



OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR THE UNITED NATIONS FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT

Information Note

UN commits to ensuring inclusive preparations for the Food Systems Summit to be convened by the Secretary-General in 2021.

Consultations have begun in preparation for the Secretary-General's Food Systems Summit, planned for late 2021. The Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Food Systems Summit, Dr. Agnes Kalibata, has committed to lead an extensive consultation process, with the full support of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), to ensure that the Summit is a success. Director-General Qu (FAO), President Hounbo (IFAD) and Executive Director Beasley (WFP) have committed the resources and outreach of their organizations to the Special Envoy.

The Food System Summit will be a key contribution to the Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The 2030 agenda is our roadmap to end poverty, rescue the planet and build a peaceful world; and the Decade of Action calls on all development actors to accelerate sustainable solutions to the world's biggest challenges to meet our global goals.

Success in transforming food systems over the next decade will help eradicate rural poverty; end hunger and all forms of malnutrition; improve health outcomes and gender equality; protect the planet's biodiversity and land, soil, fish, forest, water and marine resources and ecosystems; build resilience to climate change; and support sustainable peace through agriculture and food systems, particularly where the development of agriculture and natural resources may drive or exacerbate the risk of conflict. Transformed food systems will deliver a crucial boost to the delivery of all SDGs.

A broad coalition is needed to address the deep-rooted challenges in how our food is produced, processed, marketed and consumed. Common ground must be found across all groups that impact on food, including governments, farmers, civil society, the private sector and indigenous peoples.

The Summit will offer a catalytic moment for large-scale public mobilization and actionable commitments to make food systems sustainable, climate adapted, resilient and to the benefit of all. To support this infusion of ambition and action, the Summit will bring together evidence and experience to build pathways for change. Knowledge, policy options and tools, and partnerships will be developed to help countries and stakeholders manage trade-offs and unleash the benefits of food systems for all.

The Special Envoy, supported by FAO, IFAD and WFP and other stakeholders, will begin to engage with the Member States of the United Nations, the EU and other multi-stakeholders to establish agile and innovative consultations, including regional consultations, guided by a multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee presided by the UN Deputy Secretary-General Ms. Amina Mohammed. A Scientific Committee is responsible for bringing the foremost scientific evidence to bear on the Summit and to ensure the robustness and independence of the science underpinning dialogue of food system policy. A Champions Group will be the third pillar of the preparations to harness the widest possible support for the Summit. An innovative outreach process will draw in as broad a range of constituencies as possible.

Dr Agnes Kalibata was designated Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on 16 December 2019 to provide leadership, guidance and strategic direction of the Secretary General's Food System Summit, to be held in late 2021. She will head a Secretariat based in Nairobi, with certain work undertaken in Rome and New York. The Special Envoy will be in Rome on 10 February 2020 to meet with the Permanent Representatives of the Member States of the three Rome-based UN Agencies and other relevant stakeholders.

For queries, contact spokesperson@unfss.net

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