

Food Systems Stocktaking Moment 2023 the Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting Beirut, 13 March 2023

Concept Note

Introduction

As part of the preparations for the first Food Systems Stocktaking Moment (STM) scheduled for July 2023, the **UN Food Systems Coordination Hub** is convening a series of regional Preparatory Meetings in coordination with the UN Regional Commissions, the Regional Offices of the UN Agencies that currently support the Hub, and other related UN and regional bodies.

The Preparatory Meetings are primarily targeting National Convenors from the respective regions and their teams, UN Resident Coordinators and members of UN Country Teams, and other relevant stakeholders. They seek to build awareness and momentum toward the stocktaking moment, serve as opportunities to consolidate regional learning, and identify emerging promising patterns and solutions across the different regions.

These Preparatory Meetings build on the regional touch points organized by the Food Systems Coordination Hub for National Convenors between 13 and 17 December 2022 where National Convenors welcomed the STM as an opportunity to intensify the momentum for food systems transformation and to report on the progress made since the 2021 Food Systems Summit.

Background on the Stocktaking Moment (STM)

The UN Secretary General has committed in his Statement of Action and Chair's Summary of the UNFSS to convene *"a global stocktaking meeting every two years to review progress in implementing the outcomes of this process and its contributions to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. This will be supported by the RBAs, the broader UN System and partners."* The first of these Food Systems Stocktaking moments (FS STM) should take place in 2023.

The HLPF 2022 Ministerial Declaration also included a paragraph (#128) on the UN Food Systems Summit and the Coordination Hub, in which the Member States have *"encouraged the relevant United Nations actors and the Hub to consult with countries on the format and modality of the 2023 stocktaking moment"*.

To strategically feed into several processes, including the 2023 SDGs Summit, the Stocktaking moment will be organized from 24-26 July 2023 in Rome, Italy.

The STM will primarily give space to countries to report on the progress they have made in implementing their food system transformations including the identification of best practices, bottlenecks, and capacity needs.

The STM does not foresee to be another Summit creating new commitments but to demonstrate countries, stakeholders and UN action toward food systems transformations and achievement of SDGs, learn from and scaling-up successful approaches, and discuss course-corrections when progress is insufficient.

Structure and Objectives of the Regional Meeting

The Arab Regional Meeting will be organized on the margins of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development (AFSD) in cooperation with ESCWA, and other UN system entities that support the Hub, as well as key regional bodies including the Arab League with contribution from the Government of Sweden.

The AFSD supports the Implementation, Follow-Up and Review of the 2030 Agenda. It enables appropriate linkages between various levels, actors and sectors to create a regional space to share policy solutions, best practices and challenges in SDG implementation. The AFSD 2023 is scheduled for 14-16 March 2023 in Beirut, Lebanon.

The Arab Regional Meeting will be held in hybrid mode on 13 March 2023 at the United Nations House in downtown Beirut, Lebanon. In addition to creating convergence and generating efficiencies, bringing the National Convenors to the regional meeting, it will have the added value of exposing them to the latest developments on Sustainable Development in the region, allowing them to further interact with the “systems” implications of their mandate and the interconnected nature of food systems transformation and the realization of the SDGs. It will also allow National Convenors to connect and network with sustainable development actors present at the regional meeting.

Participants

Attendance will include National Convenors from the Arab countries, other key regional stakeholders including the League of Arab States (LAS), the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) and other regional bodies, civil society and private sector representatives, the academia, and other stakeholders as well as UN regional bodies and Country Teams.

[For Registration click here](#)

Expected Outcome

The Regional meeting will serve as a platform for the sharing of experiences, good practices, and lessons learned in National Convenors’ efforts to follow-up to the Summit including through the operationalization and implementation of their National Pathways. In addition, participants will identify priority actions and key messages for the region to be synthesized in the form of a short document, to drive actions towards accelerated transformation of food systems for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The key messages will serve as the collective regional input to the 2023 Stocktaking Moment.

Agenda

Time	Session	Description
9:30-10:00	Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome and opening remarks Objectives and agenda of the meeting
10:00-11:00	High-Level Panel	<p>Setting the scene: Regional food systems challenges and opportunities</p> <p>Discussion on Food Systems Transformation as SDGs Accelerator</p>
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break	
11:30-13:00	Plenary Roundtable	Country progress and expectations from the STM
13:00-14:00	Lunch and Networking Break	
14:00-15:00	Plenary	Interactive discussion on Fast-tracking and monitoring food systems transformation
15:00-16:00	Special Session	Financing Food System Transformation
16:00-16:30	Coffee Break	
16:30-17:30	Closing	Key messages, next steps and closing remarks