

Report of the Secretary-General “Towards the achievement of sustainable development: implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through sustainable consumption and production, building on Agenda 21”

Draft Outline

I. Introduction

In its resolution 78/151 of 14 December 2023, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, with a particular focus on the state of play with regard to sustainable consumption and production and the application and promotion thereof, taking into account the impacts of, response to and recovery from COVID-19, and to recommend concrete actions to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in this regard.

In the same resolution, the General Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, the sub-item entitled “Towards the achievement of sustainable development: implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through sustainable consumption and production, building on Agenda 21”.

Recognizing the interdependence of human rights and promoting policy coherence:

The COVID-19¹ pandemic has demonstrated the interconnectedness of policy sectors as well as of human rights, and the persisting necessity to promote policy coherence² among sectors among national health, food security, environmental protection, employment and economic development.

The international human rights framework lies at the core of the 2030 Agenda. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) General Comment 12³ define the right to adequate food exists “*when every man, woman and child, alone or in community with others, have physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement*”.

Right to Food Guidelines: In 2004, FAO adopted the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, or Right to Food Guidelines (RTFG), and has supported its Members in their implementation ever since. The RTFG represent the first global attempt by governments to interpret the implementation of an economic, social, and cultural right, providing 19 practical recommendations for the realization of the right to food. They also guide and underpin the programme of work of the reformed Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

As of today, some 45 countries⁴ worldwide have adopted constitutional provisions that take a human rights-based approach, and a higher number of countries has been setting right to food

¹ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/7e2f2e59-78f6-4a76-af7d-59a524e258e6/content>

² <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/8455afd6-47de-4faa-b1af-68b267ddcb1a/content>

³ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/general-comments-and-recommendations/ec1219995-general-comment-no-12-right-adequate-food>

⁴ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/d9353b00-987c-4cee-a522-329cfd05390e/content>

objectives in sectoral legislation, institution-building, and capacity development processes led by academia networks⁵, often with the assistance of the FAO. On a local level the Canton of Geneva passed a constitutional amendment to include the right to food and civil society organizations adopted Geneva Right to Food Manifesto⁶. An innovative and encompassing process at global level with ramifications at local level is the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact⁷ signed by over 280 cities.

II. Promoting sustainable consumption patterns for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on Agenda 21

A. Follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

This section will provide an overview of the status 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, built on Agenda 21, which recognizes that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

According to FAO Flagship publication the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI), since 2019, the number of undernourished people has surged by 120 million, with an alarming projection of 600 million individuals projected to be chronically hungry by 2030. Furthermore, over 3.1 billion people are unable to afford a nutritious diet, while the hidden cost of our agrifood systems amounts to at least 10 percent of our global Gross Domestic Product (GDP), of which 73 percent are attributed to unhealthy diets.

Globally, agrifood systems contribute substantially to environmental degradation, accounting for up to one-third of all greenhouse gas emissions, consuming 70 percent of freshwater resources and the leading driver of biodiversity loss.

The 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report has identified agrifood systems as one of the key accelerators for the SDGs, due to its catalytic and cross cutting potential. Agrifood systems stands as the world's largest economic system, measured in terms of employment, with 1.23 billion people employed in agrifood systems. Livelihoods, for 3.83 billion people worldwide live in households linked to agrifood systems based activities.

Agrifood systems at global, national and local levels do not achieve the desired results in terms of climate, environment, human health and social welfare. Increasing food production is no longer the only issue, the goal is to increase access to food and, more specifically, how to increase access to healthy, nutritious, sustainably produced and culturally acceptable food.

From 2021 to 2022, hunger decreased in Asia and in Latin America, but is still on the rise in Western Asia, the Caribbean and all subregions of Africa. It is projected that almost 600 million people will be chronically undernourished in 2030, pointing to the immense challenge of achieving the SDG target to eradicate hunger. This is about 119 million more than in a scenario in which neither the pandemic nor the war in Ukraine had occurred, and around 23 million more than if the

⁵ <http://www.oda-alc.org/>

⁶ [https://assets.website-files.com/650880761ca75e8ba886bdaa/6539edbec9cb136a1e2c44c9_A5%20manifesto%20cibo%20\(1\).pdf](https://assets.website-files.com/650880761ca75e8ba886bdaa/6539edbec9cb136a1e2c44c9_A5%20manifesto%20cibo%20(1).pdf)

⁷ <https://www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org/>

war in Ukraine had not happened. Most progress is expected to occur in Asia, whereas no progress is foreseen in Latin America and the Caribbean, and hunger is projected to increase significantly in Africa by 2030 (FAO, SOFI 2023)

About 80 percent of the world's extreme poor reside in rural areas and most rely, at least in part, on agriculture and natural resource-based livelihoods, often having to cope with limited access to often degraded resources. The incidence of extreme poverty in rural areas is three times higher than in urban areas (UNDESA, 2021).

Agrifood systems are responsible for up to 80 percent of biodiversity loss. Of some 6 000 plant species cultivated for food, fewer than 200 contribute substantially to global food output, and only 9 account for 66 percent of total crop production (FAO, 2019). Agriculture accounts for up to 70 percent of total freshwater use and 80 percent of all deforestation, while more than a quarter of the energy used globally is dedicated to food production and supply (FAO, 2016).

Achieving sustainable development requires addressing intersectional inequalities that profoundly impact food security. Women, who play crucial roles in agriculture, food production, and nutrition, face a higher prevalence of food insecurity than men globally. In 2022, 27.8 percent of women faced moderate or severe food insecurity compared with 25.4 percent of men. This gender disparity underscores the need to integrate gender equality into efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve food security as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (FAO et al., 2023).

B. Sustainable Consumption and Production

Taking into account the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic, this section will focus on the central role of Goal 12 on sustainable consumption and production as a cross-cutting goal supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, recognizing that eradicating poverty, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development.

It will refer to progress achieved in making fundamental changes in the way societies consume and produce goods and services through the transition to sustainable economic and business models that promote sustainable consumption and production patterns as well as enabling policies, policies, frameworks, partnerships, technological innovation and instruments that improve resource efficiency and the sustainable management of natural resources, including water-use efficiency, reduce waste, promote life-cycle approaches, encourage approaches such as the circular economy, life cycle and other approaches, ass appropriate and taking into account national circumstance and capacities, enable consumers to make sustainable consumption choices, mainstream sustainability practices, encourage sustainable and environmentally sound bio-based products and increase resilience across all sectors of the economy, which will contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 12. It will also take consider the important role of private sector in prompting and utilizing sustainable practices.

It will also explore sustainable consumption and production approaches, in which products and materials are designed in such a way that they can be reused, remanufactured or recycled and therefore retained in the economy for as long as possible, along with the resources of which they

are made, the generation of waste is avoided or minimized, and greenhouse gas emissions are prevented or reduced.

Sustainable production

The gap in access to suitable financial services represents a critical barrier to the capacity of rural MSMEs and small-scale farmers to increase their production in a sustainable and scalar manner. Data from the SME Finance Forum (2024)⁸ shows that 41 percent of MSMEs in developing countries (131 million in absolute terms) have unmet financial needs, with a gap in unfulfilled financing estimated at USD 5 trillion, or 1.3 times the current levels of lending. This represents a critical missed opportunity that prevents MSMEs, among many other things, from investing in climate-smart production technology, acquire the necessary working capital to run their business effectively, or develop over time a savings buffer that would allow them to weather macro-level crises (such as extreme natural events). The financial inclusion gap affects in particular entrepreneurs belonging to already marginalized categories, such as youth and women, further exacerbating their vulnerability profile and the bottlenecks they face in increasing their production capacity in a sustainable manner.

In recent years, a range of financial services specifically tailored on the needs of rural MSMEs and small-scale farmers have been developed with the specific objective of supporting sustainable production. One such example are dedicated credit products that aim at facilitating the purchase on the part of small-scale farmers of renewable energy equipment for agricultural production, such as solar-powered water pumps or refrigeration systems. These credit products are accompanied by substantial capacity building aimed at enhancing farmers' capacity to make proper use of the purchased asset, and their overall terms (e.g. repayment schedule, interest rates) are tailored on the profile of the borrowing farmer and the specific crops he/she cultivates. Another important innovation in this sense is index-based insurance, i.e. insurance products whose payouts to farmers are triggered automatically once a threshold is crossed on the measurement of a specific index (e.g. rainfall, wind strength), and which do not require farm-level inspections on the part of an insurance actuary to determine damage and eventual payout. This type of insurance is in most cases complemented by training and capacity building provided to farmers on climate-smart and resilience-building practices, such as the use of drought-resistance seeds and the construction of small dams. In specific instances, such as in the case of the WFP's Rural Resilience Initiative, farmers' participation to these practices is counted as their contribution to the premium (i.e. the cost of insurance to the farmer) (Benni, 2021).⁹ Another example consists of tailored credit products for rural women entrepreneurs that are meant to facilitate their capacity to invest in resilience-building assets (e.g. drought-resistant seeds), and which make use of alternative collateral as guarantee for the loan. As women tend to have lower rates of access than their male counterparts to traditional assets that financial institutions demand as collateral, such as land titles and house deeds, these credit products accept a range of movable assets as collateral that are usually more available to women entrepreneurs, such as livestock units and jewelry (FAO, 2019)¹⁰. A last relevant example is the experience of rural credit programmes targeted at small scale producers such as the Brazilian "Programa Nacional de Fortalecimento da Agricultura Familiar – PRONAF".

⁸ SME Finance Forum. 2024. *MSME Financing Gap*. Washington, D.C. U.S.A.

⁹ Benni, N. 2021. *Protecting livelihoods: Linking agricultural insurance and social protection*. Rome, FAO

¹⁰ FAO. 2019. *Women's access to rural finance: Challenges and opportunities*. Rome, FAO

Climate change is one of the greatest threats to human rights of current and future generations, posing a serious risk to the right to adequate food for individuals and communities. Despite their key role in agrifood systems, small-scale producers receive only 1.7 percent of global climate financing¹¹, with most funding devoted to climate mitigation rather than adaptation efforts. In 2023, the UNSG Report on the Adverse impact of climate change on the full realization of the right to food expressly referred in Paragraph 32 to the importance of this method to tackle the climate crisis and to the array of international policy tools and platforms available for policy makers and all stakeholders that promote **agroecological knowledge** and skills as part of the global response to climate change impacts of agrifood systems. The FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031¹², adopted in June 2022, highlights FAO's vision for agrifood systems that are sustainable, inclusive, resilient and adaptive to climate change and its impacts and contribute to low-emission economies while providing sufficient, safe and nutritious foods for healthy diets, as well as other agricultural products and services, for present and future generations, leaving no one behind.

In accordance with international human rights law, States are required to take active measures to prevent and minimize the exposure of individuals and communities to hazardous substances¹³. Taking a human rights-based approach to pesticide management guarantees the principles of universality and non-discrimination and ensures that decisions on pesticide management are human-centered. It also seeks to prevent harm and create dynamics of accountability by reinforcing the capacities of governments to protect and guarantee the human rights implicated by the manufacture, sale, and use of pesticides and by ensuring that due diligence is required of pesticide-related businesses to respect human rights.

Embedding a human rights-based approach in agrifood systems transformations means, among other things, pursuing sustainable production practices and sound management of plant health. Plant health, if managed adequately and based on integrated pest management (IPM) practices, is paramount to achieve more inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems that will support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food for all and other interconnected human rights and the specific collective and customary rights of Indigenous Peoples. The use of IPM has successfully reduced pesticide use and improved yields, food quality and incomes for millions of farmers. Providing farmers with access to resources including local supplies of well-adapted and good-quality seeds and planting materials helps to prevent the spread of pests and diseases. Protecting soils and attending to nutrient and water availability to crops produce healthier plants that are more resilient to pest and disease attacks. In addition to IPM, holistic approaches such as agroecology, which seeks to apply ecological principles to agriculture, and ancestral practices and traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, which relies on the conservation of biodiversity for food security and nutritional diversity, provide for sustainable solutions to ensure plant health and agricultural production, in a way that advances the enjoyment of all human rights.

Right to Food and responsible governance of natural resources: Access to forests and other natural resources and the right to adequate food are intimately related. Analyzed through the lens of the

¹¹ https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/42157470/climate-finance-gap_smallscale_agr.pdf/34b2e25b-7572-b31d-6d0c-d5ea5ea8f96f?t=1605021452000

¹² <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/331de79f-cb7d-4550-85ff-f95f379c78e6/content>

¹³ A/74/480, Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes.

right to food, Countries have obligations in their natural resources governance, including to respect existing access to productive resources; to protect people from being deprived of that access, including by other actors such as the private sector; and to fulfil their obligations by investing the maximum of their available resources to strengthen people's access to and utilization of resources and means to sustain their livelihoods. Moreover, as reflected in the 'Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security'¹⁴, recognition of customary and collective rights to natural resources can improve access to resources and secure livelihoods for the most vulnerable including local communities and Indigenous Peoples.

Enhancing land tenure security or the quality of property rights is widely acknowledged as a crucial factor for improving food security. Land tenure security is central to many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Land tenure security is explicitly mentioned in Goal 1, Target 1.4; Goal 2, Target 2.3; and Goal 5, Targets 5.A.1 and 5.A.2. Secure access to natural resources is also contributing to SDG 12, and in particular target 12.2 on sustainable management and use of natural resources.

Strengthening land tenure security provide greater certainty for land owners and users to make investments that can boost food production. Often, household food production is the sole source of food and nutrition. Insufficient access to land (including landlessness), inequality in land distribution, and lack of means to access land can pose significant threats to the realization of the right to food. In the absence of legal recognition, legitimate tenure rights holders lack access to a range of public service entitlements, such as formal credit, insurance, crop-loss compensation, minimum support price, fertilizer subsidy, loan waivers, and direct cash transfers.

When land tenure is secure, right holders are more likely to invest in long-term sustainability measures, such as soil conservation, reforestation, and sustainable agricultural practices. This investment can lead to improved land productivity and resource conservation. They are more likely to adopt practices that maintain or enhance the land's value over time. For example, farmers may implement crop rotation, agroforestry, or organic farming techniques, knowing they will benefit from these practices in the long run. Clear and equitable land tenure reduces conflicts over land and resources, while disputes over land use can lead to overexploitation and degradation of natural resources.

Secure tenure systems help ensure that land is managed according to agreed-upon rules and regulations, promoting cooperation and sustainable management. Inclusive tenure systems that recognize the rights of women, indigenous peoples, and marginalized communities contribute to broader-based sustainable development. These groups often possess traditional knowledge and practices that support sustainable resource management. Land tenure systems that enforce sustainable land management practices help prevent land degradation. This includes preventing deforestation, overgrazing, and unsustainable agricultural practices. Policies that promote sustainable land use can be more effectively implemented when tenure is secure.

Secure land tenure is crucial for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Landholders with secure rights are more likely to engage in activities such as afforestation, reforestation, and sustainable land management practices that sequester carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, secure tenure enables communities to adapt to climate change by adopting

¹⁴ <https://www.fao.org/4/i2801e/i2801e.pdf>

resilient land use practices. Secure and equitable land tenure systems provide the necessary conditions for tenure rights holders to invest in and adopt sustainable practices, reduce conflicts, ensure equitable access to resources, and support broader environmental and economic goals.

The central role of SDG 12 in the 2030 Agenda is pivotal for eradicating poverty, promoting sustainable patterns, and managing natural resources, achievable through innovative policies, programmes and projects that enhance resource efficiency, promote sustainable agricultural mechanization, and foster a circular bioeconomy.

SDG 12 is closely linked to SDG 5, which focuses on gender equality, highlighting that sustainable practices, such as agroecology and equal access to technology and services are tied to empowering women. Women face higher food insecurity than men, with 27.8 percent of women experiencing moderate or severe food insecurity in 2022 compared to 25.4 percent of men. The COVID 19 pandemic has worsened these inequalities, especially in rural areas, due to limited access to resources and opportunities. Addressing these disparities is essential for sustainable development.

One significant project illustrating these efforts is "Empowering Women in Food Systems and Strengthening the Local Capacities and Resilience of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)." Implemented during the COVID 19 2020-2021 in Barbados, St. Lucia, Palau, Samoa, Comoros, and Cabo Verde, this project aimed to create gender-sensitive and climate-resilient value chains. It improved productivity and service quality in the fisheries and poultry sectors, supported farmers with better services and equipment, and engaged individuals in global knowledge exchange webinars. In Comoros, the project supported women develop business plans, established cooperatives, and launched a virtual platform to improve access to financial services. Cabo Verde saw the creation of a Gender Equality Strategy for the Fishery Sector, while Palau benefited from the establishment of a Slow Food Community and a heritage food database.

Building on these successes, new projects are scheduled to be launched in 2024. The "Empowering Women in the Agrifood Systems of Palau" project aims to merge traditional agricultural practices with sustainable tourism, creating high-value economic opportunities for women by connecting traditional farming methods to eco-tourism. Another initiative, "Innovative Gender Responsive and Transformative Approaches for Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable Agrifood Systems," uses a circular bioeconomy approach to convert fish waste into high-quality silage, turning environmental challenges into economic opportunities for women. This project will build women's capacities through training in advanced fish waste processing techniques, quality assurance, and market engagement strategies.

FAO also highlighted the link between gender and agroecology, which aims to foster farming systems that are not only environmentally sustainable but also economically viable and socially equitable. The Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation (TAPE) incorporates gender sensitive indicators. The evidence gathered from Lesotho, Argentina and Cambodia underscores the transformative potential of agroecology in advancing gender equality and empowering women.

Similarly, FAO is actively supporting policies and projects that focus on promoting women's empowerment through sustainable mechanization. The Gender and Youth pillar of the Framework for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa is a basis to enhance this line of work, while projects in Benin and Nepal have focused on developing business models that enhance women's

skills and income generation through access to labour, saving equipment and enhanced business skills.

Sustainable Consumption:

Consumer protection and consumer rights: Collaboration with consumer organizations globally is fundamental to building an environment where consumers have the access, means, motivation and competences needed to practice and demand healthy diets, strengthening actions for food security, nutrition, sustainable agriculture and agrifood systems transformations. FAO and Consumers International, the global umbrella group representing more than 200 consumer organizations, joined forces to collaborate¹⁵ under a Memorandum of Understanding in pursuance of a common vision towards agrifood systems transformation to end malnutrition including through campaigns to raise awareness among consumers in Fiji, to promote healthy diets in Ivory Coast, to improve nutrition food labelling and to facilitate widespread public consultations to drive participation in public discourse in Brazil. FAO published a collection¹⁶ of experiences by consumer organizations regarding food issues, facilitates networking, partnerships, and the exchange of knowledge, skills, strategies and good practice for the realization of the right to food.

School-feeding: Identified as core to the future of dialogue around agrifood systems transformations, school feeding raises the nutrition standards of whole generations, and if linked to sustainable and inclusive local production, can raise living standards, incomes, self-sufficiency, and resilience. School-feeding is also a clear example of how human rights are interconnected: they safeguard children's rights to food, education, and health and are a powerful tool for ending child labour, especially in agriculture, protecting children from exploitation. The Government of Brazil has been heavily involved in South-South and triangular cooperation conducive to the realization of the right to adequate food in recent years. Based on its own national experience consolidated over many decades, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) led efforts towards establishing "sustainable School Feeding Programmes within the context of the human right to food¹⁷" in dozens of countries across the globe. School feeding sectoral laws were adopted in Brazil, Latin American and Caribbean Parliament, Capo Verde, India and Bulgaria.

Territorial markets: FAO developed and published a comprehensive methodology¹⁸ for the mapping of territorial markets where smallholder farmers mostly operate. The methodology was used to conduct mapping processes of territorial markets in several countries – including Malawi, Paraguay and the United Republic of Tanzania. In the context of disrupted food supply chain during the pandemic of COVID-19 many countries developed local initiatives to establish direct market linkages between small-scale producers and urban consumers, as in Guatemala and Uganda. The Ministry of Agriculture in South Korea has developed an online trading platform that directly linked smallholder producers with consumers to ensure market access to the farmers, and fresh produce to urban consumers, while civil society was also cooperating closely with local governments to provide assistance, including food, to those in quarantine. In China, 'vegetable basket' product supply bases set up around large and medium-sized cities are providing nearby support for farmers.

¹⁵ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/6a7b8b74-be1e-4ba9-abae-52c9c33debbd/content>

¹⁶ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/773b0e7e-bc28-4501-a53c-4df5599f8fd5/content>

¹⁷ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/d9353b00-987c-4cee-a522-329cfd05390e/content>

¹⁸ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/f91a4a93-a592-4e60-96a7-da2abbcb65b1>

Inclusive participation: The RTFG encourage member countries to promote inclusive participation, including of vulnerable and marginalized people, in economic policy decisions as well as in the institutions responsible for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of those policies, plans and programmes. Inclusive and participatory approaches are fundamental to the legitimacy and implementation of policies and programmes related to the aspects of the right to food.

Uncertainty, crises and change: A stronger HRBA, including through more human rights risk analysis, would contribute to supporting community resilience during conflict and crisis, supporting rehabilitation and reintegration, fostering social cohesion and reducing conflict drivers (e.g. around access to natural resources). The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the need to address structural inequalities in agrifood systems and worker precariousness, as well as the need to facilitate safe transactions and protect producers' access to production inputs and support services. Finally, the crisis called for human rights-based emergency legislation and policy measures to promptly reduce the risk of food shortages, and disruptions in agri-food supply chains. The latter is crucial to guaranteeing expanded coverage of social protection and food assistance, as well as food transportation, production and trade and to allow freedom of movement of agricultural and food workers, while taking measures to ensure their health and safety.

The public institutions governing the agrifood system are today charged with the challenging task of designing and financing policies for complex 'wicked problems' caused by several interconnected and multifaceted factors. These problems are difficult to define, not static and range from climate change, malnutrition, rural poverty, food insecurity, inequality, and biodiversity loss. The urgency of these problems calls for a departure from incrementalism and an impetus for policy levers that will lead to real transformational change. Influenced by evolving socio-economic, environmental, and political-economy circumstances, solutions, for now, will also be complex, and will need to cut across many disciplinary, sectoral, and institutional habits and boundaries. Ultimately, there is no single actor that, alone, can resolve all the challenges faced, or leverage the opportunities available, meaning that any policy pathway on agrifood systems transformation needs to put collaboration at its core. For the public sector this will require a departure from the traditional, linear and siloed policy-cycle to new institutional capabilities that equip policymakers with the tools to develop strategic and agile multistakeholder-led designed and managed policies.

The problems facing the agrifood systems cut across disciplinary, sectoral, and institutional boundaries, and are influenced by changing socio-economic, environmental, and political circumstances. No one actor can solve these challenges alone, and given the complexity, governments are calling for support with new forms of governance that can enhance synergies in implementing solutions that maximize the co-benefits to all segments of the agrifood system. In this regard multistakeholder partnerships at global, regional, national and local levels are important entry points.

Cities and local governments are at the forefront of the global shift towards sustainable food systems. By working in collaboration with national governments, cities can play a pivotal role to influence policies, programs and actions that address local concerns while contributing to broader sustainable consumption and production patterns. Numerous cities have already embarked on initiatives, such as formulating local food policies, establishing governance structures for food systems, and developing food systems strategies. However, especially in low and middle-income

nations, there remains untapped potential for cities to significantly contribute to sustainable consumption and production goals.

Globally, approximately 13 percent of the food produced for human consumption, valued at USD 400 billion, is lost annually between harvest and retail, while another 19 percent is wasted at the retail and consumer levels. Food loss and waste (FLW) imposes a significant burden on achieving sustainable development. It contributes to food insecurity and malnutrition, greenhouse gas emissions, environmental pollution, degradation of natural ecosystems, biodiversity loss, and waste of resources, such as agricultural inputs, energy, water, and land, that are used in food production.

Reducing FLW is integral to achieving SDG 12.3, which aims to halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains by 2030. In addition to SDG 12, improvements to agrifood systems that reduce FLW can contribute to many other SDGs.

United Nations Development Systems' support for the implementation of SDG 12.

This sub-section will provide concrete examples of actions and initiatives being taken across the UN system in support of the implementation of the present resolution.

It will also include commitments and initiatives that provide tools for action on sustainable consumption and production, such as the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns and its new Global Strategy on Sustainable Consumption and Sustainable Patterns.

The United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019 – 2028 (UNDFFF) aim is to provide a clearly defined cohesive framework to develop, improve and implement public policies and investments in support of family farming, with a view to accelerating efforts and fostering additional commitments in line with the transformative ambitions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the decade of action to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals.

The support provided to family farmers through the framework of the Decade touched on many of the Sustainable Development Goals. It included securing family farmers' access to natural resources, productive inputs and tailored services (Sustainable Development Goal 2); supporting family farmers in coping with crises and creating income generation opportunities (Goals 1 and 10) and decent jobs, in particular for young people (Goals 8 and 9); promoting sustainable territorial development that integrates urban and rural areas (Goal 11) and climate-resilient agrifood systems (Goals 2, 12, 13, 14 and 15); ensuring a voice, recognition and an enabling environment for family farmers through extensive dialogue, awareness-raising and capacity development (Goals 5, 10, 16 and 17); and reinforcing family farmers' organizations to deliver tailored and inclusive rural services (Goals 3, 4 and 6).

In the context of pillar 6 of the UNDFFF Global Action Plan, devoted to the promotion of climate-resilient agrifood systems, 47 countries undertook actions to promote the transition towards more sustainable agrifood systems, leveraging the potential of family farmers to manage natural resources and care for the land and environment. In 39 countries, enhancements of synergies and

the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices such as regenerative agriculture, the use of biotechnology in organic farming and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, to improve the productivity of key crops for food security and reinforce the role of family farmers in achieving that, have been observed (A/78/233).

FAO and its partners are working together to support the public sector adopt innovative policymaking skills and institutional adaptations in order to create agile policy processes capable of responding to the challenges facing the agrifood system. Initiatives include the development of a guide on multistakeholder collaboration for agrifood systems transformation with UNEP and UNDP, developed in collaboration with an international consultative group. The guide provides users with recommendations for different stages and types of collaboration alongside specially selected tools and resources. A forthcoming training targeting the public sector on policymaking for agrifood systems transformation is under development. It will support ministries to design and govern agrifood systems policies that are agile and adaptive to the challenges and disruptions facing modern agrifood systems.

Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Programme as part of the One Planet Network (10YFP), the UN-mandated mechanism to foster Sustainable Consumption and Production (SDG 12).

The SFS Programme is a multistakeholder partnership that aims to accelerate the transformation towards sustainable consumption and production patterns in all areas related to food, with a special focus on promoting a holistic agrifood systems approach in policymaking.

The 10-Year Framework of Programmes and its One Planet network provide a frame and platform for the global, multistakeholder and action-oriented movement needed to achieve the shift to sustainable consumption and production. As part of the One Planet network, the Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Programme is a multi-actor partnership focused on catalyzing urgent transformation towards sustainable agrifood systems, as a critical strategy to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Programme was launched in October 2015, as a multistakeholder programme to promote SCP patterns in the area of food and agriculture. It is co-led by Costa Rica, Switzerland and WWF, with the support of a Multistakeholder Advisory Committee (MAC) with 23 members from five different stakeholder clusters:

- ✓ Government agencies
- ✓ Civil society organizations
- ✓ Research and technical institutions
- ✓ UN agencies and other international organizations (FAO, IFAD, UNDP, UNEP)
- ✓ Private sector

Furthermore, the SFS Programme currently has over 190 partners from all stakeholder groups and around the globe. Through a shared vision of inclusive, diverse, resilient, healthy and sustainable agrifood systems, SFS Programme partners collaborate on joint on-the-ground activities, research initiatives and advocacy efforts in support of more coherent and holistic policies to address complex agrifood systems challenges. To do this, the SFS Programme promotes a ‘systems-based’ approach, which tackles the system as a whole, taking into account the interconnections between the elements and actors of our agrifood systems and the indispensable trade-offs.

The adopted UN Global Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Strategy foresees that the UN One Planet network and the broader SCP community support the UNFSS follow-up process, including through the leadership of the SFS Programme.

The SFS Programme played an active role in the preparatory process of the UNFSS that took place in September 2021. Among other activities, it organized the 4th Global Conference of the One Planet network's Sustainable Food Systems Programme "The Transformation We Need" in April 2023 with more than 350 participants gathered in Ha Noi (Viet Nam) with the aim to make a substantial contribution to the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit's (UNFSS) follow-up process up to 2030. Participants included ministers and vice-ministers from eight countries representing four world regions, other members of the One Planet network, National Convenors and other actors involved in the UNFSS follow-up process, as well as multiple stakeholders from all over the world. The conference built upon the outcomes of the UNFSS, and the expertise and tools of the SFS Programme as well as the outcomes of the Programme's previous three global conferences. In this way, the conference functioned as a major milestone towards the UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment organized in July 2023.

The summit's outcome document contains a series of key messages addressed primarily to high-level political leaders, decision-makers, business leaders, but also to food systems stakeholders at large, who are involved in the development and implementation of national pathways for food systems transformation, including on changing production and consumption patterns.

FAO, along other UN entities, is supporting member states to take concrete steps in advancing towards sustainable consumption and production, in the framework of more sustainable, inclusive, equitable, and resilient food systems, including through supporting the implementation of national pathways and operational plans for food systems transformation (127 countries have developed a national pathway).

In terms of food loss and waste:

- Since 2020, the UN General Assembly designated 29 September as the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, to raise awareness about the problem of food loss and waste (FLW).
- The UN Food Systems Summit in 2021 and its stocktaking moment (UNFSS+2) further raised the profile of FLW reduction as an effective means for agrifood systems transformation and progress on multiple SDGs.
- FAO contributes to strengthening tailored FLW policy, institutional frameworks and strategies to enable agrifood systems actors to reduce FLW, and to raising awareness and capacities of public and private sector actors in FLW.
- FAO developed the Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Waste Reduction, a framework for designing the policies and strategies and institutions to reduce FLW reduction while promoting more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems and achievement of the SDGs.
- FAO hosts the Technical Platform for the Measurement and Reduction of Food Loss and Waste, a global platform for key technical resources to support awareness-raising, capacity building and knowledge exchange on FLW reduction.
- FAO develops methodologies and guidelines to assess the magnitude of FLW and monitor progress in addressing the problem.
- FAO serves as custodian for the Food Loss Index (SDG 12.3.1a) providing updated global, regional and subregional estimates and narratives for the indicator. The Organization assist

countries in measuring and compiling the Index, increasing capacity and ownership on measurement and reporting at national level.

- FAO activities in assisting cities in addressing FLW include developing guidelines and successful practices in managing food losses, food waste, and applying circular approaches; facilitating peer-to-peer learning initiatives in partnership with the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact.

The SFS Programme currently has over 190 members worldwide, bringing together leading organizations from governments, the UN system, civil society, the scientific community, and the private sector.

D. Financing for Development

This section will address the challenges of financing for development as envisaged in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, including financing the shift to sustainable consumption and production.

It will also explore policy options that incentivize and attract private sector finance and adjust national public and private financial systems to mobilize resources for sustainable investment at the national and regional levels.

Access to financial resources is essential to address root causes of poverty across food systems to enable all people to enjoy their right to adequate food and achieve food security. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) issued General Comment 12: The Right to Adequate Food (Art. 11), in 1999, including the definition of the Right to Adequate Food. (RTAF). General Comment 12 recognized the role of financial resources in the realization of the RtAF by securing the “*guarantees of full and equal access to economic resources, particularly for women, including the right to inheritance and the ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technology; measures to respect and protect self-employment and work which provides a remuneration ensuring a decent living for wage earners and their families*”.

There is a significant gap in financing in agrifood systems, which constrains their capacity to transition towards more sustainable production models. There have been estimates of a cost of USD 300-400 billion of additional investment per year to transform agrifood systems.¹⁹ A range of policy and programmatic interventions can prove crucial to narrow this gap:

- **Repurposing current public support:** roughly USD 540 billion a year are provided in public support to producers, equaling 15 percent of total agricultural production value. Over two-thirds of this support is considered price-distorting and harmful to the environment. Furthermore, continuing on this path will generate about 1.8 trillion in costs by 2030 (FAO, UNDP; and UNEP; 2021).²⁰ Additionally, public support to agrifood systems can disproportionately benefit larger, richer farmers, failing to meet stated goals

¹⁹ [https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/docs/unfoodsystemslibraries/fss-community/chapter-2/food-finance-architecture-\(1\).pdf?sfvrsn=ae768a97_1](https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/docs/unfoodsystemslibraries/fss-community/chapter-2/food-finance-architecture-(1).pdf?sfvrsn=ae768a97_1)

²⁰ FAO, UNDP, UNEP. *A multi-billion-dollar opportunity – Repurposing agricultural support to transform food systems*. Rome, Italy

of reducing inequality and increasing income for lower-income households. This makes a very strong case for repurposing public subsidies so that they can provide better incentives to farmers for shifting towards more sustainable, efficient, and resilience-building production practices. Such support could be repurposed to reduce GHG emissions from agricultural production and safeguard biodiversity while improving equity and promoting access to healthier diets. Some of this reallocation needs to take place within countries; some could result from increasing official development assistance (ODA) flows to lower-middle-income (LMICs) and low-income countries (LICs) where little money is available to meet fundamental food security and nutrition investment needs. To be successful, the repurposing process will need to navigate the political economy of policy reform, understanding the trade-offs, winners and losers both nationally and internationally, and undertaking reform in a way that respects principles of a just transition.²¹

- **Capitalizing on climate finance:** the global agrifood system is the recipient of only 4 percent, or approximately USD 28.5 billion, of total project-level climate financing (estimated at USD 660 billion per year). When considering that agrifood systems account for over 40 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, and that the goals of the Paris Agreement cannot feasibly be reached without achieving net-zero emissions in agri-food systems, the need to scale up climate financing towards this sector -on a massive scale- becomes increasingly evident (van Nieuwkoop, 2024).²² Different tools can be used to incentivize the flow of climate finance towards agrifood systems. One key example is the use of green bonds to raise capital on international markets that can be channelled into sustainable and climate-smart investment projects carried out by small-scale farmers. The experience of Mexico's agricultural bank FIRA is indicative in this sense, as this institution has managed to raise more than USD 450 million in capital through three green bond issuances over the past five years, which was mobilized towards a range of projects aimed at fostering the use of sustainable production methods and technologies among farmers (Benni, 2024)²³.
- Mobilizing additional financial investments in agrifood systems, including greater public and private investments and blended finance;
- Fostering sustainability considerations in private finance: while private sector financing is responsible for more than USD 2 trillion per year being channeled into agrifood systems, very little of this capital is mobilized towards sustainable and resilience-building production goals. A report by the World Benchmarking Alliance (2023)²⁴ shows that only a very small share of agrifood companies integrate a comprehensive set of sustainability targets in their investments. In this sense, developing strategic public-private partnerships can prove key in fostering the incentives of the private financial sector to integrate sustainability-linked considerations and metrics in their investments. The Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI) were endorsed by the CFS in 2014. They are a set of ten principles that apply to all types and sizes of agricultural investment including fisheries, forests and livestock. They address all stakeholders and apply to all stages of the value chain. As a soft law instrument they are globally applicable

²¹ FAO. 2024. Repurposing domestic public support to agriculture, Rome, Italy

²² Van Nieuwkoop, M. 2024. *Financing the agrifood system transformation – There is no lack of money to do it*. Washington, D.C., the World Bank

²³ Benni, 2024. *Promoting inclusive green finance in agriculture – Selected case studies*. Rome, Italy

[FORTHCOMING]

²⁴ World Benchmarking Alliance. 2023. 2023 Food and Agriculture Benchmark. Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

and include actions to address a range of environmental, social and economic issues. These principles are crucial to ensure that private investments contribute to sustainable production and consumption.

- Promote a stronger enabling environment for agrifood systems financing: closely connected to the previous point, it is key for policymakers to develop, through a range of policy and programmatic interventions, an enabling environment (at national and regional level) that can incentivize the flow of both public and private financing towards sustainability-linked objectives in agrifood systems. Such interventions can include fiscal policies, border measures, credit market interventions, as well as the establishment of dedicated blended finance funds and facilities dedicated to promoting agrifood investment. One important example in this sense is the AGRI3 Fund, a blended finance facility launched in 2020 in the frame of a partnership between the Dutch Government, Rabobank, and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). The AGRI3 Fund seeks to de-risk and facilitate investment projects fostering sustainable agricultural production and rural livelihoods in developing countries, through a combination of partial credit guarantees, credit enhancements, and technical assistance (Benni, 2024).
- Increase International Development Cooperation/ODA to transform agrifood systems: despite progress, the share of ODA to agriculture and rural development is not commensurate to the importance of those sectors for achieving the SDGs.

Capitalizing on sustainable finance flows and green finance, while leveraging innovative financial instruments presents a promising opportunity to catalyze the transformation of agrifood systems. By directing investment towards sustainable agriculture practices, value-added processing, and distribution infrastructure, and support for smallholder farmers and rural communities, it would be possible to enhance the resilience, productivity, and sustainability of agrifood systems. These financial mechanisms not only provide the necessary capital for critical interventions but also align investor interests with sustainable development objectives. Moreover, by fostering collaboration and partnerships between public and private sector stakeholders, it could amplify the impact of these investments, driving meaningful progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals related to food security, environmental conservation, and poverty alleviation. For example, FAO in 2022, established a Global Food Import Financing Facility²⁵ to address the challenge of rising food import costs, accessible to the most vulnerable countries, i.e. the group of net food importers in the low and low-middle income category. Furthermore, integrating SDG bonds into such initiatives could further mobilize resources and accelerate the transition towards sustainable agrifood systems.

E. Strengthening Science-Policy Interface

This section will assess the current state of scientific knowledge on sustainable development. innovative approaches to sustainability science, digital technologies.

²⁵ FAO

2022, //efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/a9963e35-361b-40b1-aabd-5e961d459b46/content

It will refer to initiatives to harness science, technology and innovation, including new and emerging technologies, including through scaling up the use of open science, affordable and open-source technology, research and development to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals including SDG 12.

It will also explore initiatives from the international community to support developing countries in strengthening their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

Innovation, technology, and digitalization - While the use of new (digital) technologies can improve the lives and livelihoods of people living in poverty or groups driven to vulnerable situation, uneven access to such technologies can exacerbate existing inequalities. Addressing the root causes of poverty, social and financial exclusion, non-participatory decision-making, and limited access to public services such as healthcare and education is essential to prevent innovations from overlooking the needs of groups brought to vulnerable situation or worsening their exclusion. Technology-based interventions can be sure to leave no one behind by being people-centered and rights-based.

Exclusionary factors preventing certain groups from benefiting from innovation and digitalization include weak or lack of financial resources, (digital) illiteracy, codification of knowledge, conflicts over Intellectual Property, the creation of dependencies, discrimination, social exclusion, and digital isolation. They affect particularly people living in poverty or in vulnerable and marginalized situations, including women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, the elderly, people with disabilities, migrants and refugees, and ethnic or other minorities.

The collection and analysis of big amounts of digital data as well as the employment of artificial intelligence leads to a concentration of knowledge and information in the hands of a very few, exacerbating power asymmetries and further undermining the limited agency of groups living in vulnerable situation. Focus on science and technology, money and markets, without also addressing fundamental questions of inequality, accountability and governance can not provide transformative solution to achieve Sustainable Development Goals and particularly SDG 12. FAO adopts a human rights-based approach (HRBA) that will help to ensure that any interventions will be more and more inclusive and thus benefit all fairly, equally and equitably:

- People living in poverty and vulnerable situation should be actively involved in decision-making regarding research, development, and innovation and the design of specific technologies.
- Human rights-based monitoring of technology-based interventions, including the collection of disaggregated data, will ensure that the benefit of making use of technology is measured against its effects on all population groups as opposed to only those in power.
- Technology-based interventions that include a strong governance component, for example regarding property rights, non-discrimination, and accountability mechanisms, will perform better at achieving fair results that leave no one behind.
- Technology should specifically be made available to civil society organizations, human rights defenders, representative of Indigenous Peoples, environmental activists etc. to support their work on securing tenure rights, assisting families in need, and developing capacities and enhancing knowledge in local communities, this includes bringing women and girls and marginalized communities closer to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) training and education.

- Regulations regarding the use of certain technologies and the availability of grievance mechanisms and accountability procedures are necessary to ensure that (digital) technologies are not used by private sector or government actors to damage or suppress certain parts of the population.
- The promotion of technologies involving the collection and exchange of data should be accompanied by awareness raising and capacity development on the importance of responsible treatment of data and data protection.

The FAO Office of innovation through its FutureFood-I Lab, is harnessing foresight to innovate on specific agrifood systems areas (foresight observatory), build foresight capacities for all (foresight academy) to land foresight and innovation outcomes in country decision-making (innovation policy labs), while building a multistakeholder and multinational foresight partnership. The work of the FutureFood-I Lab is closely linked to the Agrifood systems Technology and Innovation Outlook (ATIO) – the FAO new forward-looking publication and a database on science, technology and innovation in agrifood systems. Gender and youth empowerment aspects will be explored starting in 2024.

By harnessing the power of foresight, the FAO has identified key strategies to accelerate the transformation of the agrifood system towards achieving SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production through technologies and innovations. The global synthesis of report “Harvesting change: Harnessing emerging technologies and innovations for agrifood system transformation” identifies several game-changing technologies with high potential to champion SDG 12 within the agrifood system. These include advancements in food waste reduction technologies (e.g. upcycling), new packaging materials resource use, and alternative protein sources that lessen reliance on traditional livestock production. Hence, the solutions are not only technological; policy innovations that bring balance of powers of diverse stakeholders and consumer-to-food social innovations have been found to play a critical role.

Furthermore, the report depicts a future alternative scenario for 2050 of achieved full circularity of the agrifood systems to assist members with a road map on the transitions and policies required achieve this vision from now on: reprogramming research, innovating governance and repurposing investments to ensure a blend of sustainability, efficiency and democratic approaches for technologies and innovations.

F. Partnerships for Sustainable Development

This section will examine the role of multi-stakeholder and cross-disciplinary partnerships as means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

It will refer to partnerships at all levels, including with the United Nations system and international financial system, to advance innovative pathways to achieving sustainable consumption and production.

This section also will refer to partnerships that contribute to resource efficiency, sustainable management of natural resources, reduce waste, and increase resilience across all sectors of the economy, which will contribute to SDG 12 and 2030

It will also address the imperative of leaving no one behind by supporting countries to implement sustainability practices through joint delivery.

The transformation of agrifood systems is a multifaceted and complex endeavor, going beyond changes in agriculture to include other critical areas such as trade, health, environment, gender, education, and infrastructure, among others. Tackling this complexity demands an all-of-society collaborations, and coherence by the mainstreaming of integrated approaches grounded in social, economic, and ecological systems.

A truly inclusive multistakeholder partnerships, mobilizing all actors across the agrifood systems serve as effective means for rallying resources, consolidating expertise, reaching consensus and innovative strategies for the sustainable transformation of our agrifood systems.

The collaborations between UN system entities serve as effective channels for driving systemic transformations for the SDGs. The Rome-based agencies collaboration among the FAO, IFAD and WFP are leveraging their new global tripartite MOU to address global food security and agricultural development challenges and accelerate progress towards SDG 2.

Collectively, the RBAs and other UN system partners are working hand-in-hand with member states in advancing the implementation of over 127 national pathways and action plans for food systems transformation.

In the framework of the UNDF, 12 countries approved national action plans on family farming, which are contextualized frameworks that serve to promote cooperation among institutions to integrate family farmers' issues into policies and strategies related to the wider food and agricultural, social, economic and environmental sectors. In addition, three regional and subregional action plans were developed. More than 2 625 relevant actors were involved in dialogue processes or platforms, including 1 853 family farmers' organizations and federations. At least 80 intersectoral coordination mechanisms, including 45 national committees for family farming and other multi-stakeholder platforms for policy dialogue, have been established or reinforced to achieve coherent objectives and targets. Since the launch of the Decade in 2019, a total of 262 policies, laws and regulations have been developed and approved to support family farming and the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems, including 122 such laws and policies in 2021 and 2022. (A/78/233)

Parliamentary networks: FAO directly supports more than 45 national, regional and subregional parliamentary networks²⁶ around the world. As a result of these ties, more than 35 laws have been drafted and supported, including laws on: family farming, responsible investment in agriculture, gender equality and women's empowerment, school feeding programmes, food labelling, and food loss and waste, among others. The Virtual Parliamentary Dialogues²⁷ have provided a global showcase for various legislative outcomes and initiatives that help reduce and mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19 on food and nutrition security (FNS). The Parliamentary Front against Hunger (PFH) in Latin America and the Caribbean, as a plural group of parliamentarians, seek to eradicate hunger and malnutrition in the region through the formulation of effective legislation²⁸ and public policies, awareness-raising and alliances with civil society, academia, international organizations, and other key actors. Since its formation in 2009, the PFH has directly or indirectly supported the approval of more than 20 laws in areas related to the right to food, contributing

²⁶ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/6202b070-c312-4456-a7be-80da148f2af4/content>

²⁷ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/8455afd6-47de-4faa-b1af-68b267ddcb1a/content>

²⁸ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/6202b070-c312-4456-a7be-80da148f2af4/content>

towards efforts to achieve food and nutrition security in the region. These networks can be instrumental to the advancement of SDG 12.

FAO has played a pivotal role in enhancing gender equality and women's empowerment within agrifood systems through various collaborative initiatives. One notable example is FAO's involvement in the "Making Food Systems Work for Women and Girls" coalition, which operates under the UN Food Systems Framework to achieve equitable and inclusive food system transformations. The coalition's analysis of food systems strategies in 121 countries revealed a significant commitment to integrating gender equality, with over half of these countries embedding gender considerations prominently. This effort underscores the importance of partnerships at all levels, including with the United Nations system and international financial institutions, in advancing innovative pathways for sustainable consumption and production.

The Dimitra Clubs approach is a social innovation developed by FAO for inclusive community engagement aimed at gender equality. This approach empowers rural populations in agriculture and rural development by fostering women's leadership, resilience, and empowerment through community-driven collective action. The Dimitra Clubs have contributed to building the resilience of rural populations by improving local governance, women's leadership, and participation in decision-making processes, particularly regarding access to clean water, waste management, communal gardening, and addressing issues such as child marriage. They have also encouraged a more equitable distribution of gender roles and positive masculinities.

These initiatives illustrate how multi-stakeholder partnerships contribute to resource efficiency, sustainable management of natural resources, waste reduction, and increased resilience across all sectors of the economy. Such efforts align with the objectives of SDG 12 and the 2030 Agenda by fostering collaborative approaches that support countries in implementing sustainability practices through joint delivery. Addressing the imperative inclusivity and leaving no one behind, these partnerships ensure that all stakeholders, particularly women and girls, benefit from sustainable development initiatives.

Over the past two decades, the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) has been instrumental in empowering e-agriculture, with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) playing a central role as the coordinator of the C7- Action Line on this topic. The combined efforts have not only highlighted the importance of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in driving agricultural innovation and development, but they have also championed the digital inclusion of women, youth, and vulnerable populations within the agricultural sector. This aligns perfectly with the principles laid out in Agenda 21, a blueprint for achieving sustainable development, which emphasizes the importance of integrating science and technology into decision-making processes.

Looking ahead, WSIS and FAO acknowledge the persistent challenge of infrastructure limitations and the evolving needs of member countries. There's a growing demand for support in building institutional capacity and implementing systemic approaches, like digital extension services. Furthermore, a shift is occurring from individual projects to coordinated platforms and strategies. WSIS prioritizes data-driven decision making and contextual analysis, incorporating feedback mechanisms to ensure effectiveness. Finally, they recognize the growing interest in emerging technologies and the need for guidance on their ethical and regulatory implications. Hence, fostering a strong science-policy interface between WSIS, supported by FAO and other

organisations, and member countries, we can ensure e-agriculture continues to transform agrifood systems for a more sustainable future, leaving no one behind.

III. Conclusions

This section will refer to policy implications necessary to achieve implementation of sustainable consumption and production as a cross-cutting goal to achievement 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

To simultaneously target different challenges and needs, it is essential to create solid interconnections between seemingly disparate topics and increase coordination between traditionally independent and sectoral policies. It is necessary to improve intragovernmental coordination mechanisms, involving government agencies beyond the agricultural sector.

Gender equality and support for the next generation of family farmers should be mainstreamed. Additional attention could be paid to leveraging the potential for innovation among young family farmers in connecting local knowledge with new solutions, with particular reference to innovative digital solutions to connect producers and consumers.

Greater attention should be paid to promoting innovative economic opportunities and market solutions that build on the multifunctionality of family farming. Product characterization systems that can help to preserve and promote traditional products, while also recognizing the important role that family farmers play in maintaining local culture and vibrant social networks in rural areas, should be expanded.

To increase resilience to shocks and promote the economic inclusion of the most vulnerable groups, improving the productive capacity and market integration of family farmers should be complemented by social protection schemes that target rural territories and communities.

Although the key role of family farmers in achieving global food security has been fully recognized in recent years, their strategic role in environmental protection, especially through payment for ecosystem services, must be recognized, and their increased involvement in national and global mechanisms for combating climate change and decreasing biodiversity loss must be supported (A/78/233).