Background on the event (one paragraph)

Amid global efforts to achieve SDG2, challenges like climate change, conflicts, and pandemics have intensified inequalities, particularly affecting youth in low and middle-income countries. The 2023 Global Hunger Index (GHI) underscores the urgent need to meaningfully engage youth in shaping sustainable food systems. Despite their potential to drive innovation, youth face limited participation in decision-making processes that impact their future. The 2023 GHI emphasizes investing in youth capacity beyond 2030 for inclusive food systems and attractive livelihoods.

Key Issues discussed (5-8 bullet points)

- **Inadequacies in Current Food Systems Approaches**: Recognition of the limitations in existing food system paradigms, emphasizing the need for transformative change.
- **Youth Empowerment and Accountability**: Acknowledgment of youth as key advocates for achieving progress for sustainable food systems and the imperative role they play in holding decision-makers accountable.
- **Challenges in Meaningful Youth Inclusion**: Including tokenistic engagement, systemic barriers, and the need for a shift towards genuine youth empowerment and co-leadership.
- **Success Examples and Initiatives**: Showcasing successful initiatives, such as the World Food Forum, EU’s Climate Ambassadors program, youth parliaments, and training programs, emphasizing the importance of a mix of experiences and knowledge transfer.
- **Strategies for Integration and Innovation**: Promoting diverse youth perspectives through awareness campaigns, participation mechanisms, and the incentivization of technological innovations.
- **National Efforts and Global Collaboration**: Importance of creating enabling environments and leveraging South-South and triangular cooperation for youth empowerment.
- **Concrete Action Points for SDG2**: Emphasizing legislative agendas, economic incentives, recognition of efforts, and the need for infrastructure improvement for effective advocacy and education.

Key recommendations for action (5-6 bullet points)

- **Enhanced Youth Empowerment**: 
Prioritize genuine empowerment of youth beyond symbolic inclusion, providing equal opportunities, and investing in capacity-building programs.

**Accountability Mechanisms:**
- Strengthen accountability at all levels by encouraging youth activism and demanding commitments from governments and the private sector. Implement transparent monitoring mechanisms for sustained progress.

**Transformative Education:**
- Advocate for a shift in education towards sustainable development, fostering awareness, and incorporating innovative approaches that align with the evolving needs of food systems transformation.

**Inclusive Policy-Making:**
- Promote legislative agendas and inclusive regulations that consider youth and marginalized communities, ensuring their representation in decision-making processes related to food systems.

**Global Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing:**
- Encourage international cooperation, including South-South and triangular conversations, for youth to share knowledge, experiences, and innovative solutions. Establish platforms and mechanisms to facilitate cross-border collaboration in addressing challenges related to youth empowerment in food systems.