event, through their participation in regional and global meetings that were organized to identify the priorities for the Food Systems Stocktaking Moment. Those meetings highlighted the essential contributions of food systems actors from civil society organizations, the private sector and academia, and other stakeholders, with their insights integrated into the preparatory work for the Food Systems Stocktaking Moment.

19. Stakeholders also fed into the Food Systems Stocktaking Moment process through the “Stakeholders’ contribution document: UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment”, in which insights from a wide array of stakeholders are gathered on the progress and challenges of implementing food systems transformations since the United Nations Food Systems Summit in 2021. The findings, which were analysed and refined during a peer review by the Stakeholders Engagement and Networking Advisory Group, offer a rich perspective on the collective efforts and individual contributions to shaping sustainable food systems at the global level.

20. The above-mentioned document also highlights the proactive engagement of various stakeholders, including women, Indigenous Peoples, young people, farmers/producers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academic institutions and businesses, in raising awareness, capacity-building and policy advocacy. Those groups had also significantly contributed to safe food production, sustainable agricultural practices and effective policy dialogues at the local, regional and global levels.

21. Stakeholders, however, also reported persistent challenges, such as fragmented food systems visions, inconsistent government priorities and inadequate resource allocation. Those challenges were exacerbated by the lack of technical expertise and financial support at the local government level, which affected women and Indigenous Peoples in particular. Recognizing equity as a key dimension of food systems transformation, the document serves to advocate for targeted efforts to support young people, women and Indigenous Peoples by addressing discriminatory norms and ensuring their active participation in policy dialogues. Another key recommendation in the document is to develop multi-stakeholder, multisectoral architecture to improve food systems governance at the national level, to integrate diverse stakeholder perspectives and address specific resource needs.

22. Following a call for expressions of interest for non-State actors, 225 organizations participated in the Food Systems Stocktaking Moment, thus underscoring the inclusive and society-wide approach thereof. In addition to being visibly present in the main programme, stakeholders were also engaged in side events and exhibitions, which facilitated the comprehensive exchange of ideas and best practices among actors from different sectors and regions, thus enhancing the collaborative framework of the Food Systems Stocktaking Moment.

23. During discussions, the significant role and impact of various stakeholder groups, including women, young people, Indigenous Peoples, businesses and

producers, was outlined in the context of food systems transformation. The role of women and young people was emphasized as being central to the implementation of food systems strategies, and Indigenous Peoples were recognized for their unique perspectives and knowledge systems, which are crucial for sustainable food systems, for example to maintain biodiversity and ecological health. The involvement of businesses and producers was also highlighted as key to driving innovation and investment in food systems. They were seen as essential for implementing scalable solutions and mobilizing resources that were needed for food systems transformation.

E. Unified blueprint for sustainable food systems: priorities from the Secretary-General's call to action for accelerated food systems transformation

24. Building on the insights, the Secretary-General's call to action for accelerated food systems transformation, issued at the conclusion of the Food Systems Stocktaking Moment, serves to chart a clear and comprehensive pathway for Member States, and the whole ecosystem of support, as they prepare for the upcoming Food Systems Stocktaking Moment, in 2025. This road map highlights six priority areas that are essential for shaping sustainable, equitable and resilient food systems and integral to achieving the 2030 Agenda.

25. The call to action emphasizes the integration of food systems strategies into all national policies and development priorities in order to place food systems at the heart of sustainable development actions. It advocates for the revision of sectoral policies and legal and regulatory frameworks to operationalize holistic food systems visions that align with national pathways.

26. The call to action also highlights that effective food systems governance requires the engagement of a diverse array of stakeholders across multiple sectors, as well as the incorporation of transparent and accountability processes. The importance of multilevel governance mechanisms is underscored, with subnational authorities attributed a significant role in addressing local food systems specificities within national strategies. Regional collaborations are also promoted as vital for enhancing national efforts, sharing context-relevant knowledge and addressing cross-border issues, in particular in times of compounded shocks that require governance structures to balance immediate crisis responses with long-term solutions to foster resilience.

27. Two key priority areas outlined in the call to action advocate for the strengthening of participatory processes, in particular for stakeholders such as women, Indigenous Peoples and young people, with the use of national and subnational dialogues encouraged for fostering inclusivity and mutual accountability. The significant influence of the private sector is also acknowledged as a powerful lever for change and increasing engagement with businesses is positioned as a way to provide opportunities to leverage financial resources, innovation capabilities and market reach to implement sustainable practices, reduce food waste and promote healthier food options. As a corollary, accountability mechanisms need to be strengthened to ensure transparency and responsible behaviour by private sector actors, with a view to delivering fair and just outcomes.

28. Recognizing that transformations in food systems hinge on the knowledge, understanding and capacity of the actors and institutions driving them, the six priority actions call for bolstered capacity-building and greater access to expertise in science, innovation and research. In addition, the call to action highlights key thematic priorities such as climate alignment, resilience and nutrition, alongside essential enablers such as capacity-building, collaboration, ecosystem optimization and enhanced United Nations coordination.

II. Global milestones for increased momentum in the food systems agenda

A. Confirming food systems transformation as a key Sustainable Development Goals accelerator

1. Pathways to 2030: food systems transformation and other key entry points for Sustainable Development Goals acceleration

29. Echoing the *Global Sustainable Development Report 2019: The Future is Now – Science for Achieving Sustainable Development*, the 2023 edition of the report, issued ahead of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly, known as the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, emphasizes the extraordinary opportunities that transformative and integrated approaches present to achieve the 2030 Agenda. The 2023 edition confirms that action through the six entry points put forward in the *Global Sustainable Development Report 2019* could significantly accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.²

30. The *Global Sustainable Development Report 2023: Times of Crisis, Times of Change – Science for Accelerating Transformations to Sustainable Development* provides a thorough analysis of the transformations needed in food systems as part of a broader effort to achieve sustainable development. Given the interconnections between various Sustainable Development Goals, transforming food systems could have a significant impact on the Goals related to poverty alleviation, health improvement, biodiversity conservation and climate action. In the report, several crucial shifts and interventions that are required to enhance the sustainability of food systems are discussed. For example, to improve food affordability and availability, efforts are needed to increase sustainable yields and lessen the environmental impacts of food systems. Enhancing the sustainability of food systems involves adopting farming techniques that reduce the use of resources, such as water and fertilizers, and refining retail and distribution practices to cut waste. Equally crucial are demand-side actions, which promote healthier, varied diets and less resource-intensive eating habits. There are, however, obstacles in transforming food systems, such as traditional agricultural practices, resistance from established agribusinesses and logistical challenges in modifying supply chains.

31. Across all the entry points, the *Global Sustainable Development Report 2023* calls for action to minimize impediments and support promising solutions that are specific to the different phases of transformation, including emergence, acceleration and stabilization. These actions should also simultaneously destabilize, break down and phase out unsustainable practices.

2. Turning the world towards 2030

32. The Sustainable Development Goals Summit, held in New York in September 2023, focused on revitalizing efforts towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda against a backdrop of global crises. At the Summit, world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the 2030 Agenda, recognizing the need for bold and transformative actions to overcome the multifaceted crises slowing progress. One of the critical areas for action identified was the need to eradicate poverty, dramatically improve food security and support the transformation towards sustainable food systems.

² The six entry points are: human well-being and capabilities; sustainable and just economies; food systems and nutrition patterns; energy decarbonization and universal access; urban and peri-urban development; and the global environmental commons.

33. Unsurprisingly, food systems featured very prominently in the section entitled “Call to action – turning our world towards 2030” of the political declaration adopted on 18 September 2023 at the Sustainable Development Goals Summit.

34. The political declaration emphasizes that eradicating poverty and significantly improving food security are central to the global agenda. It recognizes the deep interconnections between poverty, food security and sustainable agriculture, highlighting the vulnerability of food systems to climate change, economic disparities and global instability. The commitment to ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition is articulated as a priority, with a specific focus on ensuring access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round. This involves promoting sustainable agricultural practices and resilient food systems, which are crucial for both human and planetary health.

35. As part of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and its partners launched a high-impact initiative on food systems transformation during the Sustainable Development Goals Action Weekend. This FAO-led initiative, launched in collaboration with two other Rome-based agencies, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP), as well as the World Bank, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme, builds on the outcomes of the 2021 Food Systems Summit and is aimed at mobilizing commitments to ensure food security and promote healthy diets at the global level. Italy, Japan, the United Arab Emirates and FAO also joined in organizing a ministerial side event on catalysing global action for sustainable and resilient agrifood systems transformation to accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals. The event, which was moderated by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the 2021 Food Systems Summit, Agnes Kalibata, put emphasis on the linkages between food security, sustainable growth, global stability, conflicts, ongoing global health challenges and climate change.

36. The Sustainable Development Goals Summit marked a resolve by the United Nations system to fully lean on the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda and address current development practices, which often continue to operate in silos, leading to disjointed strategies and processes that are poorly aligned with global aims. To operationalize this shift, six key transitions, namely food systems, energy access and affordability, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection, and climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, have been identified as having the potential to generate multiplier effects, acting as catalysts for broader transformation across multiple systems and Sustainable Development Goals. Each transition requires a multifaceted policy approach that acknowledges the interconnectedness of the Sustainable Development Goals, while ensuring that efforts are not only additive but multiplicative, thus enhancing the effectiveness of each other.

B. Twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: a watershed moment for the food systems agenda

1. United Arab Emirates Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action: elevating agriculture and food systems in climate change action

37. Building on the momentum generated in recent years, a transformative moment was marked at the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in the United Arab Emirates in 2023, with the placing of agriculture and food systems at the forefront of the

climate agenda. The commitments made at the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties demonstrated a global consensus on the critical role of agriculture in climate change mitigation, adaptation and finance. The United Arab Emirates Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action represents a comprehensive framework that was endorsed by 159 nations, underscoring the urgent need for food systems to adapt and evolve in response to climate imperatives, for significant transformative action by 2025. Key areas of focus include enhancing national strategies, mobilizing diverse forms of finance, driving innovation and fostering international trade and cooperation.

38. Several strategic partnerships and initiatives to support the implementation of the Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action, including the Food Systems and Climate Action Convergence Initiative, launched by the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub, and the Technical Cooperation Collaborative, are intended to provide tailored technical support to countries as they seek to advance their commitments under the Declaration. There is a suite of other initiatives, such as new pledges to the Agricultural Innovation Mission for Climate, the Agricultural Innovation Mission for Scale, a non-State actor call to action in support of the Declaration, the Action Agenda on Regenerative Landscapes, the Financing the Future of Food initiative, the Agrifood Sharm-El Sheikh Support Programme and the Agriculture, Food and Climate National Action Toolkit for national adaptation plans and nationally determined contributions. The twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties also fostered a platform for the inception meeting of the Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation partnership, initially launched at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties.

39. Flagship reports, such as the FAO Roadmap and *Recipe for a Livable Planet: Achieving Net Zero Emissions in the Agrifood System* by the World Bank, have laid out compelling evidence-based visions of where and how the world needs to arrive, within the context of a 1.5°C world, to deliver social priorities in different contexts.

40. As the world looks towards future climate negotiations, the groundwork laid at the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties offers a promising path forward for international cooperation to integrate food systems into broader climate action. In addition to creating a robust foundation for ongoing multi-stakeholder collaboration, enhancing the political will necessary to drive needed change, the Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action sets specific milestones for future Conferences of the Parties, including the detailed review of progress at the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties, in Azerbaijan, and at the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties, in Brazil.

2. Food Systems and Climate Action Convergence Initiative: integrating food systems and climate action at the global, regional and country levels

41. On “Food, agriculture and water day” during the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties, the Food Systems and Climate Action Convergence Initiative was launched during a high-level event by the Deputy Secretary-General. This initiative, led by the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub, represents the culmination of the strategic partnership between the Hub and the presidency of the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties announced during the Food Systems Stocktaking Moment. The Convergence Initiative is aimed at facilitating the implementation of the Secretary-General’s call to action for accelerated food systems transformation and the Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action at the national level, thus supporting countries, their national conveners and other critical actors as they pursue ambitious transformations of food systems to enhance climate action, and vice versa.

42. The Convergence Initiative is aimed at supporting national efforts to advance the alignment of the food systems transformation and climate action agendas, to enable Governments and stakeholders at the national level to strengthen synergetic action that will simultaneously support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. Efforts to advance alignment include ensuring that nationally determined contributions, national adaptation plans and national biodiversity strategies and action plans are refined to reflect the priorities of the national pathways for food systems transformation, and vice versa. This alignment is particularly crucial as nations prepare to develop ambitious third-generation nationally determined contributions by early 2025.

43. In the lead-up to the twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions of the Conference of the Parties, the Convergence Initiative will support countries in navigating complexities as they delve into optimizing the alignment of various agendas and across diverse sectors and stakeholder groups. Alignment involves the critical review of evidence to support decision-making, use of strategies to enhance synergies and addressing of often politically sensitive trade-offs. This comprehensive work is expected to prompt the review of key policy documents, including national pathways for food systems transformation and nationally determined contributions, to ensure that they more effectively reflect integrated approaches.

III. Sustaining momentum at the country level and within the national conveners network

A. 2024 regional meetings

44. Building on the regional meetings organized in 2023 in preparation for the Food Systems Stocktaking Moment, between March and April 2024, the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub organized a second series of face-to-face regional meetings with food systems national conveners. Those meetings once again took place on the margins of the regional sustainable development forums, to ground these interim regional review processes within broader Sustainable Development Goals processes and expose conveners to opportunities to network and gain a deeper insight into the connections between the Sustainable Development Goals and the six transitions. The 2024 regional meetings were held in Beirut for countries in the Arab region (6 March), Geneva for countries in Europe and Central Asia (12 March), Chile for countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (16 April), Addis Ababa for the Africa region (22 April) and Bangkok for the Asia-Pacific region (29 April). They were organized in collaboration with the regional commissions, regional offices of the United Nations entities supporting the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub and other relevant United Nations and regional entities. They were also complemented by five side events held during the regional sustainable development forums themselves, which helped to maintain the visibility of food systems transformation as an accelerator for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

45. These regional meetings were primarily for food systems national conveners, but were also attended by important stakeholders and actors, including representatives of civil society organizations, the private sector, resident coordinators, members of United Nations country teams and other actors in the ecosystem of support.

46. The objectives of the regional meetings were multidimensional, with a view to sharing progress made since the Food Systems Stocktaking Moment and facilitate regional knowledge exchange by identifying emerging patterns and solutions. The focus of the meetings was also on acquainting participants with the six areas of action outlined in the Secretary-General's call to action for accelerated food systems

transformation, to prepare the ground for the next Food Systems Stocktaking Moment in 2025. They also paved the way for enhanced regional collaboration and community-building, by exploring strategies for future collaborative efforts among participating countries and stakeholders. The Food Systems and Climate Action Convergence Initiative was also further presented and valuable feedback harvested.

47. Overall, the regional meetings confirmed that the momentum and commitment following the Food Systems Stocktaking Moment remained high at the country level. In total, 127 countries had formulated national pathways, compared with 111 at the time of the 2021 Food Systems Summit. In many countries, the pathways are considered dynamic documents, which are being revised and updated, and complemented with action plans to bolster implementation. Across the board, the shift towards a more inclusive approach, strengthened governance and dialogue with previously untapped actors is noteworthy.

48. During each of the regional meetings, interactive discussions on effective governance were crafted into the programme. Food systems governance is essential to foster national ownership and advance broad policy areas that are crucial for food systems transformation. During the 2024 regional meetings, countries shared valuable insights and experiences highlighting the critical role of inclusive multisectoral and multi-stakeholder governance structures. These interactive dialogues revealed that collaborative governance leads to more comprehensive and sustainable food systems policies that are beneficial across society. However, implementing these inclusive processes is not without its challenges. Country representatives reported that the organization of such expansive governance frameworks is a resource-intensive process, which requires significant time, financial investments and dedicated personnel. Moreover, national conveners must navigate power imbalances and build trust among stakeholders, who often have varying degrees of influence and access to decision-making processes. Ensuring the equal representation and active participation of all food systems actors, including Governments, farmer associations, businesses, civil society organizations, international financial institutions, scientific institutions and media organizations, is therefore crucial.

49. A holistic approach to transformation was advocated, to address the economic, social and sustainable aspects of food systems, emphasizing the need for context-specific solutions that ensure overall well-being. Furthermore, the role of the private sector in driving investment and innovation in food systems transformation was acknowledged, highlighting the need for government support to create an enabling environment for private investments and enhance corporate accountability frameworks.

50. Participants in the regional meetings underscored that transforming food systems is a long-term endeavour that cannot be achieved overnight. It requires commitment to incremental steps, adaptive approaches and continuous learning to ensure that progress is both impactful and enduring. Through national and subnational food systems dialogues, countries continued to refine and improve their pathways for implementation, demonstrating the dynamic nature of food systems transformation and the ongoing effort required to maintain momentum towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The need to use scientifically sound data to guide national strategies and monitor progress was also seen as essential.

51. Finally, the empowerment of national conveners was also identified as a priority, with the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub requested to play a crucial role in supporting capacity-building and fostering interactions with resident coordinators and other stakeholders.

52. The importance of regional collaboration and solidarity was emphasized, with calls made to forge partnerships, share best practices and mobilize resources to enhance self-sufficiency and promote food security.

B. Integrated support from the United Nations system and a maturing ecosystem of support

1. United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub

53. Since its creation, the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub has been instrumental in helping countries to turn their national food systems pathways into practical strategies that are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals by mobilizing a broad ecosystem of support, including coalitions, NGOs, the private sector and research institutions. Many examples of the work of the Hub over the past two years are illustrated in the present report, for example coordinating the organization of the Food Systems Stocktaking Moment, leading the comprehensive voluntary country progress reporting process, partnering with the presidency of the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties, designing and launching the Convergence Initiative, organizing regional meetings in 2023 and 2024, partnering with and mapping the ecosystem of support and fostering the engagement of stakeholders through the Stakeholders Engagement and Networking Advisory Group.

54. In addition, one of the significant financial and technical support efforts of the Hub includes the creation of a start-up fund, which has played an important role in catalysing the implementation of national pathways in 14 countries.³ By providing targeted financial resources, this start-up funding has enabled those countries to move swiftly from planning to action.

55. Each recipient country has utilized the funding to address unique challenges and take advantage of opportunities within its food systems context. For instance, the funding has been used to support the development of inclusive and cross-sectoral food systems governance structures in Kenya, Somalia and Tajikistan, ensuring that various stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organizations and private sector participants, are involved in the transformation process. Moreover, in Nepal and Nigeria, the fund has helped to localize national pathways, with a view to aligning them with specific local needs and capabilities, which is crucial for the nuanced application of overarching national strategies.

56. The success of the start-up fund in fostering the rapid implementation of national pathways is also evidenced by its role in the development of costed action plans in countries such as Kenya, Nigeria and the United Republic of Tanzania. These plans are vital for clearly outlining the steps and resources needed to achieve the desired outcomes of the food systems transformation. In addition, the fund was used for the development of monitoring and evaluation frameworks in Nigeria and Timor-Leste, which are critical for tracking progress and making informed adjustments to ensure the effectiveness of food systems policies and interventions. Overall, the start-up fund exemplifies the commitment of the Hub to providing practical, immediate support to countries, thus enabling them to implement their food systems transformation strategies effectively and sustainably.

57. Through strategic thought leadership, the Hub has also integrated systems thinking into global and national agendas. The Hub established the scientific advisory

³ Support provided to the 14 countries was funded through FAO core funding, the FAO Flexible Multi-Partner Mechanism and the project funded by Norway on fast-tracking food system transformation in selected countries through support for the implementation of national pathways.

committee to enhance the science-policy interface. Key initiatives such as the creation of country dashboards and a database of good practices have enhanced the tracking of progress at the national level. Furthermore, the Hub has continued to conduct monthly solution dialogues, quarterly regional touchpoints and annual face-to-face meetings to foster the dynamic exchange of ideas and best practices between national conveners, and support and empower them in dispensing their critical duties.

58. With respect to finance, the work spearheaded by IFAD and the World Bank, in collaboration with the Hub, has been pivotal in improving evidence to support countries in financing policies for food systems transformation, obtaining access to financing for food systems transformation and mobilizing transformative private sector financing. IFAD and the World Bank mobilized the ecosystem of support, including FAO, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, the 4SD Foundation and the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, to fast-track the development of a financial tool to help Governments to generate evidence on their financial flows for food systems, allowing them to ascertain the level of their financing to food systems, targeting, gaps and needs, to inform their financing decisions. The Governments of Kenya, the Niger and Peru piloted the financial flows for food systems to ensure that the evidence generated responds to country needs. Given the growing interest from countries to have access to financial flows for food systems, the aim is to support an additional 10 to 15 countries in piloting them over the next two years.

59. In addition, a pivotal collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development was brokered to produce evidence on bilateral and multilateral development financing to food systems and provides the first global baseline to measure progress towards the commitment to increase development financing for food systems transformation. With regard to increasing country access to development financing for food systems, IFAD launched its thirteenth replenishment cycle, the target of which is \$2 billion for the period 2024–2026, with 100 per cent of the investments dedicated to food systems transformation in those countries most in need. In addition to its leading role in food systems funding, the World Bank set a resource mobilization target of \$1 billion for its Food Systems 2030 facility to help countries by providing policy advice, analytical products and funding for pilot innovative approaches. IFAD and the World Bank, together with FAO, also engaged with the Global Environment Facility to design an integrated food systems programme totalling about \$238 million and targeting over 30 countries.

60. Lastly, in collaboration with the Hub and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, IFAD and the World Bank convened consultations on shared priorities with private sector coalitions and benchmarking organizations engaged in food systems transformation. The focus areas for engagement with the private sector included the identification of game-changing private sector investments for food systems transformation in those countries most in need, learning and exchange, and the development of a methodology to track transformative private sector financing for food systems.

61. Those consultations paved the way for a technical workshop, hosted by the Hub, on 8 and 9 April 2024, in collaboration with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, the Access to Nutrition Initiative, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and the World Benchmarking Alliance. The focus of the workshop was corporate accountability in food systems transformation and it brought together various United Nations entities (United Nations Children's Fund, UN-Nutrition, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Global Compact, FAO and WFP), international NGOs (World Benchmarking Alliance, Access to Nutrition Initiative, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition) and private sector

groups (World Business Council for Sustainable Development, World Economic Forum and the Private Sector Mechanism of the Committee on World Food Security). The workshop was aimed at cultivating a unified understanding of corporate accountability within food systems, assessing current accountability frameworks applicable to the private sector and reviewing key accountability metrics and processes, including those relating to environmental impact, social equity and nutrition. The discussions were geared towards proposing a process for the establishment of a consensus-driven road map that outlines the steps and expected outcomes leading up to the Food Systems Stocktaking Moment in 2025 and beyond, while clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of all participants and expanding the network to include additional stakeholders.

62. The Hub, with support from the Government of Germany, has also launched a food systems Youth Leadership Programme to empower future leaders dedicated to creating more efficient, inclusive, sustainable and resilient agrifood systems. The programme is focused on scaling up transformational leadership among young leaders in the global South, steering policies towards science-based solutions, facilitating transformative public policy changes and seeding sustainable business models to de-risk finance and repurpose funding.

2. Wider United Nations system

63. Since the Food Systems Stocktaking Moment, the United Nations Food Systems Task Force has facilitated ongoing engagement within the United Nations system to achieve enhanced collaboration, in particular through its newly established digital platform. Over the next biennium, the United Nations Food Systems Task Force will leverage the specialized expertise of its 139 members representing 35 United Nations entities, to provide continuous support to resident coordinators and United Nations country teams, by assisting in the development of an online toolkit and case studies and in knowledge mapping. Moreover, the Task Force intends to facilitate upcoming thematic dialogues on various food systems nexus areas, including water, gender, health, climate change and other pertinent topics.

64. The United Nations regional assets, including the issue-based coalition on sustainable food systems in Europe, the Africa opportunity and issue-based coalitions on climate action, resilience and food systems transformation, the Regional Task Force on Food Systems for the Latin America and Caribbean region and the Regional Networking Group on Food Systems for the Asia region, have continued to play an important role in strengthening collective support that caters to specific regional needs.

65. In addition, in 2023, the focus of the interdepartmental task force on African affairs was on the African agrifood systems transition and addressing environmental sustainability, climate, energy, and the water systems, peace and security nexus. It developed a compendium, which serves to highlight strategic analyses, best practices and game-changing solutions that have the potential to advance the vision of the African common position on food systems and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.

66. In Africa, in collaboration with the African Union Technical Committee on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods and guided by the African Union Special Envoy for Food Systems, Ibrahim Mayaki, the Hub is facilitating the incorporation of a food systems perspective into the review of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and Malabo Declaration and the post-Malabo Declaration formulation process.

3. Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund

67. In March 2024, the secretariat of the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund and the Hub launched the first round of funding of the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund window for food systems through the seed funding and high-impact tracks, designed to support resident coordinators and United Nations country teams in their efforts to accompany countries in accelerating the transition towards sustainable, equitable, healthy and resilient food systems.

68. For the first round of funding, the seed funding track offers up to \$250,000 to 12 countries (Cambodia, Costa Rica, Egypt, El Salvador, Jordan, Kenya, Rwanda, Samoa, Serbia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam) for projects over a maximum of 12 months. This track is intended to ignite innovation and expedite progress by empowering countries to incubate, develop and implement solutions that can effect significant changes across their food systems. The high-impact track, however, provides up to \$2 million per project for up to 24 months in six countries (Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Ethiopia, Nigeria, Somalia, Tajikistan and Timor-Leste). This track is designed for initiatives that demonstrate readiness to achieve accelerated and catalytic results on a larger scale. It is intended to support transformative solutions that are sustainable, integrate a whole-of-government and multi-stakeholder approach and can leverage significant additional financing. The focus is on mobilizing deep partnerships, bringing scalable initiatives to fruition and promoting the substantial engagement of businesses through public-private partnerships. The projects under this track are expected to have a systemic impact, having demonstrated the capacity to significantly improve food systems with potent effects across multiple Sustainable Development Goal areas, including climate action, social protection and sustainable agriculture. Both funding tracks are aligned with the overarching objectives outlined in the Secretary-General's call to action for accelerated food systems transformation stemming from the Food Systems Stocktaking Moment.

4. Coalitions for action

69. Food systems coalitions were established following the 2021 Food Systems Summit to assist Governments in implementing their visions for sustainable food systems. These coalitions vary in terms of their stage of maturity and roles, but they are increasingly playing a supportive role at the country level.

70. The School Meals Coalition organized its first global meeting in October 2023, leading to substantial political commitments being made and the consolidation of regional networks in East Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, which have been instrumental in enhancing school meal programmes through the sharing of best practices. Overall, the work of the School Meals Coalition has contributed to restoring access to school meals for 418 million children worldwide, with access increasing since the start of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and it has also bolstered domestic funding for school meals programmes significantly.

71. Similarly, the Blue Food Coalition has supported the operationalization of national pathways, including the development of investment cases for blue food development in several countries. For instance, in Indonesia, this coalition has integrated blue foods into the national development strategy and blue economy road map, while in Africa, its collaboration with the African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development and various investors has been crucial in developing sustainable aquaculture initiatives, demonstrating the pivotal role of the Blue Food Coalition in mobilizing support and integrating regional resources.

72. The Agroecology Coalition has also made headway, in particular in East Africa, by supporting Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania in developing national agroecology strategies. The introduction of the Agroecology Finance Assessment Tool, which is now used by Germany for development cooperation, underscores the commitment of the Coalition to scalable and environmentally friendly agricultural practices.

73. In addition, the Climate Resilient Food Systems Alliance has engaged with countries, including Belize, Ethiopia and Fiji, to conduct diagnostic analyses to identify gaps in achieving climate resilience within their food systems. This targeted support has enabled countries like Belize to recalibrate their national strategies through a climate-focused lens, thus strengthening their food systems against environmental challenges.

74. In conflict settings, the collaboration between the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus Coalition and the Global Network Against Food Crises highlighted the critical intersection between food security and stability in fragile regions. In Somalia, under the leadership of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the collaboration between the Global Network Against Food Crises, Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus Coalition and the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement has brought together various stakeholders to support the development of the Food Security Crisis Preparedness Plan and other strategic frameworks that are aligned with the country's national pathways. Likewise, in the Sudan, partnerships have facilitated the development of effective assistance models for food systems transformation, promoting stability and addressing food insecurity. The strategic field missions organized in those two countries have contributed to establishing robust models for food systems transformation through comprehensive multi-stakeholder engagement. These models have greatly influenced the development of local governance structures and integrated approaches that are essential for sustaining long-term food systems strategies.

75. As these coalitions continue to evolve, their essential role in global sustainability efforts will continue to grow.

5. Broader ecosystem of support

76. In its convening capacity, the Hub has continued to map entry points for synergies, identify areas of support for national conveners and facilitate knowledge generation and exchange. In doing so, the Hub is developing a database and mapping of key partners and coalitions at the global level, in order to convene them more effectively and create a structured and facilitated space for dialogue, cooperation and collective action. Other strategic partners include resident coordinators, United Nations country teams and the wider United Nations system at the regional and global levels, international financial institutions, research institutions and the Committee on World Food Security.

77. In addition, in order to optimize the national ecosystems of support, the Hub partnered with the World Economic Forum, resident coordinators and the United Nations country team in Kenya, as well as other partners, such as the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, to develop and pilot an innovative tool to map the food systems ecosystems of support at the country level. The tool, which is still being piloted, will generate dynamic food systems maps that visualize the complex subecosystems and interdependencies in national (and local) food systems. By offering a true picture of the interconnected and complex web of actors at the country level, these interactive maps will support national conveners in their complex convening role.

IV. Priorities ahead of the 2025 United Nations Food Systems Stocktaking Moment

78. The 2023 Food Systems Stocktaking Moment acted as a crucial catalyst, invigorating global efforts towards the transformation of food systems and the realization of the 2030 Agenda. Since the landmark 2021 Food Systems Summit, considerable strides have been made towards reshaping the global food systems landscape. The present report highlights the sustained momentum in food systems transformation, which has remained robust since the Food Systems Stocktaking Moment in 2023. Pathways in 127 countries have been augmented by enhanced governance frameworks that integrate food systems strategies into national laws and sectoral plans. Financial strategies to support these transformations are increasingly taking shape, with countries actively assessing financing gaps and developing investment strategies to attract both public and private resources. Furthermore, the engagement of stakeholders, including Governments, the private sector, civil society organizations and scientific communities, has largely increased. Challenges, however, persist and are further complicated by the complex, ever-changing context, marred by crisis, that demands continual adaptation and steadfast political stewardship.

79. Insights from the 2023 Food Systems Stocktaking Moment, which fed into subsequent major events, such as the Sustainable Development Goals Summit and the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties, have helped to consolidate the global consensus on the urgency of accelerating food systems transformation. Looking ahead, the next Food Systems Stocktaking Moment in 2025 will mark a pivotal milestone, occurring just five years before the target date for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. In this section of the present report, the strategic opportunities that are available to the global community from now until then, to accelerate the alignment of sustainable food systems objectives with broader global efforts, are examined.

A. Journey to 2025: addressing climate, biodiversity, nutrition, hunger and poverty issues through food systems transformation

80. Recognizing the many ongoing and upcoming international initiatives that will support the transformation of food systems and other systemic transitions for sustainable development, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement, at the Food Systems Stocktaking Moment in 2023 the Secretary-General called for greater coherence and collaboration to reduce duplication of efforts and burdens on engagement at the country level. The Hub will, therefore, continue to build synergetic partnerships with other intergovernmental processes within the wider United Nations system, as well as with non-governmental processes of strategic importance.

1. Global milestones for nutrition and food security: pathways to resilient food systems

81. Around the world, billions of people continue to suffer from food insecurity and malnutrition, which are compounded by the escalating crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. The current dire situation is further aggravated by diets that are rich in processed foods and sugars and thus lack nutritional value and impose heavy environmental costs. Food systems transformation, therefore, involves shifting dietary habits and overhauling the ways that food is produced and distributed, in order to deliver nutritious, sustainable diets for all. The shifts across different food systems segments will ensure that efforts to combat hunger and malnutrition are

inclusive, targeting the most vulnerable populations and addressing the root causes of nutritional inequities. Such an approach also necessitates tailored interventions in conflict-affected and unstable regions to address immediate nutritional deficits while building long-term resilience.

82. Looking forward, the integration of nutrition into all aspects of policymaking and the promotion of multisectoral collaboration are imperative to build sustainable, equitable food systems that can withstand future challenges and support a thriving global population.

83. The next Nutrition for Growth Summit, to be held in Paris in 2025, will represent a significant international opportunity to combat malnutrition, as the end of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025) draws closer. The Nutrition for Growth Summit is aimed at securing new commitments from global leaders, with the focus on accelerating progress towards the elimination of malnutrition and ensuring that nutrition remains a key priority in development agendas.

84. The 2024 Scaling Up Nutrition Global Gathering, to be held in Rwanda on the theme “NutritiON: power the change”, also represents an important opportunity to strengthen commitments towards better nutritional outcomes. At the event, emphasis will be placed on the interconnectivity between nutrition and broader global challenges, such as public health, climate action, gender equality and food systems.

85. Group of Seven and Group of 20 initiatives also represent particularly supportive efforts for the advancement of the food systems agenda. For example, the “Hiroshima action statement for resilient global food security” was issued at the Summit of the Group of Seven Industrialized Countries, held in Hiroshima, Japan, in May 2023. Similarly, the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, launched under the Brazilian presidency of the Group of 20, is aimed at catalysing global efforts to address food insecurity and reduce poverty by leveraging international collaboration and advocating for the integration of food systems strategies into broader economic and social policies. Key components of that initiative include enhancing governance frameworks, increasing financial investments and promoting technology transfer to develop sustainable and inclusive food systems. The secretariat of the Global Alliance will be hosted by the Hub, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme, FAO, WFP, IFAD, the International Labour Organization and the World Health Organization. Work at the country level will be supported by the resident coordinator system.

2. Catalysing change in food systems through global climate and biodiversity conferences

86. The foundations established at the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties provide a structured pathway for incorporating food systems transformation into wider climate actions. As the focus shifts to the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Baku from 11 to 22 November 2024, and the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Belém, Brazil, from 10 to 21 November 2025, the global community should continue to build on wins secured on the food systems front and take advantage of the specific milestones set for evaluating progress.

87. In this respect, the Conference of the Parties presidencies troika, formed by the United Arab Emirates, Azerbaijan and Brazil to focus on accelerating the implementation of the Conference of the Parties climate commitments, represents an important opportunity. Their vision for addressing barriers to the development of nationally determined contributions and supporting countries to submit robust, 1.5°C-

aligned nationally determined contributions ahead of the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties, is in line with the call for third-generation nationally determined contributions, including ambitious, economy-wide emission reduction targets, issued at the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties. These renewed efforts open a unique window of opportunity to further create convergence between food systems transformation and climate action, and forest and other land-use systems.

88. On the biodiversity front, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, underscores the critical interconnections between biodiversity and food systems, the need for a global transition towards sustainable food systems as a fundamental component of biodiversity conservation and restoration and the sustainable use of genetic resources. Sector-based transformations will be essential for achieving the broader goals of the Framework. The sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Cali, Colombia, from 21 October to 1 November 2024, will mark a significant opportunity to review the progress made towards the achievement of national biodiversity goals aligned with this new framework.

B. 2025 United Nations Food Systems Stocktaking Moment: assessing progress on food systems transformation

89. The second Food Systems Stocktaking Moment, to be held in 2025, will offer another opportunity for the global community to reconvene and assess progress in transforming food systems for sustainable development. At its seventy-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted four resolutions in which the Food Systems Summit process is referenced. A set of resolutions adopted by the Second Committee in October 2023 underscore, *inter alia*, the recognition by Member States of the importance of building more inclusive, equitable, efficient, resilient and sustainable food systems to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, while noting the 2021 Food Systems Summit process as a key mechanism steering that work.

90. In its resolution [78/168](#) on agriculture development, food security and nutrition, the General Assembly called for a comprehensive and coordinated approach, involving national Governments, civil society, academia, the private sector and the international community, to bring Sustainable Development Goal 2, aimed at achieving zero hunger, back on track. Highlighting the biennial Food Systems Stocktaking Moment as a crucial platform for this collective action, the General Assembly also advocated for the implementation of the voluntary commitments of the 2021 Food Systems Summit, by leveraging the support of the Hub. Member States looked forward to the 2025 Food Systems Stocktaking Moment for a thorough review of progress made on those commitments. The Food Systems Summit process was also recognized in General Assembly resolution [78/144](#) on agricultural technology for sustainable development as a significant forum for facilitating food systems transformation through the advancement of agricultural technologies, innovations and digitalization. Furthermore, in General Assembly resolution [78/164](#) on the implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027), the way in which the Food Systems Summit promoted policymaking that supported an inclusive, sustainable and resilient recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic was highlighted, and in General Assembly resolution [78/169](#) on natural plant fibres and sustainable development, appreciation was expressed for the Food Systems Stocktaking Moment within the context of advocating for the more sustainable production, consumption and utilization of natural plant fibres.

91. Since the 2025 Food Systems Stocktaking Moment will take place five years before the 2030 horizon set by the United Nations sustainable development agenda, it is imperative that there be significant acceleration over the next biennium, so that the focus of the next Food Systems Stocktaking Moment is on measuring impact. To accomplish this objective and maintain the level of engagement achieved during the 2023 Food Systems Stocktaking Moment, preparations were started in earnest in early 2024 at the global, regional and national levels. Continuous engagement with countries will be facilitated through the continuation of the now well-established Food Systems Solutions Dialogues and Regional Touchpoints, as well as through face-to-face regional meetings in 2024 and 2025.

92. In addition, building on the initial success of the voluntary reporting exercise in 2023, during which 109 country reports were submitted, the Hub aims to refine its tracking system. The reports submitted by countries in 2023 have set a foundation that should enable a more profound analysis over the next biennium. This reporting process should be aided by the fact that many countries have already begun upgrading their information systems. Needs for specific technical assistance in this area should, therefore, be catered for as a matter of priority.

93. Directly linked to global and national monitoring and reporting efforts, the Food Systems Countdown Initiative, which emerged from the 2021 Food Systems Summit, offers a sophisticated monitoring framework that has the potential to significantly advance the global understanding of the state of food systems transformation in 2025. The framework consists of a set of 50 flexible and carefully selected indicators, developed through extensive consultations with over 500 policy stakeholders worldwide. The first Food Systems Countdown Initiative report, published in December 2023, highlights the varied progress of countries in optimizing their food systems, illustrating the complex challenges that transcend economic and traditional development indicators. The report highlights significant data gaps that hinder effective monitoring and strategy implementation. As part of the broader strategic partnership vision of the Hub, it will enter into a partnership with the Food Systems Countdown Initiative to enhance the 2025 Food Systems Stocktaking Moment process by integrating the latest findings of the Initiative into the data sources for the 2025 report of the Secretary-General on global progress on the food systems transformation agenda. This effort will bring significant value added by informing global discussions and commitments to foster resilient, equitable and sustainable food systems well into the future.