

Side Events Name: From Commitment to Actions: Scaling Up Food Systems Transformation for a Resilient Planet: Building on the momentum of the 2nd UN Food Systems Summit Stocktake (UNFSS+4)

Date: 27 August 2025

Time: 11:00-13:00

Venue: Hotel Crowne Plaza, Nadi, Fiji

Concept Note

1. Background

In 2021, the UN Food Systems Summit, convened by the UN Secretary-General, aimed to accelerate progress on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through a food systems approach. By leveraging the interconnectedness of food systems with global challenges such as hunger, including undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, obesity, climate change, poverty, and inequality e-g gender inequality, the summit showcased [national food systems pathways](#) submitted by National Convenors. It also facilitated the formation of [coalitions](#) organizations and institutions to support these pathways, and it saw the announcement of hundreds of commitments from various actors.

In July 2023, the first UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment (UNFSS+2) was convened in Rome, Italy, building upon the momentum of the 2021 Food Systems Summit, held in New York, USA. With over 3300 representing a broad stakeholder base from 182 countries, the UNFSS+2 aimed to review progress on commitments, identify bottlenecks, take stock of good practices and lesson learnt and advocate for advancing sustainable food systems transformation as a critical SDG accelerator.

At UNFSS+2's conclusion, the Secretary-General launched a [Call to Action](#) that emphasized the importance of embedding food systems strategies in national policies, establishing inclusive governance frameworks, investing in research, technology, and innovation, promoting business engagement, in innovation, promoting business engagement including through public private partnerships, ensuring all stakeholders' participation, and securing long-term finance for transformation.

In July 2023, the first UN Food systems Summit +2 Stocktake (UNFSS+2) was convened in Rome, Italy, building upon the momentum of the 2021 Food Systems Summit. The UNFSS+2 reviewed progress on commitments, identify bottlenecks, and advocate for advancing sustainable food systems transformation as critical SDG accelerator. At UNFSS+2, the Secretary-General launched a Call to Action ¹that emphasized the importance of embedding food systems strategies in national policies, establishing inclusive governance frameworks, investing in research and innovation, promoting business engagement, ensuring all stakeholders' participation, and securing long-term finance for transformation.

The 2nd United Nations Food Systems Summit Stocktake (UNFSS+4) will take place July 27–29, 2025, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, co-hosted by Ethiopia and Italy. Building on the momentum of the [2021 UN Food Systems Summit](#) (UNFSS) and the [first Stocktake in 2023 \(UNFSS+2\)](#), this event will reflect on global progress in food systems transformation, strengthen collaboration, and unlock finance and investments to accelerate action towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With just five years remaining until 2030, UNFSS+4 will serve as a critical moment to reflect on national efforts, explore solutions, and mobilize stakeholders toward sustainable, resilient, and inclusive food systems.

The Asia and Pacific agrifood systems are at a critical juncture. Despite the region's impressive economic growth and strides in reducing poverty over recent decades, far too many people still suffer from under nourishment, micronutrient deficiencies and the detrimental health impacts of overweight and obesity. This triple burden of malnutrition is increasingly exacerbated by rapid urbanization trends that are fundamentally reshaping food consumption patterns, creating growing demand for processed foods while disconnecting urban populations from traditional food systems. Concurrently, smallholder farmers—who comprise the majority of the region's agricultural workforce—face mounting challenges including limited access to climate-resilient and nature-positive technologies, inadequate extension services, and shrinking

¹ the UN Secretary-General issued a [Call to Action for accelerated food systems transformation](#)

profit margins that threaten their livelihoods and food production capacity. These challenges are compounded by persistent finance gaps, with smallholder farmers and agrifood enterprises struggling to access affordable credit, investment capital, and climate finance necessary for sustainable agricultural transformation. At the same time, unsustainable agricultural practices are degrading the natural resource base and contributing to climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and ocean-based food systems face mounting pressures from overfishing, marine pollution, and ocean acidification that undermine the region's blue economy potential which in turn threatens the region's ability to attain the 2030 SDG Agenda, requires and obligations of various Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and World Health Assembly targets.

This strategic side event will provide member states with comprehensive updates on the outcomes of the UN Food Systems Summit+4 (UNFSS+4) and demonstrate their critical significance for environment sector stakeholders across the Asia-Pacific region. The session will illuminate the interconnected pathways between sustainable food systems transformation, climate and nature actions and urgent environmental priorities, offering actionable insights for accelerating regional progress from countries in the region that have led transformative initiatives which are addressing the triple planetary environmental crises and advancing commitments under key international frameworks.

UNEA resolutions and SDGs

This proposed side event is aligned with the priorities of the **UNEA-6 Ministerial Declaration**, which calls for effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution to sustainable development and their impacts on human health and the environment, that are further aggravated by persistent levels of poverty, inequality and food insecurity. It addresses the urgent need to transform food systems in a way that promotes environmental sustainability, equity, and resilience, while reflecting on the interconnected threats of climate impacts, biodiversity loss, land degradation, pollution, and food insecurity.

The side event builds on the **Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan** adopted at COP27, which recognized **food systems transformation as critical for achieving climate resilience and food security**, and aligns with global biodiversity, pollution agendas and the 2022 UN Ocean Conference commitments.

2. Objective

The side event aims to:

- Increase understanding of the key outcomes of the UNFSS+4 that have strong relevance to environment sector stakeholders
- Showcase key initiatives on sustainable agrifood systems transformation while addressing triple planetary environmental crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution
- Highlight achievements made under the Convergence Initiative of the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub.

This 90-minute side event will provide a dynamic platform for cross-sectoral dialogue and knowledge exchange, structured into three focused segments with 20 minutes dedicated to open interaction. Through a blend of high-level opening statements, presentations, national showcases, and moderated discussion.

3. Proposed Participants: Governments, intergovernmental organizations, environment and food/agriculture sector representatives and other relevant stakeholders.

For further information, kindly contact Makiko Yashiro, Programme Officer/Regional Coordinator for Ecosystem Management Sub-programme at UN Environment's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), yashiro@un.org and Rathana Peou, Senior Agrifood Systems Expert at Rathana.PeouNorbertMunns@fao.org