

One Planet Sustainable Food Systems Programme

14th MAC meeting (teleconference)

11 March 2020

Summary report

Summary of main discussion points, outcomes and decisions:

- It was agreed that the Coordination Desk will **review the criteria for partner applications**, and present a proposal to the MAC. Any pending applications will be put on hold in the meantime, so that they can be assessed against the reviewed criteria prior to the next MAC meeting.
- The Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock has been endorsed as a **new affiliated project**, bringing the total number up to 49
- The **2021 UN Food Systems Summit**: the MAC was informed that the SFSP-Food Systems Summit Core Group had the occasion to brief the Summit Secretariat about the SFS Programme, its tools and the 3rd global conference in November.
- The SFS Programme aims to link its **3rd global conference** in November to the process for the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, possibly through a regional consultation. The MAC also provided input for the further elaboration of the agenda for the 3rd global conference.
- The MAC discussed **collaboration across the One Planet network**, in particular with the CI-SCP and SPP Programmes as well as in the context of the network-wide initiative on plastics.
- The core initiative “Setting the table for our children” announced that they will be organizing a series of local/national level food summits in Bolivia, Indonesia, Uganda and Zambia.
- The **next MAC teleconference** will take place in June or early July 2020.
- The **next face-to-face MAC meeting** will be organized back to back with the 3rd global conference in Bangkok, in November 2020.

1. Introduction

1.1 Welcome and adoption of agenda

Mr. Alwin Kopse, *Federal Office for Agriculture (Switzerland)*, welcomed all participants to the 14th MAC meeting. He then outlined the main objectives of this MAC meeting, which were to provide further guidance on how to position the SFS Programme vis-à-vis the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit; facilitate an initial discussion on a rough draft agenda for the 3rd global conference; have a strategic discussion on core areas for the SFS Programme's workplan; and get an update on the ongoing work of the SFSP, including core initiatives, working groups and cross-programme collaboration.

Finally, Mr. Kopse presented the draft agenda of the 14th MAC meeting. As there were no comments with regards to content, he declared the agenda as adopted.

1.2 Adoption of summary report of the 13th MAC meeting

Before going into the content of the 14th MAC meeting, Mr. Kopse presented the summary report of the 13th MAC meeting. As there were no further comments by the MAC members, he declared it as adopted.

2. Issues related to governance and membership

2.1 New Programme partners

Mr. Michaël Sapin, *Federal Office for Agriculture (Switzerland)*, reminded the MAC that they have been consulted regarding a partner application by Bayer. Through that consultation, while some MAC members have expressed support for the uptake of Bayer, several MAC members have objected to the endorsement of Bayer as a new Programme Partner.¹ After discussion, it was agreed that the Coordination Desk will review the criteria for partner applications, and present a proposal to the MAC. Any pending applications will be put on hold in the meantime, so that they can be assessed against the reviewed criteria prior to the next MAC meeting. The Coordination Desk will inform Bayer accordingly. In addition, the MAC requested the Coordination Desk to ensure that the information in all partner applications is complete.

3. Issues related to programme implementation

3.1 Strengthening synergies, partnerships and collaborations

3.1.1 New resources and affiliated projects

Mr. Sapin informed the MAC members that since the last MAC meeting, one new affiliated project proposal was submitted to the Coordination Desk, which evaluated and shared it electronically with the MAC. As no written objections were received prior to the teleconference, FAO's submission "Global Agenda of Sustainable Livestock" has been endorsed as a new affiliated project, bringing the total number up to 49. In addition, Mr. Sapin mentioned that three further proposal were submitted by FAO recently, to be dealt with electronically following the MAC meeting.

The Coordination Desk will request access to the shared document space on the SFS Programme website, for all MAC members who may not currently have access.

¹ Concerns were notably voiced with regard to the alignment with the SFS Programme's objectives, as well as reputational risks.

3.1.2 UN Food Systems Summit 2021

Mr. Kopse reminded the MAC that since their last meeting, the UN Secretary General appointed Agnes Kalibata as the Special Envoy for the 2021 Food Systems Summit. The Special Envoy is currently defining the process and the governance structure for the Summit. From discussions so far, it seems that there will be an advisory committee, a science committee and a champions groups. Mr. Kopse further reminded the MAC that at their last meeting, it was agreed to align the work of the SFS Programme with the Food Systems Summit, and that the 3rd global conference should be contribute to the Summit preparation process. To ensure such alignment, a small “Summit Core Group” has been established, comprising the Co-Leads and a group of MAC members that are close to the Summit process.² Mr. Kopse then invited Jamie Morrison (FAO) to share the main discussion points from the first Summit Core Group call with the MAC, and to provide any possible updates on the preparatory process for the Summit.

Mr. Morrison highlighted that over the past months, the Special Envoy has been engaging in broad consultations, including with a series of leaders in Davos in January, with member states of the Rome-based UN Agencies (RBAs), the CFS Secretariat, the Farmers’ Forum, WEF and the WBCSD in Rome in February, as well as a series of individual countries and organizations. The RBAs will support the Special Envoy’s Secretariat. While the aim was to have the structure and process in place in the coming weeks to be able to organize the first meeting of the advisory committee in the end of March, this will now likely have to be postponed due to the Coronavirus crisis. For the time being, the process will likely still evolve around the five broad objectives that were already presented in the last MAC meeting.³ It is foreseen to make use of a series of key events for the preparations of the Summit, such as the Conferences of Parties of the Convention of Biodiversity and well as the UNFCCC, and there will be a series of regional consultations as well as a pre-summit. On the occasion of their first call on February 18th, the Summit Core Group had an opportunity to brief Adam Gerstenmier, Ms. Kalibata’s Chief of Staff, about the SFS Programme, its tools and the 3rd global conference in November, highlighting that a regional consultation could be linked to the SFS Programme conference.

Margarita Astralaga (IFAD) added that the Special Envoy has recently released a video message on the way forward towards the Summit (see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvccIUtCtOY>), and that IFAD will support the Secretariat financially.

Sean de Cleene (WEF) underlined that the SFS Programme can play an important role in the framing of the Summit, including through the SFS toolbox.

In the discussion that followed, MAC members stressed the need for inclusiveness in the consultation process. When closing the discussion, Mr. Kopse thanked all the speakers and highlighted that the Co-Leads will continue to liaise with the Summit Secretariat to ensure the SFS Programme will be involved in the process, including through the Summit Core Group.

3.1.3 Third Global Conference of the SFS Programme

Mr. Kopse informed the MAC that since their last meeting, an organizing committee has been established and initiated the preparatory work. FAO has reached out to the Thai government regarding their possible hosting of the conference, and Thailand has agreed in principle to host the conference. They are currently discussing of the modalities, including the exact dates, etc. Mr. Divine Njie (FAO) added that the Director General of FAO had an exchange with Thailand’s Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives on the subject of the conference, where they discussed that the profile of the conference should be raised.

² FAO, IFAD, WEF and UNEP

³ Affirming the centrality of food systems to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda; aligning stakeholders involved in food systems transformation around a common practical framework; strengthening evidence and developing tools for decision makers to make choices on trade-offs; promoting a science-policy interface on food systems; and accelerating multi-stakeholder actions at different levels.

Mr. Patrick Mink, *Federal Office for Agriculture (Switzerland)*, provided an overview of the organizing committee’s main activities so far, highlighting that the committee decided to establish two sub-committees – a scientific sub-committee and a champions engagement sub-committee – and has discussed an initial rough draft conference agenda. The scientific sub-committee will advise the organizing committee on the quality of the different contents and organize a dedicated session discussing how science can inform transformative change. The champions engagement sub-committee will identify and engage change agents from all stakeholder groups, with an emphasis on governments, private sector leaders, and youth, both as speakers/panelists during the conference and to raise awareness on the conference in their own networks. Mr. Mink invited MAC members interested in joining either sub-committee to express their interest to the Coordination Desk following the meeting. He then introduced the main elements of the rough draft agenda, as an initial basis for discussion, underlining the following points:

- “Five Years in – Achieving the SDGs through Food Systems Transformation” as possible title.
- Proposal to include a consultation for the 2021 Food Systems Summit with a regional focus;
- Collaboration with the Food Systems Dialogues to have an FSDs session during the conference;
- Thematic sessions according to priority topics from outcome document of the 2nd global conference, plus a scientific track.

In the ensuing discussion, the following points were raised:

- Frame the session on “holistic policies” in way that it allows also for discussion of coherent and mutually supportive sectoral policies.
- Ensure participation of experts in relation to sustainable food systems and climate change.
- Include a space to allow the host country to organize an exhibition.
- Consider reviewing the sequence, e.g. have the regional consultation at the end, while moving the FSDs to the beginning - before the thematic sessions but after the scientific track.

Before closing the session, Mr. Kopse clarified that the exact scope of the regional segment / consultation will depend on the process for the 2021 Food Systems Summit that should become clearer, soon. All comments are noted and will be considered by the organizing committee for the further conference agenda.

3.1.4 One Planet network cross-programme collaboration

Mr. Michael Mulet, *WWF*, introduced the following two collaboration proposals:

- *Sustainable Public Procurement Programme*: to form a cross-programme module focusing on inclusive public procurement; addressing food loss and waste through procurement; addressing health, well-being and educational benefits; and circular food systems. The aim would be to produce decision trees, guidance principles, training kits, etc.
- *Consumer Information Programme*: invited to organize a session on behavioural change during the 3rd global SFS Programme conference.

MAC members interested in joining the proposed cross-programme module on public procurement in the food sector were invited to express their interest to the Coordination Desk following the meeting.

Mr. Mulet then reminded the MAC of the One Planet network-wide initiative on plastics, and invited Gina Torregroza from the Secretariat to give a quick update on the overall process. Ms. Torregroza informed that a cross-programme working group has been established, and that Rosa Rolle (FAO) is representing the SFS Programme in that group. The working group has decided to focus on guidance regarding packaging. More information on the One Planet network-wide initiative on plastics is available here: <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/one-planet-network-wide-plastics-initiative>

Ms. Rolle then introduced the concept notes for the two sections that will be elaborated by the SFS Programme – one focusing on incentivizing businesses and one with guidance on sustainable use of plastic packaging - and invited interested MAC members to join the task team to support the drafting of the two sections.

3.1.5 *Other outreach efforts and opportunities for collaboration*

Mr. Kopse provided a short debrief about the event that Switzerland organized during the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in January 2020. He highlighted that thanks to the WEF and the good collaboration with the Food Systems Dialogues (FSD), it was possible to reach out to many actors that the SFS Programme has not been engaging with so far, especially from the business community. Agnes Kalibata, Special Envoy for 2021 Food Systems Summit, participated in the event, reminding the audience of the urgency to take action to achieve the SDGs in the 10 years that are left until 2030, and stressing that the 2021 Summit aims to bring together key actors and initiatives to accelerate the transformation.

More information on the event can be found here: <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sfs-programme-and-un-special-envoy-draw-path-towards-2021-un-food-systems-summit>

The report of the FSD session is available here: https://foodsystemsdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/FSDs_Summary-Report_Davos_200122_UPLOADED200219.pdf

In terms of upcoming opportunities, Mr. Mulet then mentioned the EAT Stockholm Food Forum (9-11 June; entitled "Committing to the Decade of Transformation") and the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (7-16 July; entitled "Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development", with a dedicated session on "Ending hunger and achieving food security for all").

Before closing this item, Mr. Mulet invited all MAC members to inform the Coordination Desk in writing about their participation, planned side events and/or opportunities for collaboration in upcoming events.

3.2 *Issues related to programme management*

3.2.1 *Workplan: outcomes of results chain exercise*

Mr. Mulet provided an overview of the document «Outcomes of results chain exercise», focusing on the new activities. In the discussion, Jonathan Mockshell (CIAT) underlined that CIAT is also doing some work on mapping of national SFS-related policies and strategies, and Marina Bortoletti (UN Environment) agreed to follow up on this with CIAT.

When closing the discussion, Mr. Mulet stated that the Coordination Desk will include these new activities in the revised SFS Programme workplan.

3.2.2 *Core Initiative implementation*

Mr. Mulet presented an overview of the activities that were reported by the core initiative leads through the One Planet network's annual reporting. Subsequently, the following four SFS Programme core initiatives presented recent achievements:

Setting the Rble for our children (Nout van der Vaart, *Hivos*)

Mr. van der Vaart explained that Hivos will be co-organizing a series of four local/national level food summits between March and June 2020, in Bolivia, Indonesia, Uganda and Zambia. These are learning events to explore and further document the results of the past four years of work in promoting a systems approach to food policy making with local and national stakeholders in those countries. SFS Programme members are invited to get engaged in these events.

Organic food systems programme (Jostein Hertwig, *Beras*)

Mr. Hertwig informed about the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that was supported by this core initiative, between the Asian Local Governments for Organic Agriculture (a regional body of IFOAM – Organics International) and the International Network of Ecoregions. Through the MoU, the two bodies aim to share knowledge and experiences, and to invite other local governments of the world

(Africa, Americas, and countries in Oceania and the Pacific Islander Countries and Territories) into the cooperation network and to form an example of a dynamic global organic food system.

Delivering SDG Target 12.3 on Food Loss and Waste (FLW) Reduction (Rosa Rolle, FAO)

Ms. Rolle reminded the MAC that the aim of this core initiative is to address knowledge gaps, developing capacities, and promoting awareness and advocacy to reduce food loss and waste. She further informed that the core initiative is aligning its objectives with recent resolutions of FAO⁴ and UNEP⁵, as well as the UN General Assembly's decision in December 2019 to designate 29 September as the International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste. In particular, FAO and UNEP were invited to facilitate the observance of this International Day. Ms. Rolle suggested that an SFS Programme task team could be set up to support this.

3.2.3 *The SFS Programme task forces and other working groups*

Roberto Azofeifa, *Ministry of Livestock and Agriculture (Costa Rica)*, invited the following work stream leads to provide a brief update on progress since the last MAC meeting.

TF2: Community of Practice on Food Systems Approach on the Ground (Marina Bortoletti, UN Environment)

Ms. Bortoletti provided an account of a Sustainable Food Systems Roundtable that this group organized in Kenya in November 2019, and announced two upcoming webinars: Food Systems and Climate Change (UNEP and CIAT); and Systemic Approach to Food Policies and Strategies (UNEP and FAO).

TF3: Information, knowledge and tools (Allison Loconto, INRAE)

The task force is working on a conceptual framework for the development of a guide for choosing the adequate tool to measure specific sustainability aspects. The aim is to present this work at the 3rd global conference of the SFS Programme, and to finalize a publication for the 2021 Food Systems Summit.

Occupations and skills atlas (Nicola Jenkin, Pinpoint Sustainability)

Ms. Jenkin introduced a concept note for the development of an Occupations and Skills Atlas, inviting interested MAC members to get engaged. The aim of the Atlas will be to provide an overview of the jobs and skills that are essential to make food systems more sustainable, in the form of an online tool. The idea is that for each occupation, there will be a job description and possible pathways.

3.2.4 *The SFS Toolbox*

Mr. Mulet presented a timeline for the finalization of the SFS Toolbox and provided an update on the ongoing call for case studies. It is foreseen to present the different components of the toolbox – including glossary, case studies, collaborative framework and e-learning tool – during the 3rd global conference of the SFS Programme.

3.3 Issues related to communication

3.3.1 *Communication updates*

Samantha Webb, *10YFP Secretariat*, provided an overview recent communication updates, in particular the recent revamp of the One Planet network website. A new section on News & Stories was added, where members can themselves include information about upcoming events and webinars, etc. The website has had 13,000 visitors in February 2020, more than twice the number of the previous year.

⁴ See FAO Conference resolution 11/2019 in: <http://www.fao.org/3/na421en/na421en.pdf>

⁵ See UNEA resolution 4/2: <http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/28499/English.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y>

In this context, Mr. Mulet highlighted the need for strategic content planning and quality control, and invited MAC members to join a repurposed task force 1 that will serve as an “editorial team” for content quality assurance. Among other things, the editorial team will support and implement the SFS Programme’s new communication strategy, brand guidelines, and graphic editable resources.

4. Next MAC meeting and any other business

4.1 Next MAC meeting

Mr. Azofeifa informed the MAC that the next MAC teleconference will take place in June or early July. The Coordination Desk will circulate a doodle to define the exact date.

The next face-to-face MAC meeting will be organized back to back with the 3rd global conference in Bangkok, in November.

4.2 Any other business

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

Annex 1: List of participants

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