

## **CFS 51 - ITEM IV. Global 'Interlinkages' Dialogue**

**24 October, morning session (10:00 – 13:00)**

### **Chairperson**

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished delegates, we will now resume our work, with Item IV on the agenda of the CFS 51 agenda. Welcome back. I hope that you were able to exchange opinions and enjoy the many side events and roundtables that took place.

Distinguished delegates, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as endorsed by all countries with the contributions and inputs of all our voices is a universal agenda, a transformative agenda, an integrated agenda and an indivisible one. The sustainable development goals therefore must be viewed and promoted as a whole. That is why this morning's segment has special importance for this committee, because we will try to strengthen the interlinkages of this committee's deliberations and this committee's mandate is advancing the right to adequate food and essentially advancing the realization of SDG2. We will try to strengthen the CFS deliberations and connections with the broader agenda of the sustainable development goals, in particular on the back of the SDG Heads of Government and State Summit, which was held in September. And those other institutions and UN processes that have to do with the essential elements or necessary conditions for advancing the human right to adequate food. Also, debates that have to be part of the right to adequate food and advancing food and nutrition security so that the many different fora, such as the Rio Conventions on climate and desertification among others, will also feed into this.

It is a pleasure for me to say that we have an extraordinary panel, so that we can address the indivisibility of our work from the 2030 Agenda, which is the framework for our action. The next hour and 15 minutes, as I was saying, we will try to strengthen these links to better understand advances in other multilateral fora and also to look at how exactly this can be reconciled at the country level, on the ground, which is where impact is really felt ultimately.

Our session will be moderated by Mr. David Nabarro, who I would really like to thank for making himself available. He is the strategic director of the SDG Foundation, he is also a Professor at London Imperial College and is best known most of all for being co-leader, along with FAO's Chief Economist, of the working group on food in the Global Crisis Response group, promoted by the UN Secretary General. We have a distinguished panel, as I was saying. I have the huge privilege of having with us Ms. Paula Narváez from ECOSOC, the Chairperson of ECOSOC, Ms. Francesca Spatolisano unfortunately had a mishap and wasn't able to join us and we all hope that she feels better soon. We also have with us, the Chair of COP 28 on Climate, the Secretary of the CBD and the Director of the UN Food Systems Summit Hub. It is also a real pleasure to have with us Dr. Mayaki, virtually, the African Union special envoy for food systems. We are hearing from him later. Without further ado, David, you have the floor to kickstart the debate.

### **Dr. David Nabarro, Co-Director and Chair, Global Health at the Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College, London**

Thank you very much indeed, and good morning to everybody. Absolute delight to be here with you again and to be given the responsibility for moderating today's panel. Gabriel has introduced, I would like just to make three framing comments. First, the CFS is the primary intergovernmental platform that enables all stakeholders to work together for food security and nutrition for all. Second, there are numerous processes underway internationally to try to create the conditions that will give the best possible opportunities for people to enjoy equitable and sustainable development. These include all the work on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Rio Conventions. And third, it is our job to help make better connections between what happens in countries and what happens in global processes with regard to food security and nutrition for all. So, today's session is about building the best possible connections. And that's why the panel will be able to inform us about how the different processes are working together.

And to help us set the scene, we're actually truly honored to have Paula Narvaez, Her Excellency the Ambassador of Chile to the United Nations system, but with a long and distinguished international career, particularly focusing on gender issues in sustainable development. And so, Paula will be able to help us understand how ECOSOC and all the processes linked to it can help to bring together the different elements of the system with which the CFS is particularly concerned. And Paula, I'm saying that because I've had the good fortune of reading the remarks that have been prepared for you and I am really delighted you're with us. You have the floor now, madam.

### **Paula Narváez, President, UN Economic and Social Council**

Thank you very much, David. Thank you. Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it's a true pleasure for me to be able to contribute to this session and take part in this debate with such distinguished experts so that we can discuss the interlinkages that exist between and among the different global processes that seek to address malnutrition and hunger. What has brought us here today and this is a particularly significant effort, because everyone who is here today, generally speaking, is involved in the different processes that make up the multilateral system. And to lose sight of those connections that link up the different processes, the risk that underlies this is that our efforts might be fragmented. Therefore, it is increasingly important that as a global community we feel that we are all contributing to a single goal and that there are those links and that there are connections between and among our processes that we can identify to work better. I see this on a daily basis in ECOSOC and that is why I have shared those remark with you.

We know that the centrality of food security in achieving the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs can't continue to be neglected. We are halfway to 2030 and transforming food systems is a key entry point, if we are to accelerate the advancement of this agenda. According to UN estimates, we will have 8.6 billion people by 2030 and many more by 2050. Food systems need to be able to satisfy the needs of a growing global population. At the same time, millions of people all over the world are undernourished, and the world is far from achieving most of the nutrition goals that have been globally agreed. 3.1 billion people could not afford healthy diets in 2021.

And while people continue to be malnourished, food loss continues to be a problem. Food loss and waste that is a challenge for many countries. According to FAO, 13% of food produced globally is lost somewhere along the supply chain between the post-harvest phase and the retail phase, 10% is wasted at the household level, in food services and retail sales.

In 2023, SOFI report asked for a change in food systems, given that the way we produce and consume is not consistent with the way we must feed our future generations. The report highlights that transformation is increasingly important given the increasing risks for food security in the multiple crises' context we currently face. The 2023 edition of the SOFI report also shares interesting conclusions of the rise in hunger as a result from rising food prices, challenges in the agriculture sector, the energy transition and conflicts or extreme events. These results should push us to take urgent measures that are needed.

The need to tackle food security and nutrition in an interconnected way was clear in the policy declaration of the SDG Summit of 2023. And yesterday, and I think it's important for those who haven't been able to read through that declaration from that summit, I won't read out the entire declaration, I just wanted to say that the paragraphs of the declaration that link in with today's topic are at least five and 38b is the most thorough paragraph, I would like to invite you to read that 11, 18, 14, 35 and 38b are all extremely relevant. Those are the paragraphs and 38b in particular stresses the many dimensions that we are discussing here today. It says that we need ambitious fast action to accelerate progress, including to end hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition. It also addresses realization of the right to adequate food, sustainable and resilient agriculture and food systems and of course nutritious and healthy diets. Member States also committed to supporting developing countries to address extreme volatility of food prices. All that is set out in the political declaration of the September SDG Summit and of course we can build on that language.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the outcome of the Food Systems Summit of 2021 and the stocktaking moment held in 2023 provided a solid launching pad to look at our food systems as our population grows and as we seek to protect our planet and finite resources. Of course, the commitment to

interlinkages, nature-based solutions, promote equitable lifestyles, decent work, empower communities and at the same time to increase resilience can generate substantial benefits and as a result enforce and accelerate the transformative potential of food systems. We must take that plan and turn it into action. And here I link in with the priorities that were also stressed yesterday.

As President of ECOSOC during the 2023 to 2024 cycle essentially turning our attention to the food crisis, strengthening agricultural development as the first line of humanitarian response, which is why I am here at the CFS 51 session. Another priority is to advance concrete measures to advance and broaden climate action given the crises that are closely linked to the strengthening of food systems. For the segments and ECOSOC fora, there are many and they are varied, I hope to involve you all for achieving transformative results that are interlinked in food and nutrition policy. One example, a key example and a great opportunity is the high-level political forum, which will be held next year, which will review progress under SDG 1, 2, 13, 16 and 17. The hope is that this will represent an opportunity to create and leverage synergies in eradicating poverty and hunger and achieving climate justice and the partnerships to do so. This will also be an opportunity to strengthening the understanding and common commitments for the transformation of food systems, as we promote synergies with other key transitions so as to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 agenda. These discussions we hope will serve as an entry point and important input for the summit and path for the future in 2024.

I would really like to applaud this committee for its inclusiveness, for bringing in multilateral groups. We have civil society, research organizations, agencies from the UN and many others, all coming together to discuss nutrition and food security related challenges. I would also like to recognize the important role that the Committee's policies can potentially play when it comes to leveraging the use of data in driving food security and nutrition policy, in terms of providing practical evidence in the realization of the goals we have set under this sphere. I would also like to draw your attention to the 'Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment'. This is a truly welcome step in contributing to food security and better nutrition and reducing poverty and enhancing social wellbeing.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, we know that no country can overcome all of these challenges alone. Collective action is needed, let me say it again, so that we can tackle interrelated challenges that affect agri-food systems and so that we can strengthen coordination amongst stakeholders, so as to design bold program policies. In 2015 we looked into the future and committed to ending poverty and hunger everywhere by 2030. Now that we only have seven years left, we owe it to our countries, but above all to our communities that we achieve the SDGs and truly realize the principle that we all uphold, leaving no one behind. ECOSOC is ready and willing to play its role and is looking forward to working with all of you to make sustainable development a reality. Thank you very much.

**Dr. David Nabarro, Co-Director and Chair, Global Health at the Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College, London**

Everybody, just that was great. Paula was not expecting to have to give that keynote statement just now, but produced it overnight, because the person who was supposed to be here is unfortunately indisposed. But what a brilliant starter! Let me just quote to you something, that Paula said. I'll speak in English. "Collective action is needed to address the interlinked challenges that are affecting agri-food systems". How best to strengthen the coordination that's needed to design bold and ambitious policies, programs and interventions? And that's the challenge. The challenge is to find ways to make a real difference. Now, there is one government that has said, we really want to make a difference this time. That's the government that is hosting this year's UN Framework Convention on Climate Change annual meeting in Dubai and if everything works we should be able to hear from Fatima Almula, who works in the government of the UAE, who's going to tell us why it is that the UAE is prioritizing agriculture and food in the climate agenda at COP 28 this year and how we can best support that process. Let's see if it works.

Fatima, if you're here, would you like to come in now to give your observations?

Hello! Yes, perfect, perfect! It's lovely. We're in the big FAO conference room and your voice is going to every corner of the room. So, there you are.



**Fatema Aref Almulla, Director, Partnerships & Special Projects Department, UAE**

Fantastic. Thank you, David. Your Excellency, distinguished guests, thank you. I'm delighted to be here with you to speak on behalf of the UAE and COP28 as well as Her Excellency Maryam. I would like to thank Ambassador Gabriel Ferrero and the panelists for the work on CFS and their partnership, which has been pivotal to driving the work that we're doing.

COP is just 37 days away and we're really ramping up our global awareness now, when it comes to creating the link between climate change, food security and biodiversity loss. Scientific evidence tells us that the world is really approaching a pivotal tipping point. And this year predicted to be the hottest on record. So, we're really starting to feel these effects of climate change.

As Her Excellency mentioned, Paula, with the global population also expecting to reach 8.5 billion by 2030, the pressure on our resources is real. How we manage to rapid rise this demand, production, distribution, and consumption and entire interlinkages of this will be one of the biggest challenges that we face when fighting climate change. And this is the reason why UAE has put food at the forefront and center of COP28. And this is where as well, the CFS plays a key role in catalyzing that work. We are trying to and actively working on creating a COP that sees food like no other COP has done before.

And COP28 will be solutions focused and it must be solutions focused because we have no time anymore. But this, this is difficult to do without political will and close collaborations with our partnerships.

In July this year we launched our COP28 food systems and agricultural agenda, which is an ambitious plan to drive action, collaboration and cooperation. It aims to transform global food systems and ensure their long-term sustainability. The agenda has four pillars. Number one is national leadership, number two, non-state actors, number three, scaling up innovation and number four, finance. As part of mobilizing national leadership, we are extending a global call to action, inviting all nations to ratify the emirates declaration on resilient food systems, sustainable agriculture and climate action, and commit to aligning their national food systems and agricultural strategies with their NDCs, their NAPs and national biodiversity strategies.

This declaration has now been sent to all agricultural ministers across all nations, and our Minister of climate change, Her Excellency Maryam Ad-Meheri, who is also the food lead at COP has been working to really ensure all members sign the declaration. It is a vital commitment to building a global community dedicated to enhancing food security, protecting the livelihoods of food producers and increasing collective resilience on climate change. We know that by 2030 the developing world will need more than 2.4 trillion dollars to address climate change at every single year, and we must remodel finance solutions and structures to assist developing nations in not only mitigating the ravages of climate change, but also help them prepare for future sustainable agriculture.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I know I am among an audience that understand the issues and sometimes feel like, maybe we preach to the choir. But we still need to use these opportunities and the opportunities of COP28 to give food security the level of attention and support it desperately deserves. Thank you all for your time.

**Dr. David Nabarro, Co-Director and Chair, Global Health at the Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College, London**

I have the privilege of working with the UAE Government on the development of their agriculture and food agenda. What you heard just now from Fatima is a real sign of the professionalism and commitment of that government to connect with other processes, build on those processes and get real progress given the interaction between climate change and food systems. But there's also a big interaction between food systems and biodiversity. Under the Rio Conventions, one of the very important organizations that was set up alongside the Framework Convention on Climate Change was the Convention on Biological Diversity. We're absolutely delighted that David Cooper, who is the acting Secretary for the time being of the CBD, is here with us in person, and it would be great to hear from him how the CBD process can best engage with those of us who are involved in food security. David, you have the floor, 5 min.

## **Dr. David Cooper, Acting Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity**

Thank you so much, David, and I'm extremely grateful for this opportunity to be part of this discussion on the interlinkages between the Rio Conventions and food security. And thank you, Gabriel, and I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate this committee on the important achievements over the years to promote food security.

Distinguished delegates, nothing is more important for the future of biodiversity than the way we manage food systems. Food systems contribute to the main drivers of biodiversity loss, land use change, overfishing, overexploitation of other wildlife, pollution from pesticides and from the overuse of fertilizers. And they also contribute to climate change and the spread of invasive species. So, all the main direct drivers of biodiversity loss.

And as we've heard just now from the ECOSOC President, currently, our food systems are failing to provide nutritious food for all and failing to provide good jobs for many. The call for transformation of our food systems is getting ever louder. But if the problems lie in food systems, then so do the solutions.

Distinguished delegates, in December last year, at the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the World community came together and adopted the Kunming Montreal global biodiversity framework. This is an ambitious agreement to take urgent action this decade to halt and reverse biodiversity loss for the benefit of people and the planet. And I believe there are enormous opportunities to leverage this agreement to contribute to food systems transformation. After all, our food systems are 100% dependent on biodiversity. The diversity of crops, livestock, and wild food species, pollinators that our most nutritious crops depend on, pest control organisms, soil biodiversity for soil fertility, the general functioning of ecosystems that sustain agro-ecosystems.

The framework includes targets to protect genetic diversity, and to use biodiversity itself more effectively in agriculture by enhancing pollination, by enhancing natural pest control, by enhancing soil fertility, to increase the resilience and the productivity of these systems, those real opportunities to turn the negative cycle that we're in into a constructive virtuous cycle.

The framework also includes targets to halve by 2030 the loss of nutrients to the environment. This is good for farmers, it's good for the environment and to reduce the risks to biodiversity from pesticides. It includes targets to restore 30% of degraded ecosystems. These are natural ecosystems, but also agro-ecosystems. Very importantly, it calls to reduce by 500 million dollars a year, harmful subsidies, to halve food waste and to reduce overconsumption. Now, achieving these and the other targets of the framework will not be easy. And recognizing that these ambitious goals and targets cannot be achieved by the environment sector acting alone, it calls for a whole of government and a whole of society approach.

The Kunming Montreal global biodiversity framework is also founded on a human rights-based approach, including the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. It respects the rights of indigenous peoples and local governments, including over their lands and territories. It promotes gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

Application of rights-based approaches developed under FAO and this committee, such as the right to food and the Voluntary Guidelines on Land Tenure are really important in this context. As is the work of this committee to champion recognition of the important role of farmers, including smallholders and family farmers and to promote agro-ecological and other innovative approaches.

As countries now develop their own national targets aligned with the Kunming Montreal framework, update their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and most importantly put in place the measures to achieve them, we need the full engagement of ministers of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries as part of this whole of government approach. We also need the full engagement of all those involved in the food system, farmers, foresters, and fishers, traders, consumers, and all of us as citizens, as part of a whole of society approach. There are many opportunities here. We heard just now from Fatima on the links between NBSAPs, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and the nationally determined contributions.

Just in closing at this halfway point in implementing the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, we know we're seriously off track. We also know that the continued loss and degradation of biodiversity further jeopardizes the achievement of the SDGs including goal 2 on ending hunger. In this UN decade

for action, we need to advance our collective efforts. Let's celebrate and nurture our diversity, the diversity of our food and food systems and the diversity of the natural world.

Working together, we must seize the opportunities with a common sense of purpose for a more just sustainable and equitable world. Thanks very much.

**Dr. David Nabarro, Co-Director and Chair, Global Health at the Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College, London**

Thank you very much, David. To the Committee on Food Security, this is powerful stuff, this is really important. What happened in Montreal at the end of last year. and the significance in terms of the now national biodiversity action plans is huge. Thank you, David, for that. And now let's go to Dr. Stefanos Fotiou, who is directing the work that is being undertaken within the UN for coordinated action on food systems. It builds out of the Food Systems Summit that took place in 2021 and shows a way of connecting food to these other aspects of development that is absolutely critical, the food systems approach. Stefanos, your observations, please, 5.

**Dr. Stefanos Fotiou, Director, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub**

Thank you, thank you very much, David. Good morning from you and thank you to the Chair of the CFS for inviting me in this panel.

I was inspired by what the President of ECOSOC said when she framed a problem of using finite resources to address our needs. And I thought that I went back to 1992 in the Rio Conference. And if you go to the web page of the UN about the results of the Rio Conference, you will see that one of the first sentences there, it says that the main outcome of the Rio Conference is that sustainable development is an attainable goal for all people in the world. Fast forward, 31 years after the Rio Conference, unfortunately, we are faced with the reality that if we see our efforts on achieving the sustainable development through the 2030 agenda and the sustainable development goals, we are not on the right path.

You know that there's only a very small percentage of the 169 targets of the SDGs that we hope, and we have good indication that they will be achieved. About one-third of them, they need a very fast acceleration, because if they go with the way they go today, we will have almost zero progress, including the target on hunger, which, if we continue the way we continue today, we will be on the same position that we were in 2015 seven years from now. And there's another important number of goals, 20 to 25% that are actually going backwards. And unfortunately, a lot of these goals are related with things that we discuss today with the climate, with biodiversity.

So, I think that there has been a realization that if we don't accelerate, there's no way that we can keep the promise of the leaders from Rio and from Rio+10, and Rio+20, and Stockholm+50, and the Paris COP and of course the 2030 Agenda. And part of this realization is showing to us that agri-food system transformations are at the epicenter of our efforts to achieve sustainable development.

From July 24th to 26, as you know, here in Rome, in this very room, the UN Food Systems Summit plus 2 stocktaking moment happened. And there were three objectives of this event as they were set out by the oversight steering group of the UN Food System Coordination Hub. One was to convene governments and stakeholders and understand if there's any progress on agri-food system transformations. And I think that we have established an understanding that, yes, governments and stakeholders and a number of institutions are keeping up their promises. And we have a strong indication that there is a movement of agri-food system transformations, I would say, very small and baby steps. But it was really impressive to see, in this room, representatives from 182 governments, including 120+ ministers and 20 heads of states, that they not only reconfirmed their commitment to agri-food system transformation, but they came up with specific narratives on what they are doing to achieve them.

The second objective of the Food System Summit stocktaking moment was to socialize the powerful role of agri-food system transformations for the 2030 Agenda. And one indication if we have achieved this for me is what happened two months after in the SDG Summit in New York, where we saw during the two days of the Summit agri-food systems to be present everywhere. And I listened a number of leaders

there, but also a number of scientists and people from the civil society and the non-state actors, to say that if energy transformation is, for example, the main leverage to achieve the Paris Agreement, it's agri-food system transformation, the main leverage to achieve the 2030 Agenda. And I think this is an extremely powerful message.

The third objective of the stocktaking moment was to advocate for urgent action, and I think we need to do more on this, and I congratulate everybody, including the CFS, but all the bodies that are dealing with agri-food system transformations that they are keeping up the work on this. We need much more efforts, we need more resources, we need more money. But I think the commitment is there.

Let me try to finish, David, by just giving a reflection on if we can achieve what we have promised that we want to achieve. I think I still believe on the Rio Declaration. I still believe that this main outcome that says that sustainable development is an attainable goal for all people in the world, it's something that will happen. The question is when it will happen and if the sustainability of this world will be a sustainability that it will include the people, because this is a scary image sometimes. I asked at some point my 12 years old niece, to make a drawing, when I explain to her what I try to do. At that point I was working for environment issues. And she draws a very beautiful picture with a lake and some animals and a very clear blue sky. And she showed me this picture, and initially I loved it, but then I was frightened because there was not a single person in this picture in this drawing. So, this 12 years old, small children perceived that sustainability is something without people, and that's very bad. And we need to change this perception and to change this perception, we need to move from a development model that sacrifices the needs of the billions for the individual interest of profits for few. And I think the moment that this realization will become policies, finance regulations, investment guidelines, we will achieve the objectives and agri-food system transform measures will be the center of this. Thank you very much, David.

**Dr. David Nabarro, Co-Director and Chair, Global Health at the Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College, London**

Thank you so much. In Stefanos' very carefully constructed intervention you heard him describe how climate change is accelerating. You also heard him describe the headwinds that many governments face in trying to organize their efforts to tackle accelerating climate change, such as what we've been going through in the world with the cost-of-living crisis and other challenges recently. And it's in that context that we are all being asked to go a little bit farther and a little bit faster. We've actually got a real honor now, and we're going to move quickly to Nairobi. And we're going to look for Her Excellency Giovanna Valverde, who is the Ambassador of Costa Rica to the UN in Nairobi. And we're asking Ambassador Valverde for some rapid observations on what is necessary to bring together those who are working on environment and those who are working on agriculture and food, so that we can make this magic happen.

After we've heard from Ambassador Valverde, we're going to hear from His Excellency, Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki, the African Union Special Envoy for Food Systems on how Africa as a region is taking such a vital leadership role in these areas. But first, Giovanna Valverde, you have the floor now for a few minutes.

**Giovanna Valverde-Stark, Ambassador of Costa Rica in Kenya and Permanent Representative to UN agencies, UNEP and UN Habitat**

Thank you very much. Okay, great. Forgive me, but we're here in the middle of the Montreal protocol, so we're a little bit running around the late. However, with regards to the importance of the linkages, let's say, between the different Rio conventions, in particular, climate change, UNFCCC, CBD and the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, it is extremely important, as we all know, they're completely interlinked.

And here we had nature-based solutions resolution, which was a big one Nigeria led three weeks ago. Last week we had the CBD, the final, the closure of the COP 15, which was very, very exciting. But in terms of more specific things about, for example, what are we doing in Costa Rica, which was what I was asked to share, I think some of the important things that are being done are the work between the Ministry of Environment specifically, and the Ministry of Agriculture.



For example, if we look at Target 10 of the KMGBF, it specifies that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestries must be managed sustainably. So, this is the focus that we're trying to work on with this perspective from both ministries. And also, I think it's by nature already. Biodiversity has always been a key factor in terms of farmers in Costa Rica and their livelihoods. I think, for example, the whole focus of soil micro and nest organisms, when we think about target 10, is very important and in this, I just wanted to share some of the experiences in Costa Rica related to the close interaction between agriculture and biodiversity. For example, in the family farming systems, it's always been a very important basis for their functioning, not only because the range, let's say, of crops, species or their diversification, the use of seed material, for example, but also because of the diversity of wild plant species, soil management and what this means in terms of the vegetation coverage of species. So, this is something that has been going on for decades, that farmers have valued and respect the importance of biodiversity in the agricultural landscape.

But I think now, with the work that we have ahead of us, we will be able to focus or zoom into this through the various targets that we have. For example, we've also been for over 10 years, we've had our NAMAs, which are nationally appropriate mitigation actions for the livestock sector and for the coffee sector, and in both cases these significant national initiatives meant not only, of course, adaptation, mitigation, and resilience to climate change, but it also impacted significantly on the restoration of ecosystems, and therefore to a greater biodiversity on the farmlands. And finally, I just wanna also share the importance that the Costa Rican Association for Soils Conservation which was created back in 1984 and it's an incredible network, it comprises scientists, experts, researchers, and they have played a key role in particular in terms of being able to make the information create more awareness in terms of what is soil governance, and the importance, also the converting of the international agendas which you are all talking about right now in terms of UNFCCC, CBD and of course, UNCCD.

So, with this, I just thank you for this space and I wish you all the best in the rest of the of this session. Thank you.

**Dr. David Nabarro, Co-Director and Chair, Global Health at the Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College, London**

I hope you can hear us. That was brilliant because it was so vivid. You described how in your country big efforts are being made to bring together environment and agriculture. You described, there is an interaction, there's a convergence, and there's a transformation that is happening. And you also helped us to see how a focus on soils and soil quality by farmers, who are at the center, is central to this transformation. Thank you for being with us and for giving us that example. Thank you.

And so now we're going to go and hear, if all goes well, about how the effort of convergence is being taken forward in Africa.

Doctor Mayaki, just checking: Are you able to join us now?

**Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Special Envoy for Food Systems, African Union**

I think I'm able to.

**Dr. David Nabarro, Co-Director and Chair, Global Health at the Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College, London**

That's great. We can hear you. So, we'd love to hear your observations, and about five minutes, if you like. And really, as my friend, Ibrahim, I'm particularly glad that you're able to join us. It's lovely you're looking good, over to you, sir.

## **Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Special Envoy for Food Systems, African Union**

Thank you, David, thank you. It's a pleasure. And let me congratulate this committee on the work that it is doing, which has a lot of impact. I would focus my intervention on three points. Many issues have already been raised, so I will not come back on them.

The first point is about the 'we'. When we say we are off track, I think we should unpack the 'we'. What is in the 'we'? The 'we' is all of us. So, all of us have a responsibility for the SDGs not being on track. And each one of us has a responsibility. And it's very important to make that auto analysis in order to situate and target what is our personal, collective, institutional responsibility in the fact that we are off track.

Linked to that is the issue of interlinkages. And my strong belief - and, David, we have talked about multi-sectorality for the last 20 years - my strong belief is that institutionally we are not fit enough to tackle interlinkages. We know theoretically, in our brains, in our minds, that to create inter linkages is important, but in terms of the management of interlinkages, we have really not moved far enough. And this is also part of the how to-diagnosis what we should make as institutions, as ministries, as philanthropies, as I mean all the actors. How do we manage interlinkages? And we should ask the question, are our institutions working specifically and efficiently on multi-sectorality? Multi-sectorality is not linking two or three ministries together in an inter-ministerial committee. It's much more about a world government approach. But a world government approach needs a high-level prioritization and needs one thing, which is fundamental, which is implementing together. It's not only about designing together, it's really implementing together. So, my first point is, we need institutional innovations, that reflect the commitments that we make towards the management of inter linkages. And that will be a key element of progress.

My second point is about the African continent. As you know, we have several frameworks that we have put in place. The main framework put in place is CADEP, CADEP, are the phase one, and when we moved in 2003, we moved to CADEP Phase 2 in 2014 with Malabu, which is a declaration on food and nutrition security. And we tried in Malabu to install that thinking about multi-sectorality. We have not done enough, but we took the path, the right path in order to push at national and regional level the management of inter linkages. Now it did help us create, design and construct a common African position on food systems. Food systems, by definition being, having a holistic dimension. And that helped us move into a United Nations Food System Summit and then stock taking moment trying to show what is being done nationally by the national conveners and by the different actors. It's not all perfect, evidently. We have a lot of progress is to make in terms of coordination at national level and regional level.

The second aspect regarding Africa is that beyond the agri-food systems strategy, transformation strategies, implementation, we are looking towards a linkage with infrastructure and trade. And we think that in the context of a continent having a linkage with infrastructure and trade will help us achieve the objectives of African Free Trade agreement. It's by trading amongst us, with the right infrastructure at the right place, that we could improve, that we can improve production and productivity always bearing in mind that it's the only way for us to reduce our dependency from food imports. And according to FAO, we bought roughly between 60 and 70 billion dollars a year, which comes out of the pockets of ordinary Africans. We should invest more in that domain. But if we invest more according to a plan which is multi-sectoral with agri-food systems at the center, because transformation will happen from there. Our full economic transformation will happen from there, as Stefano said, then we will make the necessary progresses.

Third point is the future. When we look at the current conditions of world, global governance, when we look at the accelerations you were referring to in climate change, in demographics, etc., we need to respond adequately to these accelerations. So, it's at the same time management of interlinkages and management of accelerations. So, we need the thinking, that, for example, the hub is promoting. I'll I would like to see a very reinforced hub, pushing all actors and parties and working closely with national levels and regional level in order to tackle these 2 dimensions, interlinkages and accelerations.

Africa is going to double its population by 2050, according to a low scenario will move to 2.6, roughly, billion inhabitants. So, feeding 2.6 billion inhabitants, which means 1.3 billion more, is a huge task that will have a critical effect on our governance systems. And when we come back to Amartya Sen, governance

and food security are extremely solidly linked. So, the work on governance, the work on interlinkages, the work on acceleration will be the challenges that we will need to face. Thank you, David.

**Dr. David Nabarro, Co-Director and Chair, Global Health at the Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College, London**

Oh, thank you. There's a good loud applause here, Dr. Mayaki. You recognize where we are because you've been here before. So just to say, that was an absolute class input. We loved it, because you forced us to look at how we handle interlinkages institutionally. And you asked, are we really ready to accelerate in the way that is necessary? And you stressed that the African frameworks, like CADEP, have proved to be incredibly useful at providing a space where the national, the regional, and the global come together.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have some time, and we really would like to get comments from the panel as well as from you on what you've heard. And so, if you would like to come in, if you could grab our attention, perhaps putting up your hand or pressing your button. That would be lovely, and I think, Brazil, now is going to speak. And so, madam, if you'd like to introduce yourself. You have three minutes starting now.

**Brazil**

Thank you, David. Good morning to you, all panelists and delegates. I work at the Brazilian Mission here in Rome. Food and nutritional insecurity in the world is a challenge for all of us. This year's report, the State of Food Security and Nutrition indicates that the number of people facing severe food and nutritional insecurity reached approximately 735 million people in 2022. There is much work to be done to eradicate hunger and food insecurity worldwide.

Here in Rome, we must consider the discussions of the governance of global food security. For Brazil, this committee is the primary body to address the issue. Strengthening CFS is the first step. Moreover, we have to reinforce interlinkages between CFS and the Rome-based Agencies. It is not enough for us here to recognize CFS as the centerpiece in the international governance of food security and nutrition, if members and the secretariats of the Rome-based Agencies don't do the same. The three agencies, and FAO in particular, must take responsibility for helping countries implement the CFS policy recommendations and guidelines.

Brazil comes to this 51<sup>st</sup> plenary of the CFS with a robust delegation reflecting the importance we attach to the committee: two state ministers, vice ministers, several state secretaries as well as experts from six different ministries and agencies are part of our delegation. We have organized three significant side events and two special events. This engagement reaffirms Brazil's commitment to the central role of the committee in the global governance structure of food and nutritional security. The Brazilian paradigm for promoting food and nutritional security forces active participation of civil society as one of its pillars in governance mechanisms related to the topic. This participation ensures the penetration of public policies and their constant improvement through dialogue and the exchange of experiences. For this reason, one of the first acts of the current government, with the aim of restarting the national system for food and nutritional security was the reestablishment of CONSEA, now linked to the office of the President.

We are witnessing the proliferation of forums and multi-stakeholder meetings dedicated to food and nutritional security, the World Food Forum, the United Nations Food Systems Summit and its follow up process, the policies against hunger event, among others. We follow all of them closely and participate actively. However, we cannot overlook that these initiatives do not replace CFS, the central body for setting directions for promoting food and nutritional security and for promoting policy convergence in this area.

This reasoning also applies to initiatives and documents relating food security to climate and environmental matters. Brazil is adamant about the centrality of the multilateral negotiating track, and we have a longstanding concern about disproportionately placing emphasis on agrifood systems in the context of climate change and biodiversity loss. COP 15 of the convention of biological diversity and the

resulting Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is proof that the multilateral sphere is the appropriate locus, where to reach agreements on the aforementioned nexus. Brazil commends the importance conferred by the GBF to food and agriculture since the framework reflects the necessary balance between conservation, sustainable use, and the fair enactable sharing of benefits.

The Brazilian Government's initiatives in the area of food security and nutrition take into account the relationship between the climate crisis and high rates of hunger and poverty. Sustainable development can only be achieved if there is balance between its environmental, social, and economic pillars. Food security and nutrition must be promoted in alignment with respect for the environment, strengthening social protection and overcoming poverty.

Bioeconomy has the potential to contribute significantly to the sustainable transformation of agri-food systems, the decarbonization of the economic model, the promotion of biodiversity preservation, the restoration of ecosystems and the development and sustainability of local communities.

Brazil is committed to ensuring access to income for the 30 million inhabitants of the Amazon, including 1.5 million indigenous peoples and more than five million African descendants. During the Amazon summit in Belem this August, the leaders of countries in the region decided to start a discussion on an Amazon strategy for food security and a commitment was made. A commitment was made to create a regional certification and valorization framework for the products of the Amazon socio-biodiversity.

Finally, we highlight our pledge to hold COP30 of the UNFCCC in the Brazilian heart of the Amazon rainforest as an opportunity to display the social, economic, and environmental benefits of the forest standing. Thank you very much.

**Dr. David Nabarro, Co-Director and Chair, Global Health at the Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College, London**

To become President of the G20 and then a year later leader of COP30 has been absolutely crystal clear in your statement, the multilateral processes matter the most. Thank you, ma'am.

Now we have lots of people would like to speak, and no time, which is the usual story. But Switzerland two minutes, please. Thank you.

**Switzerland**

Thank you very much, David, thanks for this great panel. Switzerland is a long-standing advocate for increased coordination and cooperation amongst the three Rio Conventions, and between the UN Food System Summit and the CFS. We thus welcome this dialogue on global interlinkages. We recommend that the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition also strengthens its coordination and collaboration with the respective scientific bodies of the Rio Conventions and the scientific advisory body of the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub.

Food systems account for one third of global greenhouse gas emissions. The impact of climate change is already leading to declining agricultural yields and compromised global supply chains. Industrial food systems are the main driver of biodiversity loss and ecosystems degradation. The loss of diversity, including genetic diversity, poses a serious risk to global food security by undermining the resilience of many food systems.

Land degradation is one of the world's most pressing environmental problems, and it will worsen without any rapid remedial action. So, globally, about 25% of the total land area is degraded, and 3.2 billion people are affected by it, especially rural communities, smallholder farmers and the very poor. So, the transformation of our food system towards sustainability and resilience is essential not only to achieve SDG2, but the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Agro-ecology has the potential to build resilience and sustainability at all levels by adapting to and mitigating climate change, slowing down environmental destruction, and by making fresh nutritious food accessible and affordable for all. It further strengthens land and natural resource governance, including

legitimate tenure rights, fairness and participation. So, we support the call to incorporate food systems strategies into all international and national policies and action plans.

We support initiatives like the I-CAN approach, fostering collaboration at the nexus of climate and nutrition, and we commend, and I conclude by that, the UAE COP28 Presidency for its strong commitment to prioritizing food systems.

**Dr. David Nabarro, Co-Director and Chair, Global Health at the Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College, London**

Thank you, Christian, thank you very much indeed. That was lovely. Big hand, please. Thank you.

Now, the list is this, so if we keep nice and tight, we can complete it. Angola, Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Japan, Spain, I think, speaking perhaps for the EU, United Kingdom, CSIPM and PSM.

And then, if we can squeeze WHO and Global Alliance on the Future of Food. But this requires magic. So, Angola, please, two minutes maximum. Thank you.

**Angola**

Thank you very much, Chairman. Firstly, I would like to say that I am a biologist and an ecologist. I will be speaking on behalf of Angola and perhaps then say exactly why the agenda has failed.

First of all, Excellencies, we need to look at the efforts made that we can guarantee this possibility to our regions. It wasn't possible because dialogue didn't happen at all levels. Also, we tried to achieve innovation. This is possible with social and economic and human development and that is where CFS can play a role in providing us with a policy platform that can truly affect the renewal of our goals, policies, funding, capacity building, to tackle challenges. And good governance can only happen through better production, diversification, looking at all this with a structure that we can use to provide food issues with more resilience.

We have a lot more to say, however, we'd really like to say, Excellencies, that what we really need is convergence, to create employment, for inclusiveness, to enhance productivity and above all so that we can see technology and innovation and for us to be able to bring actors together, reducing risk, vulnerability, restructure agendas, build infrastructure that is adaptable, so they can meet the reality on the ground. That agenda hasn't failed, it has however just begun.

**Dr. David Nabarro, Co-Director and Chair, Global Health at the Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College, London**

Madam, thank you for starting by explaining you are a biologist, and then going into this so beautifully and focusing on convergence. Dominican Republic, please.

Just to say the list is closed. Sorry for that. Dominican Republic. Hello, ma'am.

**Dominican Republic**

Thank you. Our food systems are at the core of many global challenges, marked by conflict, instability and the many crises that exacerbate hunger and malnutrition, affecting in particular the most vulnerable groups.

The fundamental role of the SDGs in addressing these global challenges is clear. At the heart of this vision lies the Right to Food, which links our efforts with the achievement of SDG2. In this context, the stocktaking moment of the Food Systems Summit and the SDG Summit have been important opportunities and reminders on the need for collective action and international collaboration. Both highlighted the urgency of taking transformative action to achieve resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food systems. This vision is strengthened by the Global Biodiversity Framework, the Kunming Montreal

Framework and the COP15 conclusions on the fight against desertification that stress the symbiotic relationship between biodiversity, desertification, and resilient food systems.

As we get closer to COP27 in Egypt and COP28 in UAE, the need to strengthen climate resilience in our food systems has emerged clearly. That means we must strengthen the exchange of knowledge with a focus on traditional knowledge, innovative solutions, technology transfer and support for capacity development initiatives. The Summit of the Future 2024 is a unique opportunity to take stock of the progress made and reiterate our commitment to these goals. Through more solid international cooperation alone will we be able to address these challenges. Thank you.

**Dr. David Nabarro, Co-Director and Chair, Global Health at the Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College, London**

Thank you very much, madam. We'd now like to go to Indonesia for their statement. I would love to say things about what you said, but every time I speak it takes away time from others. Thank you, beautiful. Indonesia.

**Indonesia**

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, as part of our commitment to achieve the SDGs, Indonesia reaffirms its commitment in implementing and achieving the SDGs as our global interlinkages platform.

As concrete actions toward SDGs, Indonesia has been implementing these followings: integrating SDGs into national and subnational development plan and policies; developing and providing SDGs database at both national and subnational levels; reporting our progress of SDGs to the global community as a tool for lessons learned; and also monitoring and developing SDG funding mechanisms. As a crucial part of UN ticket of action, Indonesia also reaffirms its commitment to the food system transformation toward more nutritious, inclusive, equitable, sustainable, and resilient food systems. Indonesia reported the progress of the national pathway during UN Food System stocktaking moment plus 2 held this July also in this room.

The fact that Indonesia is a very huge, diverse, and decentralized country across more than 17,000 islands requires Indonesia to localize its food system. In this regard, fiscal transfer to local government has been introduced in order to strengthen our local food systems.

Indonesia is also committed to use a science-based approach that includes data, science policy and modeling works. The scientific approach has also been a multi-stakeholder platform to discuss, to work, and also to find together the best sets of policies. We highly appreciate the continued cooperation and support from various research institutions under FAO coordination.

Indonesia has also recognized and acknowledged the important roles of small-scale farmers and fishermen in food systems, the urgency to improve their welfare.

Other transformative activities are included, for example, local foods, aquatic and blue foods, food, fortification and bio-fortification, food loss and waste, climate smart and low carbon agriculture and fisheries, blue economy, and bioeconomy.

We also acknowledge that the world needs to have more integrated systemic and collaborative action among countries and among stakeholders. By transforming our food system, we can turn our world towards 2030. Thank you, Chair.

**Dr. David Nabarro, Co-Director and Chair, Global Health at the Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College, London**

Thank you. Beautiful. Thank you very much indeed. Let's go quickly to Japan. Please really stick to two minutes. Thank you.

## Japan

Thank you, Chair, and thank you all distinguished members for sharing a very vital point of the crucial international initiatives. Japan also likes to contribute to those initiatives, and as mentioned, the UAE, the COP28 Presidency, is in the process of preparing a draft of the leaders' declaration on sustainable agriculture, resilient food systems and climate action. And Japan is also actively cooperating with the UAE, and I hope we look forward to an ambitious and agreeable declaration.

Regarding the incentives influencing the environment, the actual impact of policies on the environment varies greatly, depending on the natural and policy conditions in each country. Various reports have shown that across the board, subsidy cut can have a negative impact on food security. In Target 18 of the Global Biodiversity Framework, it is greatly significant that countries have agreed across all sectors to responsibly identify harmful incentives and expand environmentally beneficial incentives. As stated in the UNFSS shared summary, there is agreement that no one size fits all in relevance between agriculture and the environment, and it is important for countries to promote sustainable transformation on their own terms.

So, I hope the various initiatives will be successful this year, and in the future. Chair, thank you.

## **Dr. David Nabarro, Co-Director and Chair, Global Health at the Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College, London**

Thank you for that very constructive remark. Look, please be ready to send, please do send any statement to the Secretariat, especially if we just don't have time to get you to speak. We're currently seeing if we can negotiate an extra 10 minutes just to hear from more. Spain speaking on behalf of Spain and the EU, please.

## Spain

Distinguished Chair, it is an honor for me to speak on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States. Iceland, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Republic of Macedonia, San Marino, and Türkiye align themselves with this statement.

First, please allow us to express our concern on the lack of progress shown on the SDGs. Halfway to 2030 only 15% of SDGs are on track and some of them are even in reverse, especially SDG2 and key interrelated SDGs, such as SDGs 8, 12, 13, as reported in the SDG report, presented at the UNGA 78 session in September. We reiterate our commitment to multilateralism for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDG overarching roadmap to tackle intercepting global challenges and reverse these negative trends, building partnerships for people, prosperity, and peace. Building on the UN Food Systems Summit stocktaking moment in July 2023, and in the run up to COP28 in Dubai in December 2028, the UN CBD COP16 and the Summit of the Future in 2024 and the Summit for Development in 2025, in all likelihood.

We underline that the adaptation and the mitigation to climate change represent an immediate, urgent priority to achieve global food security and nutrition at global scale. The EU will continue to be committed to consolidating international agendas in this regard contributing 40% of global assistance.

We also highlight our commitment to the implementation of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, recognizing that agriculture and food systems are essential to protecting global biodiversity and vice versa. Biodiversity is essential for productive agriculture and food systems for achieving zero hunger. Specifically, we will work towards reducing the negative impact of pollution, ensuring that agricultural areas are managed sustainably and encouraging sustainable consumption choices, including through the reduction of food waste.

We take this opportunity to express our alignment with the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly in September and the call to accelerate action to end hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition and the realization of the Right to Adequate Food, including through access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food all year round. The promotion of sustainable and resilient agriculture and food systems

as well as safe, nutritious, and healthy diets. We also welcome the UN Secretary General's high-impact initiative on food systems transition titled "Transforming food systems for a sustainable world without hunger", launched during the SDG action weekend.

We believe that the CFS should follow this initiative closely. We will work with partners on food security and nutrition, climate change, biodiversity and gender equality and women's empowerment to step up action on the pathway to SDG2 and related SDGs. In doing so, we will defend a rules-based international order that respects the fundamental principles of international law and human rights and in particular the Right to Adequate Food.

Chair, we recognize the unique and central role that the CFS plays in strengthening multilateralism and global governance to tackle food insecurity and malnutrition and its intersecting drivers. The EU and its members support strong cooperation within the United Nations with CFS and the UN Food Systems Coordination hub, the Rome-based Agencies, and other relevant stakeholders. Enhanced synergy is needed to avoid a duplication of financial, time and human resources. This will allow us to move forward toward the effective, sustainable transformation of food systems to deliver for people in a way that improves access to healthy diets, conducive to the realization of the Right to Adequate Food. Thank you very much, Chair.

**Dr. David Nabarro, Co-Director and Chair, Global Health at the Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College, London**

Thank you, and sorry for interrupting. I'm pleading with the interpretation services to stick with us just for a bit longer. I'm negotiating with the Chair trying to get it so that we can get as many people to speak. Next in the list is United Kingdom, followed by CSIPM and PSM. And Niger, France and Libya put up their request to speak after we'd had to close the list. But we're still going to try to see if we can give you a chance to say a short input. Let's go quickly, very quickly, please to UK.

**United Kingdom**

Thank you very much, David, for leading this really interesting session, highlighting the complexities of the interlinked challenges that we're addressing here in the CFS. Take, for example, climate change and malnutrition, two of the greatest challenges facing humanity today - they are closely interlinked. Combining a focus on nutrition and climate is crucial for a successful food system's transformation and more broadly, for making progress on poverty reduction, on health, nutrition, on addressing the adverse impacts of climate change and the SDGs in general. This is why the UK strongly welcomed Egypt's initiative on climate action and nutrition, I-CAN, as it recognizes that nexus between climate and nutrition that needs to be mainstreamed. We encourage all CFS members to join us to hear more about I-CAN and the GAS program tomorrow morning in the Green Room at the side event the UK is hosting together with Canada and New Zealand.

In an era of multiple crises, where our support is being stretched across ever increasing needs, greater effectiveness across all the various initiatives, and amongst all partners, governments, multilateral institutions, the private sector, and civil society is more critical than ever, and this is where CFS is so important. This requires better, more inclusive coordination and alignment, particularly in these times of increasing fragmentation.

The United Kingdom is committed to coordinated inclusive policy and program approaches. As part of this, together with partners, we are hosting a global event on food security and nutrition in London next month. It will focus on what has been demonstrated to work in driving coordinated inclusive policy dialogue and incentivizing more innovative programs and investments from early humanitarian action via resilience building all the way through to making agriculture and food systems sustainable in the longer term. We are delighted to be joining up with Somalia and the UAE on the event, which will help to maintain the momentum and focus on the urgency of stepping up our collective joint efforts to tackle the interconnected challenges in improving global food and nutrition security, biodiversity, food systems and tackling climate change.



In this we strongly support the COP focus by the UAE on agriculture and food security. As we heard in their presentation this morning. The UK is committed to working together in building better coordination and driving effective and transformational action together with all partners. Thank you again.

**Dr. David Nabarro, Co-Director and Chair, Global Health at the Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College, London**

Thank you. Sorry for hassling you. Brilliant turn. Can we quickly go to CSIPM. Two minutes. Thank you.

**CSIPM**

Thank you for that, Chair. The CSIPM acknowledges the newly elected Chair. African Civil society organizations undertook an analysis of the UNFSS pathways, and the findings are as follows. The processes are not adequate, inclusive, or participatory, except, for example, in countries such as Mali, where there's an already civil society has relationships with government. There's policy and coherence. There's a lot of external influence, and most of the initiatives were promoted by external actors. There is a promotion of dependence on external funding and investment rather than on use of public finances. The agenda promoted was one of modernization, industrial agriculture, and global supply chains rather than support for domestic food production by small scale family farmers, agroecology, and territorial markets. People's access to and control of land and seeds is threatened. Gender equity and youth access to opportunities was not addressed.

Our key messages are human rights-based governance, not multi-stakeholderism. Public financing for more sustainable food systems, support to family farming, agroecology, and territorial markets, people's access to and control over land, water and seeds, gender equity and youth access to opportunities. The report is available on the CSIPM website. Thank you.

**Dr. David Nabarro, Co-Director and Chair, Global Health at the Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College, London**

Thank you. That was an absolutely beautiful statement. Right? Precise. And on time. PSM, private sector mechanism. Two minutes, please.

**PSM**

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, and esteemed colleagues on behalf of the private sector mechanism, let me thank you for the opportunity to speak at this timely event, and I'd first like to express our appreciation to Dr. Nabarro, Her Excellency Narvaez, Ms. Almulah, Dr. Mayaki, Dr. Cooper, Dr. Fotiou, and Her Excellency Valverde.

Mister Chairman, as the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, has highlighted halfway to the 2030 deadline, the SDGs are drifting further away by the day. Concerted action now is needed to meet the SDGs and mitigate and adapt to climate change. Many countries are already off track in achieving SDG2, and some, particularly small, low-income countries, mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa, are projected to remain off track in 2030.

Additionally, future production will need to be resilient to climate change and natural resource degradation. To achieve more balanced nutrition, we'll take a diverse diet which includes fruits, vegetables, meat, fish, and poultry. Poor nutrition and better environmental protection are multi-dimensional challenges, requiring multi-sectoral and multi-level approaches. In this regard, we particularly endorse the point made by Dr. Nabarro in opening this session, in referencing the need to make better connections between what happens in countries and what happens in global processes.

The PSM also notes that with specific reference to the SDG2, the Secretary General's recent progress report highlights that to achieve zero hunger by 2030, immediate and intensified efforts are required to transform food systems, ensure food security and invest in sustainable agricultural practices. Specifically

target 2.1 and 2.2 are off track as detailed in the SOFI 2023 report. We therefore believe that the areas of action, as detailed in the recent UN Food Systems Summit stocktaking moment here in Rome, provide some key deliverables for us all, in particular, establishing food systems governance that engages all sectors and stakeholders for a whole of society approach.

Secondly, investing in research, data, innovation, and technology capacities, including stronger connections to science, experience, and expertise and finally promoting increased engagement of businesses, including through public private partnerships, to shape a principles-based approach to the sustainability of food systems and establish and strengthen accountability mechanisms. Chair, we welcome the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, its emphasis on the role of intergovernmental and other organizations to implement the framework and the effective contribution of the private sector towards national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with the CFS, the Rome-based Agencies and all other partners to further those goals.

**Dr. David Nabarro, Co-Director and Chair, Global Health at the Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College, London**

That was pretty good to get it done in time. Thank you very much indeed PSM. Now 1 min to Niger. 1 min to France. 1 min to Libya. Niger, I saw, I think, your. Where is Niger? Okay, you have the floor, ma'am, for one minute. I will stop you.

**Niger**

Distinguished Chair, thank you very much. Allow me to thank the panelists for their important contributions, especially his Excellency Mr. Mayaki. Niger is making this statement on behalf of the regional Africa Group.

Today, despite efforts and analyses, we are learning that the world is not progressing in implementing the SDGs. Only 15% of the targets are currently being achieved. Given this, the Regional Africa Group based on the decision of the heads of government during the adoption of the recent UN SDG Summit took place in September 2023 in New York of a political declaration, which focuses on accelerating the implementation of the program for implementing sustainable development in order to overcome the multiple crises we are experiencing.

Niger believes that Africa needs to address these priorities as part of the Agenda 2030, especially the growth and development as well as transformation of food systems. We also need to prove our determination to implement the global partnership for sustainable development by taking targeted measures in order to end poverty while continuing to implement initiatives to reshape the international financial infrastructure. We also need to use mechanisms to alleviate debt and reorient special drawing rights towards countries that need them most. So, speaking of mobilizing resources, Niger would like to specify that Africa still faces challenges in terms of volume and rates. Developing countries face an extremely high debt burden. The cost of debt is eight times higher than in developed countries and this is why Adam Greenspan spoke about this.

Additionally, Niger welcomes the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the UN Conference on Biodiversity COP15, which will guide global action until 2030. With the current loss of biodiversity and habitat on the continent, the decline of biodiversity in Africa will continue to affect progress on Africa's development and its capacity to develop sustainably. Also, the Africa Regional Group would like to draw attention to the fact that the future of Africa is threatened, because over a million species of plants and animals are threatened with extinction. 40% of amphibian species and 33% of coral reefs are also facing this threat. In this context, our group supports urgent measures that need to be taken now in order to protect biodiversity, including by supporting on-going efforts currently being made by African countries. Niger is redoubling its efforts to protect our natural capital, by raising awareness among the population and communities of the values of biodiversity, which are so important to social and economic development.

Yes, I don't have time to finish but we will send you our statement.

**Dr. David Nabarro, Co-Director and Chair, Global Health at the Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College, London**

That was brilliant. Thank you so much, Niger speaking on behalf of the Africa Regional Group and being hassled by me. Thank you. Merci beaucoup. France, please one minute. Thank you.

**France**

Thank you. France aligns itself with the statement made by Spain on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States and would like to add the following. France is committed to the work of the CFS, which plays a key role in food systems governance. The CFS has demonstrated its ability to adopt important text, which is the result of an open and inclusive dialogue among all players, and which are based on the scientific knowledge and recommendations of its High-Level Panel of Experts, the HLPE.

France will continue to mobilize its support in favor of CFS in order to increase its visibility, impact and agility, especially as part of its coordinating role in the context of food crises. We will continue our efforts to promote the CFS' political recommendations, which are very important to supporting the way that national public policy is structured.

We call upon all countries to promote the implementation of the CFS recommendations and to provide additional support to the Committee, both politically and financially. We also call upon stakeholders to redouble their efforts in order to enhance coordination among the CFS and bodies specializing in food security and nutrition, including the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub. We should avoid a scattering of our means and efforts, especially when it comes to scientific analysis. In this connection, we welcome the on-going work to create a dialogue between politics and science, the HLPE, the IPCC, IPBES, the One Health High-Level Expert Panel and other similar bodies. This interdisciplinary approach, which goes beyond silos, is the right path for implementing the 2030 Agenda. Thank you.

**Dr. David Nabarro, Co-Director and Chair, Global Health at the Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College, London**

Thank you very much and I am very sorry for rushing you. Libya, please. One minute.

**Libya**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, thank you for this opportunity first of all. We have to stress that the food systems will be successful when there is linking between these systems and the production while creating an environmental system that is free from threats. We keep working on programs to preserve the soil and to mobilize investments to create opportunities for the youth employment and gender equality.

We aim to conserve the food post-harvest and from farm to table. By so doing we will reduce the waste from food by at least 30% in Africa. For this we need to adopt policies and we need to support this strategy by supporting high technologies leading to soil protection to reduce the waste to the maximum. We lose large volumes of food, and this affects the food security globally and in the continent.

Finally, Libya has created a national committee, which is tasked with putting national policies regarding the support to all these areas to tackle all the problems in relation to the food system. And these are very effective for our future work. Thank you.

**Dr. David Nabarro, Co-Director and Chair, Global Health at the Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College, London**

Some of you know that originally I trained in public health and I started working in the UN system for the World Health Organization. I cannot in good conscience stop this session without giving the floor to WHO. Super fast, 30 seconds! You have the floor.

**World Health Organization (WHO)**

Thank you so much, David, and yes, WHO wants to sing the song of health, health needing to be central to food systems transformation. That starts to happen in the stocktaking moment, but there is much more work to be done to make sure that healthy diets, good nutrition, and health are key outcomes of food systems transformation.

Very quickly, we as WHO look forward to the upcoming COP28, where we hope there will be more deliberate discussions in bringing attention of the negotiators to the interlinkages between nutrition and climate, including the importance of healthy diets.

Thank you for the UK and Switzerland to also mention the initiative on climate action and nutrition. You're all welcome tomorrow morning, 8:30 in the Green Room for a further discussion, because working on climate and working on nutrition is a win-win for the health of people and planet. Thank you, David.

**Dr. David Nabarro, Co-Director and Chair, Global Health at the Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College, London**

Talina Mahi, brilliant. We could have gone on for a lot longer. We can't. Interpreters have been very kind, but actually, we've taken up much more time than we should have for this session. And I asked Gabriel if we could go on, and he said, You can't really. So, to the Global Alliance on the Future of Food, to the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, and to everybody else, who put up their hand and wanted to speak. I'm sorry, we have to close.

But look what's come out of this morning's session. One thing is very clear, the multilateral mechanism does work and we're going to stay committed to making it work cause that's the only way that national governments can come together and participate in intergovernmental processes.

The Committee on World Food Security is truly exceptional. And then the various UN conventions that have been set up to bring countries together to try to create a more sustainable future need our support, because food systems are part of each one of them. UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, UN Convention on Biological Diversity and UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

Then the echo sock is like the great big mothership that keeps us all in place, and we thank you, Paula, for what you do and the way you do it. And everybody, keep it up when you go home tonight. Say, this, CFS is like nothing else. It's a really good thing. Take the message that you've heard from all the interventions. We are going to make this intergovernmental process work because we are needed more than ever in today's world. Thank you, everybody. Now it's the break time.

**Chairperson**

Thank you very much indeed, David Nabarro, for your excellent moderation, as usual, the best moderation possible. Thank you to all the speakers, eminent speakers that engaged in this discussion on this global dialogue, the deliberations, exchange, learning and hopefully strengthening the connections between the different institutions and bodies, so that we keep the spirit of integration, universality and balance between economic, social, and environmental development that means the 2030 Agenda.

If I may, I now switch to Spanish. That concludes Item IV on our agenda.