The Role of Sustainable Food Consumption and Production for a Healthy Planet and Prosperity for All

An important contribution to Stockholm+50

21 March 2022, 9:30-11:15am EST (New York time), virtual

Key messages on Sustainable Food Systems for Stockholm+50

Leadership Dialogue 1: Reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity of all

- We cannot afford to lose more time. With only eight harvests remaining to reach the SDGs by 2030, there is an urgent need for bold and ambitious action to transform food systems at national and sub-national levels, and to reverse unsustainable consumption and production patterns along the entire value chain that cause the deterioration of the health of people and the planet. This should be done by using a holistic approach to promote policies, tools and solutions that take into due account the social (including health, culture, job creation, etc.), environmental and economic dimensions of sustainable development, simultaneously addressing areas such as agriculture, nutrition, environment, health, and trade.

- The Stockholm Declaration on the Human Environment of 1972 continues to be relevant to guide our efforts to address this urgent need for action to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity of all.

- The climate-health-food nexus holds a great potential for substantial co-benefits, for both people and the planet. Healthy diets from sustainable food systems are a key driver for a healthy planet and prosperity for all. Moving towards healthier and more sustainable consumption patterns requires changing mindsets. People need to be empowered to adopt healthy and sustainable habits. Public procurement, especially school meals, also have an important role to play.
• The One Planet network’s new Global Strategy on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) that will be launched at Stockholm+50, will reflect an ambitious and inclusive pathway for systemic and circular approaches and for multilateral and multi-stakeholder cooperation.

• The Stockholm+50 international meeting provides an ideal forum to launch inclusive multilateral and multi-stakeholder dialogues on sustainable consumption and production, resource efficiency and circular economy, to drive forward the implementation of SDGs that promote sustainable consumption and production patterns.

**LD2: Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic**

• Resilient food systems are essential to help us overcome external shocks associated with the negative “Cs”: COVID-19, climate change, costs and commodity price spikes, and conflicts.

• Dealing with these shocks requires the strengthening of and promotion of sustainable and resilient food systems, that manage to effectively address conflicting goals and trade-offs. This should be done by establishing and/or actively linking inclusive multi-stakeholder bodies that are representative of all relevant actors to the policy-making process, including also consumers and vulnerable groups such as smallholder producers, women, youth and indigenous people.

• Multi-stakeholder mechanisms can play an important role in addressing current power imbalances in food systems governance, and actively work to engage the most marginalized stakeholders, including those most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and other shocks, in developing solutions. One such solution could be the development of a roadmap towards a global nature positive economy, which holds a great potential for job creation.

• Overcoming these shocks will also require more and better finance and investment. This includes the need for countries to repurpose their agri-food policies and support, including towards more citizen participation. Food systems transformation and sustainability should be equally prioritized by countries in terms of finance, as the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, private investors, philanthropies, banks, bi- and multilateral funders as well as domestic funding from governments should better align in support of sustainable and resilient food systems.

**LD3: Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of Sustainable Development in the context of the Decade of Action**

• Countries and all other relevant stakeholders need to take bold and urgent action at all levels to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. This should be done through a holistic and transformational approach that focuses on connecting the environmental policy agendas to cross-cutting Sustainable Development Goals, in particular those related to SCP and food systems, and linking to areas such as agriculture, nutrition, health, and trade. Food
systems must be supportive of the environmental dimension of Sustainable Development, while at the same time achieving food security and providing livelihoods to the world’s food producers.

- Considering that food systems are a major driver of biodiversity loss and greenhouse gas emissions, they should be embedded and holistically addressed in the context of all relevant multilateral environment agreements, including through the development and adoption of SMART targets. Specific food systems days or weeks at UNFCCC COP and all other relevant COPs would be an important step towards that goal. Agreement on a clear commitment on a 2030 outcome to halve the footprint of production and consumption and ensure we are within environmental boundaries in the Global Biodiversity Framework at CBD COP15 would be another important step.

- The fact that the National Pathways for Food Systems Transformation by 2030 will be strongly linked to the UN Sustainable Development Country Cooperation Frameworks. Therefore, reaching across the UN System and creating synergies between the UN Food Systems Summit’s follow-up processes, in particular the implementation of the National Pathways, with the One Planet Network Global Strategy on SCP as well as the Rio conventions, will further accelerate the implementation of the environmental dimension of Sustainable Development in the context of the Decade of Action, and help to ensure the uptake of a more systematic approach to fostering sustainable consumption and production patterns.