



UN Food Systems Summit 2021 – Private Sector Engagement Guidelines

The UN Food Systems Summit (FSS) is committed to multi-stakeholder participation and dialogue across all communities and stakeholders. This approach is fundamental to the successful outcome of the Summit. The FSS expects all stakeholders, including the private sector, to respect and uphold the Summit's [Vision and Principles of Engagement](#) (see the appendix). The leadership groups of all the Summit governance structures and workstreams are expected to model and to promote.

The FSS brings together key players from the worlds of science, civil society, business, policy, healthcare and academia, as well as farmers, indigenous people, youth organizations, consumer groups, environmental activists, and other key stakeholders. Before, during and after the Summit, these actors will come together to bring about tangible, positive changes to the world's food systems.

The private sector, from multi-national corporations (MNCs) to small and medium size enterprises (SMEs), have an important role and responsibility which goes beyond the agri-food sector and includes energy, finance and many others. They, along with other stakeholders, are expected to bring forward solutions and commitments as this is an action summit, therefore, their representation and active engagement in the summit process is important.

Business Participation in the Summit

- The FSS is committed to inclusivity. Meaningful and constructive private sector engagement is facilitated through the representation of business associations and networks in the Summit's governance structures and leadership groups.
- The specific areas of representation are in two of the governance structures the [Advisory Committee](#) and [Multi-Actor Food Systems Champions Network](#).
- There are three global workstreams: (i) the independent [Scientific Group](#) which reviews the ideas emerging to ensure they are evidence based (ii) the independently led [Action Tracks](#) will set out game-changing solutions and determine how best to engage its stakeholders in the Action Tracks. The main engagement points for companies are via business association representatives in the five Action Track leadership groups, and (iii) Businesses are also free to join in the [Food Systems Summit Dialogues](#). Participation in the national dialogues is determined by the Member State whereas Independent Dialogues are open for any stakeholder to hold.



Business Organisation around the Summit

- The Private Sector Guiding Group (PSGG) is made up of business groups and associations. The PSGG is self-organised and convened by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) on behalf of the sector. A Food Systems Business Leaders Network has been created by this group. Please contact Clea Kaske-Kuck at kaske-kuck@wbcsd.org for more details.
- There are many ways for individual companies, employees and all other stakeholders to engage in the summit through the [Action Track Survey`s and Public Forums](#), [Communities platform](#), and becoming a [Food Systems Hero](#).

Values

- We encourage companies and organisations who are active in the FSS to sign on to the United Nations Global Compact. Companies signing on to the UN Global Compact pledge to uphold ten universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption, and to take action in support of UN goals. More information about joining can be found [here](#).
- The Summit Secretariat continues to convene and consult constituencies and encourages them to self-organise. The FSS does not seek to endorse or approve every discussion or meeting.



Appendix: The UN Food Systems Summit Vision and Principles of Engagement

The Summit Vision

The need is urgent, and our ambition is high. The UN Food Systems Summit will launch bold new actions, solutions and strategies to deliver progress on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), each of which relies on healthier, more sustainable and more equitable food systems. The Summit will awaken the world to the fact that we all must work together to transform the way the world produces, consumes and thinks about food.

The Summit will result in:

- Dramatically elevated public discourse about the importance of food systems leading to the achievement of the SDGs and what to do to get the public working for people and planet.
- Significant action, with measurable outcomes that enable achievement of the 2030 goals. This will include highlighting existing solutions and celebrating leaders in food systems transformation, as well as calling for new actions worldwide by different actors, including countries, cities, communities, companies, civil society, citizens and food producers.
- A high-level set of principles established through the process that will guide Member States and other stakeholders to leverage their food systems capacity to support the SDGs. Distilled through all elements of the preparatory process, these principles will set an optimistic and encouraging vision in which food systems play a central role in delivering on the vision of the 2030 Agenda.
- A system of follow-up and review that will drive new actions and results; allow for sharing of experiences, lessons and knowledge; and incorporate new metrics for impact analysis.



Principles of Engagement

The Food Systems Summit is guided by a set of seven principles of engagement, listed below. Underpinning each of these principles is the Summit's vision of an equitable and healthy future for all, and one that gives voice to citizens in every country of the world. Everyone is invited to become a Food Systems Hero, host a Food Systems Dialogue, spread the word about food systems transformation, or find another way to support the Summit process. The Summit is open to all, and it belongs to us all. It is ours to create; we must define and build a strong food system, together. The Summit is open to all, and it belongs to us all. It is ours to create; we must define and build a strong food system, together.

1. Act with urgency:

We recognise the utmost urgency of sustained and meaningful action at all levels to reach the respective 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

2. Commit to the Summit:

We commit to practice what we preach personally and professionally to contribute to the vision, objectives and the final outcomes of the Food Systems Summit.

3. Be respectful:

Within our respective capacities and circumstances, we will promote food production and consumption policies and practices that strive to protect and improve the health and well-being of individuals, enhance resilient livelihoods and communities and promote good stewardship of natural resources, while respecting local cultures, contexts.

4. Recognise complexity:

We recognize that food systems are complex, and are closely connected to, and significantly impact, human and animal health, land, water, climate, biodiversity, the economy and other systems, and their transformation requires a systemic approach.

5. Embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity:

We support inclusive multi-stakeholder processes and approaches within governments and communities that bring in diverse perspectives, including indigenous knowledge, cultural insights and science-based evidence to enable stakeholders to understand and assess



potential trade-offs and to design policy options that deliver against multiple public goods across these various systems.

6. Complement the work of others:

Recognizing that issues related to food systems are being addressed through several other global governance processes, we will seek to ensure that the Food Systems Summit aligns with, amplifies and accelerates these efforts where practicable, avoiding unnecessary duplication, while encouraging bold and innovative new thinking and approaches that deliver systems-level transformation in line with the Summit's principles and objectives.

7. Build trust:

We will work to ensure the Summit and associated engagement process will promote trust and increase motivation to participate by being evidence-based, transparent and accessible in governance, decision-making, planning, engagement and implementation. We – from member states to private businesses to individual actors – will hold ourselves accountable for commitments made with mechanisms in place to uphold this accountability.