

FAO Statement in the UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development 2022

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Statement on Behalf of Mr Stefanos Fotiou, Director, Office of Sustainable Development Goals at FAO

Agrifood systems are part of the solution to accelerate the 2030 Agenda and achieve the SDGs, and provide opportunities to reset, rethink and redouble efforts to build forward better, “greener and bluer”, using coordinated, coherent, inclusive and holistic approaches which maximize synergies and minimize trade-offs and risks. **Agrifood systems are a fundamental piece of the sustainability puzzle, with the potential to catalyze several positive changes not only in the agriculture and food sectors but also in other systems like energy and connectivity.**

Transforming towards more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems generates short- and long-term benefits. It contributes to the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and support the delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by accelerating the reduction of poverty and inequality, providing affordable healthy diets, reducing food loss and waste and preserving natural resources.

This potential and opportunities of **agrifood system transformations as accelerators of the 2030 Agenda, have been recognized by the UN Food Systems Summit convened** last year. Owing to the success of the Summit and to support the countries on implementing their national food system transformation pathways, The UN Secretary General committed to UN system to jointly lead a Coordination Hub that collaborates with, and draws upon, wider UN system capacities to support follow-up to the Food Systems Summit. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN is proud to host this Hub on behalf of the UN System.

The Follow up to the Food Systems Summit will require global, regional and country level monitoring, evaluation, reviewing and reporting efforts. We are committed in the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, **not to establish new platforms for this work** and use the existing structures of the HLPF, the regional Sustainable Development Fora, such as the UNECE Forum, and the Voluntary National Review (VNR) processes to follow up on the food systems transformation progress at all levels.

The VNR process is particularly important for monitoring progress on agrifood system transformations, and we **invite the countries in UNECE Region that are conducting or planning to conduct VNRs to include a focus on food systems**. FAO and the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub will be able to provide support towards this work. The UN Food Systems Coordination Hub extends also an invitation to the UNECE to be an active partner of the regional level follow-up of the UNFSS and together with the UNRCs, the Regional DCO Office and the FAO Regional, Liaison and Country Offices to combine follow up and reporting efforts and create value for the countries we serve.

Thank you!
