

SDG Action Segment for Goal 2

Organized as part of the 2024 ECOSOC Partnership Forum

Summary and recommendations for action

Introduction

The 2024 ECOSOC Partnership Forum, held on 30 January, included a dedicated SDG Action Segment for Goal 2, co-organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the UN Major Group for Science and Technology, co-led by the International Science Council (ISC) and the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO), and the UN Major Group for Children and Youth. With the aim of providing inputs into the High-level Political Forum, which is this year conducting an in-depth review of SDG 2, the Segment shared good practices and innovative strategies to strengthen and facilitate meaningful multi-stakeholder partnerships to support agrifood systems transformation.

Background and objectives

In 2022, global hunger exceeded both pre-COVID-19 levels and the 2015 baseline, with between 691 and 783 million people facing hunger, 122 million more than in 2019 before the global pandemic. In addition, more than 3.1 billion people in the world were unable to afford a healthy diet in 2021. If current trends persist, it is projected that almost 600 million people will still be chronically undernourished in 2030.¹ This points to the immense challenge of achieving SDG 2.

The SDG Action Segment for Goal 2 centered on tackling these challenges by prioritizing synergistic multi-stakeholder engagement, fostering transformative partnerships within agrifood systems and ensuring efforts are inclusive and cross-sectoral to accelerate progress towards SDG 2.

Key issues discussed

The first panel on *“Innovative approaches of partnerships in implementing thematic SDGs”* explored how partnerships can leverage the use of science, intergenerational knowledge and producer and supply chain cooperation, for driving the implementation of interconnected SDGs.

The second panel, addressing *“National enabling environments for fostering effective partnerships”* discussed good practices for building effective partnerships and the tools for ensuring ownership from stakeholders and beneficiaries.

¹ FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2023. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023. Urbanization, agrifood systems transformation and healthy diets across the rural-urban continuum.* <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc3017en>

Speakers from the floor reiterated the urgency of synergistic multi-stakeholder collaboration and inclusive engagement to accelerate progress towards SDG 2.

Key messages and policy recommendations

1. **Urgent need for synergistic multi-stakeholder collaboration:** The Segment emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts across diverse sectors, including public, private, and civil society, to advance SDG 2 and support synergies with other Goals and Targets.
2. **Global consensus and inclusive engagement:** It also underscored the importance of advocating for the creation of an enabling environment for bottom-up decision-making and inclusive participation at all levels, involving governments, UN entities, scientific and other institutions, youth, marginalized communities, and the private sector.
3. **Transformational partnerships:** Finally, the Segment highlighted the need for strategic, committed, and mutually beneficial partnerships that prioritize shared goals, impact, and value sharing over transactional exchanges. It also emphasized the importance of viewing partnerships as ongoing journeys and investing in the empowerment of smallholder and family farmers, innovation, resilience, and data transparency.

Key messages for the 2024 HLPF thematic review

Multi-stakeholder collaborations are particularly promising today for advancing the implementation of SDG 2 and supporting synergies with other Goals and Targets because:

- Multi-stakeholder collaborations involve coordinated efforts across diverse sectors, including public, private, and civil society.
- They also emphasize the need for aligned strategies, shared resources, and collaborative decision-making to address global challenges and the interconnectedness of agrifood systems.
- This approach not only accelerates progress for SDG 2 but also contributes to the achievement of interdependent SDGs, including SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 13 (climate change), and SDG 16 (peace and security).

To strengthen, scale up, and replicate partnerships in other countries or sectors, it is essential to:

- Build international collaboration and consensus through an enabling environment for bottom-up decision-making.
- Empower all agrifood systems actors, leveraging cross-sectoral collaboration, and engaging in intergenerational, intercultural, and intersectional exchanges.
- Promote inclusive participation and optimizing knowledge-sharing and coordination among diverse communities to avoid redundancies and capitalize on synergies to effectively address the global challenges of ending hunger and malnutrition and making agrifood systems more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable.

To support deeper collaboration among governments, civil society, the private sector, and international organizations to accelerate SDG 2 progress and key transitions, it is crucial to:

- Cultivate transformational partnerships characterized by strategic engagement, strong commitment, mutual benefit, and a focus on shared goals, impact, mutual ownership, and value sharing.
- Allow partnerships to evolve and be flexible to meet the complex demands of the work at hand.
- Prioritize the empowerment of smallholder and family farmers, embracing and scaling up innovation, fostering resilience, and investing in data.