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HIGH-LEVEL PANEL ON THE ROAD TOWARDS THE FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT

Biographies of experts and moderators






Ousmane Badiane is a Distinguished Fellow of the African Association of Agricultural Economists. He is also the recipient of the Africa Food Prize in 2015 and member of the World Academy of Sciences and founder and Executive Chairperson of AKADEMIYA2063 with over 30 years of experience as an academic and practitioner in international development. As the Director for Africa at the International Food Policy Research Institute, he was instrumental in developing and guiding the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. As Lead Specialist for Food and Agricultural Policy at the World Bank, he served as advisor to the Vice President for Africa and originated projects with funding ranging from US\$5 million to US\$150 million. Between research and development finance, Ousmane Badiane taught Economics of Development in Africa at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies for many years. Ousmane Badiane has a PhD in agricultural economics from the University of Kiel in Germany. He is also recipient of a Doctorate Honoris Causa from the University of KwaZulu Natal.



Maximo Torero Cullen is the Chief Economist of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). He joined the Organization in January 2019 as Assistant Director-General for the Economic and Social Development Department. Prior to joining FAO, he was the World Bank Group Executive Director for Argentina, Bolivia, Chile Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay and before that led the Division of the Markets, Trade, and Institutions at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). His major research work lies mostly in analyzing poverty, inequality, importance of geography and assets (private or public) in explaining poverty, and in policies oriented towards poverty alleviation based on the role played by infrastructure, institutions, and on how technological breakthroughs (or discontinuities) can improve the welfare of households and small farmers. His experience encompasses Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Asia. Dr. Torero, a national of Peru, holds a Ph.D. and a Master's Degree in Economics from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).



	<p>Christine Gould is the founder and CEO of Thought for Food. She is a global leader in agri-food-tech innovation. In 2020, Christine was invited by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General to serve on the Advisory Committee for the United Nations Food Systems Summit. She also sits on various boards, including on reNature Foundation's Board of Advisors. Christine holds an MPA in Science and Technology Policy from Columbia University and is the author of the book “The Change-makers Guide to Feeding the Planet” (2021).</p>
	<p>Lawrence Haddad became the Executive Director of the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) in October 2016. Prior to this, Lawrence was the founding co-chair and lead author of the Global Nutrition Report from 2014 to 2016. From 2004 to 2014, Lawrence was the Director of the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), the world’s leading development studies institute. He was Director of the Food Consumption and Nutrition Division at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) from 1994 to 2004. From 2009 to 2010, he was the United Kingdom representative on the Steering Committee of the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS). He was a 2018 World Food Prize Laureate.</p>
	<p>Ligia Noronha is the Assistant Secretary-General for UNEP’s New York Office. She is an economist with over 30 years of international experience in the field of sustainable development. She was the Director of UNEP’s Economy Division based in Nairobi, leading UNEP’s work on climate mitigation and energy transitions, on inclusive green economies, sustainable consumption and production, as well as on trade and sustainable finance, and the nexus of environment, pollution and health. Prior to joining UNEP, Ms. Noronha worked at The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in New Delhi, as Executive Director (Research Coordination) and as Director of the Division on Resources, Regulation and Global Security. Ligia Noronha has served on various boards, expert panels and advisory committees on ecosystems, natural resources and minerals and metals, and served Inter alia on the National Security Advisory Board of the Government of India on matters relating to resources, energy and climate security. She holds a Master’s degree in Economics from the University of Mumbai, as well as a Master’s degree in Sea Use Law, Economics and Policy and a PhD from the London School of Economics.</p>



Jyotsna Puri is the Director of the Environment, Climate Gender, Youth, Nutrition and Social Inclusion Division (ECG) at IFAD. She leads the team that is responsible for evidence-informed advice on programme designs and implementation, contributing to resource mobilization, and supporting IFAD’s global remit in providing state-of the art policy advice related to these topics. ECG is also responsible for ensuring that IFADs programmes build in social, environmental and climate safeguards while ensuring that IFAD’s investments generate benefits in these areas Puri has worked previously at the Green Climate Fund, 3ie, UNEP, the World Bank and UNDP. She is also adjunct associate professor at Columbia University, New York where she was also a research scientist. She has published in many academic journals and written for newspapers and provided advice as a board member to several development organizations. She holds a PhD and MSc in Agriculture and Resource Economics and an MA in Development Economics. She is a national of India.



Joachim von Braun is Director of the Center for Development Research (ZEF), Bonn University, and Professor for economic and technological change. He is Chair of the Scientific Group of the United Nations Food Systems Summit. His research is on economic development, science and technology policy, poverty reduction, agriculture, food and nutrition security, resource economics and trade. He is President of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences of the Vatican, member of German National Academy of Science—Leopoldina, Academy of Science and Engineering (ACATECH), fellow of African Academy of Science and of American Association for the Advancement of Sciences. He is member of the Board of Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), and Vice President of the German NGO “Welthungerhilfe”.