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One Planet Network's Sustainable Food Systems Programme

21st MAC meeting (virtual)

5 July 2022

Draft summary report

Summary of main discussion points, outcomes and decisions:

- The MAC discussed the draft concept note for the **4th global conference of the SFS Programme**. It welcomed the new version and discussed additional elements to be included or further strengthened, such as: the possibility that the conference could take stock of the recommendations of the last conference and develop a series of new ones; share experiences of good practices with regards to National Pathways; strengthen the health dimension in discussions; and address also the bottlenecks and barriers to transformation [see 3.1]. In this context, the MAC was also briefed that the Food Systems Coordination Hub is interested in co-organizing the 4th global SFS Programme conference and make use of it to prepare for the 2023 Stock-Taking Moment [see 3.3.1].
- **The Co-Leads will be establishing a broader organizing committee.** MAC members that are interested and have the necessary capacity to support the organization of the conference both financially or in-kind, **are invited to express their interest to the coordination desk** [see 3.1].
- The MAC received **progress updates of the SFS Programme working groups** (“mainstreaming SFS”; “supporting national pathways”; “supporting coalitions”; and “Community of Practice on Food Systems Approach on the Ground”) [see 3.2]. Some of the next steps include:
- WG “mainstreaming SFS”: preparing a spreadsheet for an overview of key policy fora and to collect information on MAC members’ related side events; drafting key messages for inclusion in official outcome documents and to be conveyed through side events and other advocacy activities.
- WG “supporting national pathways”: mapping MAC / SFS Programme members’ initiatives in support of national pathways.
- WG “supporting coalitions”: mapping UN FSS coalitions’ workplans; organizing a roundtable among UN FSS coalitions with the aim to strengthen synergies and reduce duplications, as well as to promote the SFS approach, across coalitions.
- “Community of Practice on Food Systems Approach on the Ground”: adding new cases to the Multi-stakeholder Mechanisms Initiative; leading on the development of a “knowledge hub” on the SFS Programme website, in close collaboration with the coordination desk as well as the other three working groups.
- The MAC received **updates on: the global strategy on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)** [see 2.1] and discussed the **outcomes of recent global policy processes** (UNCCD, Stockholm+50, etc.) as well as opportunities for advocacy and outreach in relation to **upcoming key events** (CFS, CBD COP, UNFCCC COP, etc.) [see 2.2 & 2.3].
- The **recording** of the session is available [here](#) (passcode: c6Wp6=\$9).
- The **next MAC meeting is tentatively planned for October or November 2022**, in a virtual format.



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1. Introduction

1.1 Welcome and adoption of agenda

Mr. Roberto Azofeifa, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (Costa Rica), welcomed all participants to the 21st MAC meeting. He then outlined the main objectives of this MAC meeting, which were to collect further ideas for the 4th global SFS Programme conference; provide a progress update on the SFS Programme working groups and discuss how to strengthen them as well as next steps; and discuss further opportunities for outreach and advocacy.

Finally, Mr. Azofeifa presented the draft agenda of the 21st MAC meeting. As there were no comments, he declared the agenda as adopted.

1.2 Adoption of summary report of the 19th MAC meeting

Before going into the content of the 21st MAC meeting, Mr. Azofeifa presented the summary report of the 20th MAC meeting. As there were no further comments by the MAC members, he declared it as adopted.

2. Policy processes and outreach

2.1 Update on the new global SCP strategy

Mr. Jorge Laguna Celis, Head of the 10YFP Secretariat, thanked the SFS Programme for their active engagement in the One Planet Network Forum on the eve of the Stockholm+50 conference as well as in the SCP strategy development process. He informed the participants about the draft strategy's four pillars: promoting SCP as a solution to the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution; enabling transformative changes through multi-stakeholder partnerships in high impact sectors (including food systems); leveraging on the UN system reform, including to strengthen national implementation (link to National Food Systems Pathways); and promoting a global movement for SCP. It is foreseen that the strategy will be finalized and adopted by the 10YFP Board in October 2022, and then submitted to the UNGA 2nd Committee for adoption.

Mr. Laguna Celis highlighted the need to involve relevant coalitions of the UN Food Systems Summit in the implementation of the strategy, and to increase private sector involvement as per the request of the 10YFP Board and other stakeholders. He suggested to focus on a few normative initiatives / tools from the SFS Programme, and involve the private sector to support the implementation / act as a multiplier, e.g. by promoting and making use of guidelines or recommendations.

2.2 Key outcomes of UNCCD COP and Stockholm+50 and what they mean for SFS Programme work and

2.3 Outlook to HLPF, CBD COP, UNFCCC COP and other relevant policy fora

Ms. Martina Fleckenstein, WWF, reminded the participants that the SFS Programme Co-Leads, under the leadership of WWF, co-organized a Food Day at UNCCD COP as well as a one-day event on food systems and diets as part of the OPN Forum ahead of the Stockholm+50 conference. Pointing towards UNFCCC COP, she mentioned that a series of initiatives were under development, including in the area of food and agriculture, water and possibly also biodiversity.

Mr. Laguna Celis highlighted that the [Stockholm+50 outcome](#) contains strong references to food and the need for food systems transformation, in particular in its recommendation 6 "Accelerate system-wide transformations of high impact sectors, such as food, energy, water, buildings and construction, manufacturing, and mobility". He further stressed that the SFS Programme can play an important role in



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drafting and disseminating key expectations and messages in preparation of upcoming policy events (through its WG on Mainstreaming SFS).

Mr. Patrick Mink, Federal Office for Agriculture, Switzerland, highlighted that the draft [HLPE Ministerial Declaration 2022](#) contained two entire paragraphs on food systems, including on the UN Food Systems Summit and its follow up processes, the need to promote holistic and multi-stakeholder approaches to build sustainable and resilient food systems, and to sustainably transform food systems in line with the 2030 Agenda, the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement, as well as the CBD and its upcoming post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Several participants shared information on their advocacy plans around key policy fora:

- IFAD will have its own pavilion in the context of UNFCCC COP, and has been involved in the development of different side event proposals.
- IPES-Food is a co-organizer of different food-related pavilions at UNFCCC COP and has applied for an own side event.
- The SFS Programme co-leads, through Costa Rica, have submitted a joint proposal with UNEP, UN Nutrition and other partners, for a side event at UNFCCC COP.
- FAO is involved in a series of side events. They will get back to the Co-Leads on possible collaborations with the SFS Programme.

Ms. Azofeifa thanked all MAC members for their valuable contributions, stressing the opportunity for the SFS Programme to achieve a stronger impact through strengthened coordination of such advocacy events. The WG on Mainstreaming SFS will play a key role in this regard.

3. Issues related to programme management

3.1 The 4th global conference of the SFS Programme

Mr. Mink reminded the participants about the main points discussed during the last MAC meeting, and then introduce the new version of the draft concept note, highlighting the main changes / additions:

- “Transformative approaches / actions” included as main focus
- Proposed tentative dates: March / April 2023
- New section on background, including references to the Stockholm+50 outcome calling for a review of the economic system and adopting new measure of progress
- Inclusion of a new proposed topic / session on metrics to measure the transformation towards sustainable food systems
- Inclusion of short session descriptions and potential speakers

Further, Mr. Mink added that the Co-Leads have started to reach out to potential host countries and key partners, in particular:

- Initiated outreach to Vietnam, but still waiting for a formal reply
- Coordination Hub interested in the conference, and has already provided some comments on the draft concept note, including:
 - Make countries / National Convenors and ecosystem of support / coalitions central to the conference
 - Strengthen health dimension in addition to sustainability
 - Include discussion on how to address the current massive wave of malnutrition
 - Discuss on how to include food systems in the official agenda of UNFCCC COP28
 - Supportive of the idea to bring in a capacity building element
 - “Walk the talk” by being inclusive of speakers / knowledge / science from indigenous people, the Global South, women and youth experts, etc.



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Mr. Mink's presentation was followed by break-out group discussions¹ with the following guiding questions:

- What could be the key outcome of the conference? What does the SFS Programme want to influence, and how can the conference succeed in doing so?
- Does the concept note (i.e. overall theme, session topics & descriptions, format, etc.) add value / stand out with respect to other events?
- Do the proposed session topics allow to include recent issues of concern such as the consequences of the pandemic or the effects of the Ukraine war? Are there any additional topics that should be covered or covered separately, and who would be important speakers to involve?

The MAC welcomed the new version of the concept note and discussed the following elements for inclusion or to be further strengthened:

- The conference should help maintain the momentum created by the Summit and contribute towards the UN FSS Stock-Take in 2023;
- To prepare for the Stock-Take, the conference should be used to showcase some of the progress regarding National Pathway implementation, including examples of good practices from national governments, how actors from the ecosystem of support are supporting them, and where the new global SCP strategy may support that implementation;
- In addition, a number of **areas** were discussed **for inclusion** in the conference programme, including a need to:
 - discuss how crises (e.g. COVID-19, climate change, biodiversity loss, energy, etc.) can be used as opportunities to transform food systems;
 - focus on the role of local authorities and sub-national food systems;
 - strengthen the health dimension (not only food safety but also nutrition and health of food systems workers, etc.) in discussions;
 - include also a discussion on how to make food systems more resilient;
 - discuss what kind of trade is needed to achieve sustainable food systems; and
 - cover also food from water, in addition to food from land / terrestrial food systems;
- In terms of **key outcomes**, the MAC discussed that the conference:
 - could take stock of the recommendations of the last conference and develop a series of new recommendations (including concrete recommendations on including food systems in ambitious climate and biodiversity strategies);
 - should clarify what transformation means, and what type of transformation is required to achieve sustainable and resilient food systems (including on the socio-cultural dimension, in addition to the environmental socio-economic dimensions);
 - should identify the bottlenecks and barriers to transformation (e.g. conflict; dependency on inputs / raw materials; current trade regimes; social norms; etc.) as well as the levers / accelerators to overcome them, at global, regional, national and local level;
 - could further strengthen the messaging around the need to break silo thinking and to develop coherent and holistic policies, as well as to manage trade-offs, including through inclusive and participatory approaches.

¹ In addition to their verbal contributions, MAC members had the opportunity to provide written comments through the online "mural" tool:

<https://app.mural.co/invitation/mural/sfsprogramme6280/1657012525618?sender=u975604ff85faf49894d46289&key=1e093fc0-e4b5-41d3-b93d-4bcc10e1eee5>



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Mr. Mink thanked all participants for their valuable contributions. In terms of next steps, he proposed that:

- The Co-Leads will analyze all the feedback received and use it for the further development of the concept note.
- The Co-Leads will continue to reach out to potential host countries.
- The Co-Leads will be establishing a broader organizing committee.
- MAC members that are interested and have the necessary capacity to support the organization of the conference both financially or in-kind, are invited to express their interest to the coordination desk.

3.2 The SFS Programme working groups

Ms. Fleckenstein reminded the participants that during its last meeting, the MAC discussed the workplans of the three working groups and adopted them in principle, while requesting to further strengthen their focus and to ensure coordination across working groups. In this context, she highlighted that in the meantime, the co-facilitators of the working groups as well as the Community of Practice in Food Systems on the Ground (CoP-FSAG) held a joint meeting, where they discussed cross-working group coordination and joint activities. The latter include a joint calendar of key events, as well as an interactive “knowledge hub” based on the SFS Programme tools under the leadership of CoP-FSAG.

Ms. Fleckenstein then invited the co-facilitators of the three working groups plus CoP-FSAG to provide brief updates on main developments since the last MAC meeting, as well as planned next steps:

WG “Mainstreaming food systems and sustainable food systems approach”, Joyce Njoro (IFAD)

The WG has initiated work on generic draft key messages, which can then be used to develop specific messages / wording targeted at different key policy fora such as CFS, UNFCCC COP, CBD COP. In addition, the WG has decided to create a spreadsheet, with the aim to obtain an overview of side events being organized by MAC members in the context of such policy fora. The idea is that the spreadsheet will be regularly populated with information collected from MAC members, and MAC as well as further SFS Programme members will be invited to make use of the key messages, by promoting their uptake in formal outcome documents on the one hand, and conveying them through their side events and other advocacy activities on the other hand.

WG “Support National Pathways”: José Valls (FAO)

The WG has put its main focus since the last MAC meeting on mapping activities in support of National Pathways implementation. A short form was developed in order to collect information on such activities, starting with the members of the WG itself. In a next step, the document will be shared with the MAC to collect further information on National Pathway support from SFS Programme members. Both the results of the mapping as well as the learnings obtained through the mapping process could feed into the 4th global conference of the SFS Programme.

WG “Support UNFSS coalitions”: Marcela Navarro (Project X)

The organization of a roundtable with UN FSS coalitions remains one of the key activities of the WG. The WG co-facilitators have discussed that it would make sense to conduct it as part of the 4th global SFS Programme conference. In exchanges between the SFS Programme and the Food Systems Coordination Hub, the Hub has expressed that it sees a role for the SFS Programme and this WG in helping promote synergies and reducing duplications across the coalitions, in addition to promoting the sustainable food systems approach. As a next step, the WG will map the UN FSS coalitions’ workplans against each other.



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CoP-FSAG: Carmen Torres (UNEP)

The CoP-FSAG collaborates closely with the other WGs and in particular the WG on National Pathways, including by adding further cases to the Multi-stakeholder Mechanisms Initiative and by leading on the development of a “knowledge hub” on multi-stakeholder collaboration on the SFS Programme website, in close collaboration with the coordination desk and the other three working groups of the SFS Programme. Other priorities of the CoP-FSAG include a study on how food systems governance can contribute to resolve the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and the development of an e-learning course on food systems as part of the “Shift” project.

When closing this agenda item, Martina will highlight that the 4th global conference will be the next key milestone for the SFS Programme, and that all working groups should proactively plan their activities and contribute towards that milestone.

3.3 UN FSS follow-up processes

3.3.1 Areas of collaboration with the Coordination Hub

Ms. Fleckenstein reminded participants that during the last MAC meeting, Ms. Lina Mahy from the Food Systems Coordination Hub presented the Hub’s governance structure and main functions, and mentioned some areas where the Hub may benefit from additional support from initiatives like the SFS Programme, which included:

- connecting country needs with expertise from coalitions;
- maintaining the momentum and keep the national dialogues active;
- demonstrating the food systems approach’s benefit through pilot interventions around thematic areas (e.g. linking food systems with climate, health and biodiversity issues);
- ensuring a results oriented Stock-Taking Moment of 2023

Building on this, in the meantime the Co-Leads have had follow-up discussions with the Coordination Hub in order to further clarify the role of the SFS Programme as part of the Hub’s “ecosystem of support”, and how to collaborate. Ms. Fleckenstein then invited Ms. Mahy to brief the MAC on what was discussed with the SFS Programme Co-Leads in terms of collaboration.

Ms. Mahy explained that in June, the Coordination Hub has organized two major focus meetings among coalitions as well as between coalitions and National Convenors. These meetings have shown that there currently is some overlap across the UN FSS coalitions, and that it is challenging for National Convenors keep track of the different coalitions. In this context, she confirmed that SFS Programme’s WG on Coalitions could play an important role in supporting the Coordination Hub by mapping the activities of the different coalitions and organizing a roundtable with a view to promote synergies and reduce duplications among the coalitions.

Ms. Mahy further announced that the Coordination Hub will collaborate with the Co-Leads and other partners as a co-organizer of the 4th global SFS Programme conference with a view to prepare for the 2023 Stock-Taking Moment, while reiterating the need to use the conference as a capacity building opportunity for National Convenors on the food systems approach.

Finally, Ms. Mahy informed that a new colleague seconded from WFP is now working on National Pathway implementation at the Coordination Hub, and that it may be useful for the SFS Programme’s



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WG on National Pathways to connect with her. With regard to the “knowledge hub” being developed by the CoP-FSAG, she suggested that this be linked to the Coordination Hub’s “solutions library”.

In closing this agenda item, Ms. Fleckenstein expressed her satisfaction about the fact that the collaboration between the Hub and the SFS Programme is effectively taking shape, and that the 4th global conference of the SFS Programme will be part of the process leading the first UN FSS Stock-Take.

3.3.2 The special projects of the Coalition on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems (HDSFS)

Ms. Fleckenstein will give the floor to Ana Islas Ramos (FAO), to briefly present two so-called “special projects” of the Coalition on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems, namely:

- Food-based dietary guidelines
- Nationally Determined Contributions

In her intervention, Ms. Islas Ramos focused on how these two special projects contribute towards mainstreaming the food systems approach in the areas of nutrition, on the one hand, and climate change on the other hand.

When closing this session, Ms. Fleckenstein pointed out that it could be interesting for the other UN FSS coalitions to learn about this approach of the HDSFS coalition, including possibly through the roundtable that is planned by the SFS Programme’s working group on supporting coalitions.

4. Next meeting and any other business

4.1 Next MAC meeting

The next MAC meeting is tentatively planned to take place virtually in October or November 2022. The Co-Leads will send out a doodle in order to find a suitable date and time.

4.2 Any other business

As no further points were raised, Ms. Fleckenstein thanked everyone for their active participation and closed the meeting.



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Annex 1: List of participants

Organization / country	Participant	E-mail address
Government agencies		
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Elise Golan	egolan@oce.usda.gov
Civil society organizations		
Emirates Environmental Group	Habiba Al Marashi	eeg@emirates.net.ae
World Benchmarking Alliance	Carla Hommes	c.hommes@worldbenchmarkingalliance.org
WRAP	Ffion Batcup	ffion.batcup@wrap.org.uk
Scientific and technical institutions		
ENEA	Milena Stefanova	milena.stefanova@enea.it
INRAE	Allison Loconto	allison-marie.loconto@inra.fr
IPES-Food	Emile Frison	e.frison@cgiar.org
IPES-Food	Molly Anderson	mollya@middlebury.edu
UN agencies and other international organizations		
FAO	Divine Njie	Divine.Njie@fao.org
FAO	Ana Islas Ramos	ana.islasramos@fao.org
FAO	José Valls	Jose.Valls@fao.org
FAO	Siobhan Kelly	Siobhan.kelly@fao.org
FAO	Jacopo Schuerch	Jacopo.Schuerch@fao.org
IFAD	Joyce Njoro	j.njoro@ifad.org
UNDP	Pascale Bonzom	pascale.bonzom@undp.org
UN Environment Programme	Marina Bortoletti	Marina.Bortoletti@un.org
UN Environment Programme	Carmen Torres	carmen.torresledezma@un.org
Private sector		
Project X	Marcela Navarro	MN@projectxglobal.com
Observers		
Global Nature Fund	Marion Hammerl	marion.hammerl@bodensee-stiftung.org
IFOAM – Organics International	Gábor Figeczky	g.figeczky@ifoam.bio
Nestlé	Helen Medina	Helen.Medina@nestle.com
Coalition on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems	Naoko Obara	obaran@who.int
Guest speakers		
Food Systems Coordination Hub	Lina Mahy	mahyl@who.int
Coalition on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems	Jessica Pullar	pullarj@who.int
One Planet network / 10YFP Secretariat		
10YFP Secretariat (UN Environment)	Jorge Laguna Celis	laqunacelis@un.org
10YFP Secretariat (UN Environment)	Branislav Mizenko	branislav.mizenko@un.org
Co-Leads		
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería, Costa Rica	Roberto Azofeifa	razof@maq.go.cr
Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG, Switzerland	Patrick Mink	patrick.mink@blw.admin.ch
WWF	Martina Fleckenstein	mfleckenstein@wwfint.org
WWF	Michael Mulet	michael.mulet@wwf.de