With the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations member-states have committed to a comprehensive, integrated and universal transformation which includes the achievement of food security, improved nutrition and sustainable agriculture as part of a comprehensive set of interwoven actions. However, a lasting end to hunger and malnutrition cannot be achieved in isolation; achieving ‘Zero Hunger’ calls for the realisation of the totality of the 2030 Agenda in ways that benefit everyone, everywhere.

The UN Secretary-General’s Zero Hunger Challenge (ZHC) has galvanised a growing movement of multiple actors from all sectors, committed to making the vision of zero hunger and malnutrition, achieved through sustainable food systems, a reality. The ZHC is now being pursued within the context of the 2030 Agenda. It recognises that delivering on the promise of the Agenda will not be possible without rapid progress towards ending hunger and malnutrition; without ending rural poverty and empowering women; without transforming agriculture and food systems in a way that makes them inclusive and sustainable; and without preserving ecosystems and natural resources. It provides a broad platform for all those committed to the transformational implementation needed to deliver all 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Implementation of the 2030 Agenda will happen at different levels – global, regional, national, and local level. Countries will lead the way by incorporating the SDGs into national and regional development and climate plans. Delivering on the promise of the 2030 Agenda will require new models for development, new ways of collecting and using information, and new ways of working and collaborating. Business as usual is not an option. Development and business models need to become transformative agents at scale for the betterment of both people and the planet.

Implementation will need the active involvement of all stakeholders, the mobilisation of all resources and integrated stewardship mechanisms that allow all actors to contribute towards nationally agreed objectives. In recent years, the food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture area has developed a number of innovative models for benchmarking, collaboration, financing, implementation, review and stewardship that may offer lessons that could be applied elsewhere.
Objective:
The Policy Room discussion will showcase pathways to assess and transform food systems, through individual and collective action, and to build the evidence base to accelerate progress. It will consider how investments in food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture can pay dividends across the whole of the 2030 Agenda, beyond SDG2: actively contributing to ending poverty, delivering equality and safeguarding the planet. It will do so by:

- Bringing together stakeholders from different parts of the food and agriculture value chain to discuss new experiences and challenges to working together to deliver food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture, including the evidence base for targeting and prioritizing actions;
- Exploring the experience of effective and innovative multi-stakeholder stewardship models that facilitate the collective action, evidence-building and knowledge base on needs, policies and resources to end hunger and poverty, safeguard climate and deliver sustainable livelihoods; and
- Discussing how supporters, participants and champions of the Zero Hunger Challenge can mobilize the political leadership, resources and coordinated action needed to deliver sustainable, inclusive and resilient food and nutrition systems within the context of the broader sustainable development agenda for 2030.

Outcomes:
The outcomes of the discussion will be:

- Showcase successes and identify challenges to linking all stakeholders within food and agriculture systems;
- Benchmark needs, policies and resources to achieve results at scale in the food security, nutrition and agriculture space and identify similar evidence-based frameworks that could be replicated across other SDG areas.
- A renewed commitment from multiple stakeholders to support, partner or champion transformative change for Zero Hunger and delivery of the 2030 Agenda.

Outline:
The event will be a ‘Policy Room’ roundtable discussion complementing the High Level Thematic Debate hosted by the Office of the President of the General Assembly on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and implementing commitments on sustainable development, climate change, and financing for development. Around 20-30 senior leaders would be actively engaged (i.e. called on by the moderator) while the remainder of the participants would be invited to make comments during an open discussion.
Moderators:
David Nabarro, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Climate Change and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Food Security and Nutrition

Homi Kharas, Senior Fellow and Deputy Director for the Global Economy and Development Program, The Brookings Institution

Participants: Participants in the Policy Room will be drawn from participants in the High-Level Thematic Debate. They will include representatives of member-states, business, civil society, farmers’ organizations, think tanks and international organizations.

The moderators will invite lead discussants to frame the discussion around the following two topics:

1. Building the linkages for Zero Hunger from production to consumption – Identifying specific interventions, programmes and commitments on the ground that work, showcasing how action for zero hunger can deliver across the SDGs.

2. Promoting multi-stakeholder models and evidence-based decision making for benchmarking and transforming implementation and policy. Using data-driven frameworks to improve targeting of strategies and investments to end hunger and achieve other SDGs.

This will be followed by an overall discussion, after which the closing remarks will be presented by the Deputy Secretary-General (TBC) or the Special Advisor on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Climate Change.

Contacts

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