



**ECOSOC
Partnership
Forum**



2024 ECOSOC Partnership Forum

30 January 2024

SDG Action Segment

Goal 2 - Zero Hunger

04:15 PM – 05:15 PM
ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ

Speakers

Organized by **Food and Agriculture
Organization of the United
Nations, Children and Youth Major
Group, Science and Technology
Major Group**



SDG Action Segment for Goal 2 – Zero Hunger

30 January 2024, 4:15 – 5:15 PM

ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Part of the 2024 ECOSOC Partnership Forum

Dr. Stefanos Fotiou

Director, FAO Office of Sustainable Development Goals & UN Food Systems Coordination Hub



Stefanos Fotiou is an accomplished expert on sustainable development currently serving as Director of the Office of Sustainable Development Goals in FAO. Under this capacity he is also serving as Director of the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub. Prior to joining FAO, Stefanos served 16 years in the UN Secretariat, including 6 years as Director in the Environment and Development Division of the UNESCAP as well as 10 years in the UNEP. Before joining the UN, he worked for the private sector and academia on issues of regional sustainable development. Throughout his career, Stefanos has taken leading roles in serving international UN

fora and platforms, has conceptualized and led the development of regional and national strategies on sustainable development and his work has been published and referenced. He holds a PhD in Natural Resource Economics, a Master of Science in Forestry and Natural Environment and a Master of Science in Information Systems.

Dr. James Hansen

Senior Research Scientist, IRI, Columbia University



James Hansen is a Senior Research Scientist at the Columbia Climate School International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), where he has worked since 1999. With a background in Agricultural Systems, his work at IRI aims to strengthen the use of climate information for smallholder agriculture and food security in the developing world. His current work focuses on climate risk management curriculum to strengthen the capacity of current and future agricultural professionals in sub-Saharan Africa.

Dr. Hansen served on the leadership team of the CGIAR research program on Climate, Agriculture and Food Security

(CCAFS), leading its Flagship Program on Climate Services and Safety Nets from 2009 to 2019. Climate Services and Safety Nets Flagship contributions during this period supported several million smallholder farmers in Africa, Latin America and Asia to access and use improved climate information; equipped African National Meteorological Services to provide locally useful climate information with complete national coverage; expanded the suite of available index-based agricultural insurance solutions; advanced knowledge of agricultural climate service good practice; and deepened the evidence of livelihood and food security impacts of climate services and climate risk management.

Web of Science has recognized Dr. Hansen with a Highly Cited Researcher award since 2020. He holds a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Biological Engineering from the University of Florida, and an M.S. in Agronomy and Soil Science and B.S. in General Tropical Agriculture from the University of Hawaii.

Shreyaa Venkat

World Food Forum Youth Policy Board and founder/CEO of the NGO NEST4US



Shreyaa Venkat is a 21-year-old senior at Georgetown University pursuing a bachelor's and accelerated master's degree in Global Health. She's also the founder and CEO of the nonprofit NEST4US, which was formed as a philanthropic platform built upon kindness, generosity, and social good. Through five core programs that address over 14 SDGs, her team of 7,000+ volunteers has contributed over 4.5 million dollars in value of volunteer hours and impacted tens of thousands in 30 countries across 6 continents.

Through her philanthropic work, Shreyaa engages people of all demographics through a wide array of global service campaigns that support causes ranging from global hunger, social justice, and mental health to quality education, poverty, and climate action. Over the past 13 years, she has contributed 5,500+ hours of service transforming countless lives by utilizing multifaceted approaches to advance social progress at the local, national, and global levels.

Additionally, Shreyaa serves as a leader in manifold capacities by representing organizations such as the United Nations, Clinton Foundation, FAO World Food Forum, Points of Light, Chegg, Giving Tuesday, Rileys Way Foundation, YOUNGA, Victoria's Secret PINK, ICANHELP, Rare Beauty, Good Deeds Day, Global Peace HQ, Youth Service America, etc., driving comprehensive grassroots reform by working with change agents at all levels. Currently, she is pursuing a career in healthcare policy, combining her passions for health equity, climate activism, and volunteerism to aid marginalized communities worldwide.

Elizabeth Nsimadala

Ugandan young agriprenuer and smallholder farmer, President, Eastern Africa Farmers Federation, Board member of the World Farmers Organisation (WFO)



Elizabeth is a Ugandan young agriprenuer and a smallholder farmer. She is the President of the Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF) since 2017, Africa representative on the board of the World Farmers Organisation (WFO), board member and past President at the Pan Africa Farmers Organization (PAFO).

Elizabeth serves as a member of the COP 28 Presidency Food Systems Reference Group, is a task force member for AU-EU Cooperation in Agriculture and sits on the FAO Global Steering Committee for Forest Farm Facility. She is the Vice President for Africa for FAO One Country One Priority, serves on the board of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), is a member of the steering committee of Pan Africa Agribusiness Chamber (PAAAC) and sits on the Technical Committee for Common Africa Agricultural Industrial Parks (CAAPS) by the Africa Union Commission (AUC).

Elizabeth holds a MSc. in Project Planning and Management from Ndejje University, Uganda (2016) and a B.A. in Social Sciences from Makerere University Kampala, Uganda (2006). She is a passionate cooperator and small holder farmer who has been at the fore of climate change discourse and championing digitalization of the agriculture sector through the EAFF farmers' owned E-granary mobile initiative that virtually aggregates farmers for input, services and output markets and is noteworthy for her advocacy for inclusivity through a gender and youth strategic focus.

Edna Ogwangi

Chief Programs Officer, Rise Against Hunger



Edna Ogwangi leads Rise Against Hunger's development around strategic efforts in advancing food security, humanitarian relief response and resilience pathways. She spearheads initiatives for measuring effectiveness, impact and sustainability of all Rise Against Hunger programs globally. A native of Kenya, Edna has worked in international development for 25+ years in the areas of economic development, food and nutrition security and non-profit management. She has contributed to U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Bill and Melinda Gates programs in more than 100 countries. Edna holds a Bachelors in Agricultural Economics and a Masters in International Development and Administration from Andrews University.

Muhammad Sarim Raza

Youth Activist, Act4Food Act4Change



Sarim is the founder and coordinator for the UNCTAD Youth Action Hub in Pakistan, which is Pakistan's first youth run policy think tank.

He is also a youth leader for the Act4Food Act4Change movement, which is a global youth movement pushing for sustainable food system reforms.

As a youth entrepreneur, he founded and successfully scaled two innovative ventures: Mawesh E-Mandi, an agritech platform that enhanced the capabilities of smallholder farmers in Pakistan, and Retex, a sustainable textile sourcing platform that bolstered textile SMEs in developing economies. He is currently based in New York, and is pursuing an MPA at the Columbia School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA).

Joseph Bangura

Youth Activist/ Rapporteur for SDG Action Segment Goal 2, Major Group for Children and Youth



Joseph Bangura is a youth activist and was a television presenter on the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation Television (SLBC TV), a media advocacy network championed by youth for youths in Sierra Leone. He is the founder and CEO of The Adjustment City organization in Sierra Leone. This is a community-based organization aiming to address issues and advocate for underrepresented communities in Sierra Leone. He's a Youth Ambassador and Activist at the International Youth Conference Organization in the United States and a member of the UN Major Group for Children and Youth.