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Input into 2021 HLPF Thematic Review Expert Group Meetings

- Greening food production and managing food demand are crucial for meeting the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals agenda.
- We need global action that recognises food's central role in the success of existing conventions such as on climate and biodiversity.
- We must reset our food system toward farming with nature, not against her. For all our sakes. The crucial thing for genuine sustainability is that farming works in harmony with nature. I've seen this for myself and walked with farmers all around the world. And the great thing about regenerative, restorative agriculture is that it doesn't need lots of money spent on expensive equipment or chemicals.
- Industrial agriculture is a major driver of wildlife declines, of deforestation and soil degradation.
- Far from sparing land for nature, the reality of intensive farming is that farmland continues to expand, encroaching on the world's last remaining wild lands.
- Globally, 40 per cent of our entire grain harvest is fed to industrially reared animals. If fed directly to people, it could sustain an extra four billion of us.
- We will realise the SDGs by reconnecting food production and nature through regenerative, agroecological farming combined with more balanced diets.
- We need business, finance, governments, the UN and civil society, to work in partnership to transform the food system.
- We need measurable targets for the reduction of industrial livestock products, and diversification of protein offerings into plant-based, fermentation and cellular meat alternatives. As Chatham House put it, 'to prompt shifts in consumer food choices, away from the most resource-intensive meat products and towards more sustainable alternatives'.^[1]
- We need the financial sector to ensure that agricultural funding is only available to support the transition toward nature-positive practices.
- Governments need to create policy environments for change to steer food and farming to this new nature-friendly era.
- And with the Covid 19 pandemic in mind, we need to seize the moment to also reset the way we view and treat animals, both farmed and wild.
- The more research and investment focused on developing the full range of meat alternatives, the greater potential we have to transform our current factory farm-dominated meat industry into one that is humane, healthy and sustainable.

^[1] Froggatt, A. & Wellesly, L., 2019. Meat Analogues: Considerations for the EU. Chatham House: London. <https://reader.chathamhouse.org/meat-analogues-considerations-eu#>
