



2021 Food Systems Summit Concept Note April 2020

Executive Summary

In 2021, the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres will convene a Food Systems Summit as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

The 2021 Food Systems Summit offers a major opportunity for a turning point in our collective journey to deliver on the SDGs by 2030. With only 10 years remaining, we are not on track to meet many of these goals, and in some instances, we are moving in the wrong direction. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed dangerous deficiencies in our food systems and actively threatening the lives and livelihoods of people around the world, particularly the most vulnerable and those in fragile contexts. Even before the onset of the current crisis, the evidence for transformation had never been clearer. Food systems are in many cases part of the problem, but there is scientific consensus that transforming food systems also offers one of the single strongest opportunities we have to change course and realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda, and to support the Secretary-General's call to "build back better" from COVID-19. This change can only happen if all us start to think and act differently, and *collectively* move in a clear direction with transformative actions that will scale up food systems approaches that are working for all people, the planet, and prosperity, accelerating our progress.

To make this happen, the Summit will mobilize innovative ideas, partnerships, and multi-stakeholder dialogues to understand and work through the inevitable trade-offs that we will face. It will focus on how we learn from each other, particularly those living day to day at every step of the food system. Everyone is part of the food system and must join in creating the change we need. The UN Secretary-General is calling for collective action of all citizens to radically change the way we produce, process, and consume food.

The success of this Summit will require an extensive preparatory process to draw out and enable bold action in all communities. It will therefore carry out an inclusive country-focused process that recognizes this agenda must be owned by everyone. The Summit will be managed around work streams focused on:

- (i) global, regional, and country engagement,
- (ii) advancing evidence and knowledge,
- (iii) advancing thematic convenings and engagements toward action at scale,
- (iv) driving advocacy and communications,
- (v) cultivating and enabling a champions group and coordinated advocacy campaign,
- (vi) hosting the pre-Summit and Summit events, and
- (vii) post-Summit follow up to ensure action and accountability.

The Summit's resources must also be mobilized by countries and partners around the world who believe in the impact it can make in delivering on our shared goals. The Summit has put in place a trust fund to manage contributions in alignment with international best practices and full transparency and accountability to all stakeholders. The Rome-based agencies - FAO, IFAD, and WFP - have made initial contributions for work to begin.

The Food System Summit Secretariat is looking to work closely with Member States throughout the entirety of the process to take onboard key ideas and feedback that might shape the vision, approach, and work streams to be most successful in catalyzing transformative change in our food systems. These actors are similarly being approached with this concept note to seek their collective leadership, strategic partnership, and financial support to make the Summit a major contributor and change agent in our collective achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

The Summit Vision

Rich or poor, young or old: Everyone needs to eat. Food is essential to life on Earth. Nutritious and safe food allows for healthy and productive lives. It's as important as the air we breathe and the water we drink.

People produce food. Many farmers create vibrant livelihoods out of food production, while others struggle. All become stewards of the natural system on which food production is based. The methods by which food is produced and delivered to our plates – and even where our leftovers go – are an integral part of the global economy and affect every person on earth. Everyone has a role to play individually in the food system and collaboratively across the food ecosystem.

Yet today, many of the world's current food systems are failing – for people, for the environment, and for our shared future. Despite living in an age of unprecedented wealth and progress, where we produce more than enough food for everyone, poverty and hunger remain stubborn and often inter-linked challenges. Today, **over 820 million people are hungry**, even as one-third of all food is either lost or wasted. Even with a 300 per cent increase in global food production since the mid-1960s, **malnutrition** in all its forms is now the number one factor contributing to the global burden of disease and reduced life expectancy. More than 2 billion people are overweight or obese. **Food systems contribute up to 29 per cent of all GHG emissions**, including 44 per cent of methane, significantly contributing to climate change. Agriculture also is responsible for up to **80 per cent of biodiversity loss**, and continues to overuse increasingly limited natural resources – including water, forests and land. Indeed, **agriculture accounts for up to 70 per cent of all freshwater use and 80 per cent of all deforestation**, and **more than one-quarter of the energy used globally** is expended on food production and supply. The emergence of this evidence is no coincidence: food systems as they currently operate at the global and local level are having negative effects on the climate, environment, human health, and social welfare. This is only getting more difficult with continued population growth in some parts of the world, changes in diets, and increasing challenges from climate change. This must change.

This year started the countdown of 10 years to deliver on the SDGs, and if we are to reach our goal, we must get out of our comfort zones, develop a common understanding of what is and is not working. We must bring new voices and actors to the table, and *collectively* move in a clear direction to scale up food systems approaches that are working for all people and the planet, supercharging the pace of our progress. The time is now to renew our ambition to move at the scale and speed required to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

The COVID-19 pandemic threatens to undermine much of the progress we have made and only reinforces the importance of food systems. This crisis demonstrates how much we depend on each other, for our health and economic systems, as well as for our food systems, - from production to our tables. It highlights many of our challenges and the

fragility of our systems, particularly for the most marginalized populations in all of our countries. It also has highlighted the interconnectedness of global challenges and their impacts. The very source of this pandemic stems from our failing food systems. The World Health Organization estimates that as much as 75 per cent of the new infectious diseases we face today, such as COVID-19, SARS, and bird flu, originate in wildlife as a result of poor food safety and human activity linked to encroachment on the environment. Like COVID-19, climate change, biodiversity loss, and financial collapse do not observe national or physical borders. These problems only can be managed through collective action that builds resilience that prevents full-blown crises. They must be acted upon not only as singular threats with emergency response, but as a series of shocks with a long-term approach for improved food systems and more resilient societies.

The good news is that solutions exist to change the unsustainable patterns of our food systems in a way that enhances inclusive economic growth and opportunity, while also safeguarding the global ecosystems that sustain life. Scientists have identified enhancing **food systems as one of the single strongest opportunities we have to achieve all of our goals for the planet and the people who inhabit it. Since food systems affect every aspect of human life**, actions to transform them can lead the way in showing us what sustainable development in all its dimensions *can actually look like*. Better food systems will create a better future. The moment to transform our food systems is now and it must be central in our effort to achieve the SDGs.

Summit Vision and Expected Outcomes

This must not be 'just another conference'. We must act. The Summit will provide an opportunity to unleash ambitious new actions, innovative solutions, and plans to transform our food systems and leverage these shifts to deliver progress across all of the SDGs. Everything and everyone must change, understanding the tradeoffs, but also recognizing that all can benefit.

In in this context, it is envisioned that the Summit will have at least the following **objectives and outcomes**:

1. **Raise awareness** of how central food systems are to the whole sustainable development agenda and the urgency of food system transformation - never more important than in the wake of a global pandemic, not to mention resource scarcity, growing conflicts, ecosystem degradation, and climate change.
2. **Align stakeholders around a common understanding and narrative** of a food system framework as a foundation for concerted action, where food and food systems become a much more widespread issue for advocacy and action to achieve the 2030 sustainable development agenda.
3. **Recognize the need for inclusivity and innovation** in food systems governance and action.
4. **Motivate and empower** all stakeholders who actively and appropriately support food systems transformation at all levels through the development of improved tools, measurement, and analysis.
5. **Catalyze, accelerate and enlarge** bold action for the transformation of food systems by all communities, including countries, cities, companies, civil society, citizens, and food producers.

By delivering on these objectives, the 2021 Food Systems Summit provides an opportunity for us to review our choices and be bold on the outcomes we seek as we move forward to close on the Decade of Action. By bringing together a combination of impactful interventions, innovations, political leadership, widespread advocacy, smart investments,

risk and value distribution, and a strong monitoring system to ensure accountability of all stakeholders, we will be able to move measurably closer to the SDGs by 2030 and put the world on a new trajectory within a generation.

The Summit Process

In order to achieve its vision, the 2021 Food Systems Summit must be inclusive and bring in the best evidence, ideas, and commitments from around the world. There are communities and countries already charting the course around the world that can provide insights and learnings. As such, the process will engage governments, private sector, research institutions and think tanks, implementing agencies, and, most of all, civil society, farmers, fishers, herders, and indigenous peoples – those who have most to gain or lose from the way our food systems function.

The Summit is not an event in isolation, but a process that will deliberately build on other ongoing efforts and events to most efficiently and effectively move to common understanding and action. The process will seek to build on agreements, commitments, and collaborative actions defined through other global events and processes, including the UN General Assembly, the Rome-Based Agency governing bodies; the CFS; the G20; the UN Oceans Summit; the Climate Action Summit; UNCBD; UNEA; UNFCCC; UNCCD; the Nutrition for Growth Summit; the World Health Assembly, and beyond. It will also look for synergy between the multiple regional and national initiatives and alliances that already exist or are forming to support the transformation of food systems. The Summit will deliberately draw evidence and knowledge from all these sources to inform its global ideas and recommendations, and share this back with stakeholders around the world.

Principles

The preparatory process is still under development for consideration during a first Advisory Committee meeting, but early dialogues with member states and multi-stakeholder groups have surfaced the following principles that the Summit will work to keep front and center in its structure, planning, implementation, and actions for the future.

- **Visionary, Bold, and Innovative** – The thinking, approach, and recommendations for the way forward need to be different from business as usual and up to the task. This is not a time for incremental changes on current food systems, as it is not up to our aspirations and our potential.
- **Holistic and Systemic** – The process should reflect inter-connectedness and nexus issues of hunger, malnutrition, health, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, climate impact and resilience, etc.
- **Evidence-Based** – The process must bring the foremost evidence to bear and expand the base of shared knowledge about experiences, approaches, innovations, indigenous knowledge, and tools in driving sustainable food systems for the future.
- **Action-oriented and Impactful** – The process must unlock a set of policies, programs, investments, solutions, around the world that will result in real change on the ground to drive the Decade of Action.
- **Inclusive** – The process must be consultative and seek the best ideas and commitments from around the world, where there are triple win opportunities. It should engage national and sub-national governments, private sector, researchers, think tanks, implementing agencies, and, most of all, civil society and individuals who have most to gain or lose from the way our food systems function.
- **Global and Local** – The process should seek to engage and be relevant for all regions, countries, and localities of the world.

- **Expansionary and Interdisciplinary** – The process should bring along key leaders in food systems, as well as key stakeholders including farmers, consumers, food industry workers, entrepreneurs, and also new voices and contributions from government leaders, private sector leaders, and civil society leaders who care about and drive finance, infrastructure, energy, trade, health, and beyond.
- **Sustainable** - Sustainability must be the benchmark of food systems reform, and must include environmental, health, social, cultural and economic dimensions. Sustainable food systems must deliver diets that are nutritious, affordable, accessible and culturally acceptable, and must provide food security without compromising the ability of future generations to do so.

Approach to the Process and Phases

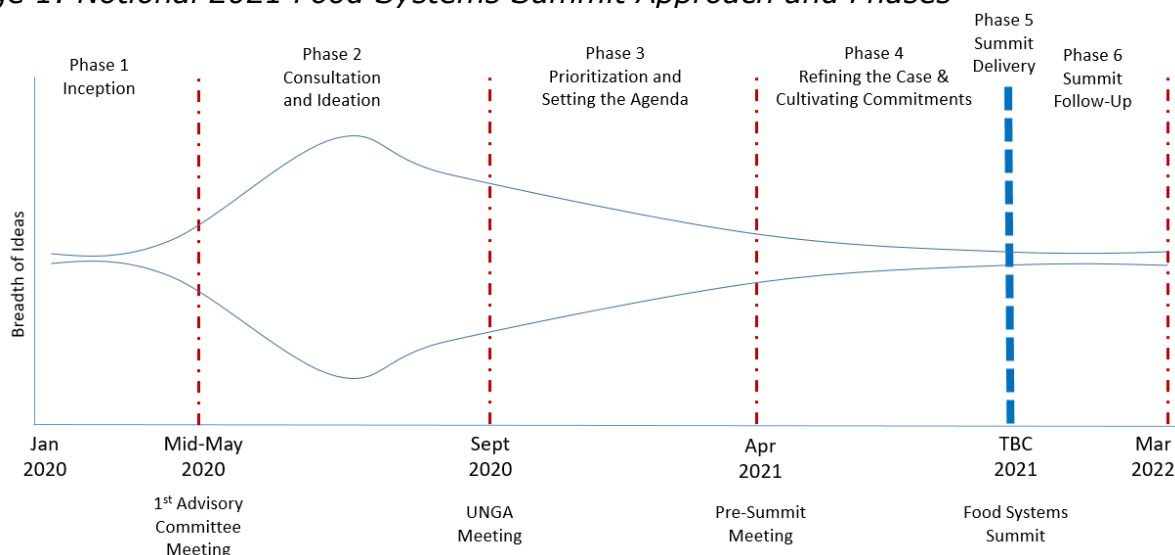
As we advance the 2021 Food Systems Summit, we recognize the Summit itself is a pinnacle moment that must ultimately culminate from significant preparatory activities and be followed up by several other efforts to ensure the it translates into action and impact to deliver its intended vision.

From initial discussions between the Secretary-General's Offices, Rome-based agencies, and Special Envoy, there is a broad agreement that the approach to implementing the Summit should be envisioned in a few distinct and sequential phases over the two years. These might loosely be considered as follows:

- **Phase 1: Inception (Jan-May 2020)** - During this phase, the Summit's overall vision and agenda will be shaped, governance structures and the Secretariat put in place, and the project will kick off officially with a clear, endorsed process.
- **Phase 2: Consultation and Ideation (May-Sept, 2020)** – In this phase, the Special Envoy, Advisory Committee, Scientific Group, Champions Group and other partners will all be engaging across each region of the world to get evidence and inputs on Summit priorities and transformative action for the future. The key milestone to culminate this phase will be consolidated evidence from a wide range of related studies and ongoing efforts and prioritization of the pathways.
- **Phase 3: Prioritization and Setting the Agenda (Oct-Mar, 2021)** – In this phase, the team will consolidate what it has heard and learned into a prioritized agenda for the Summit. The outcome documents will be drafted and further consulted on, such as the political declaration, the key evidence base, the intended tools and accountability mechanisms for ongoing food systems management. These will be taken to a pre-Summit meeting with all core stakeholders for review and feedback.
- **Phase 4: Refining the Case and Cultivating Commitments (April-TBC, 2021)** – In the final run up to the Summit, this phase will focus on finalizing all Summit materials, securing actions, and mobilizing a compelling Summit program.
- **Phase 5: Summit Delivery (TBC, 2021)** – The Summit, as an event, will focus on ensuring a North Star moment that captures the world's attention and repositions the way people think and talk about food and food systems as a primary means for delivering on their goals for 2030.
- **Phase 6: Post-Summit Action and Accountability (TBC-Mar, 2022)** – Following the Summit, this phase will focus on ensuring that actors move forward with their committed actions and that coalitions and the accountability mechanism are set up to continue into the future for impact.

The following image provides a notional overview of how this process will proceed and the breadth of thinking over the two years relative to key milestones.

Image 1: Notional 2021 Food Systems Summit Approach and Phases



Work streams and Associated Resource Needs

Over the course of this process, the Summit will be advanced through several work streams that will be refined as its support structures, Secretariat, and early strategic partnerships are put in place. These work streams provide an initial structure to clarify the work that must be done, priority deliverables, and the associated systems, processes, capacities, and resources that will be needed in order to deliver successfully. These will continue to be managed in an adaptive manner over the course of the two-year Summit process based on changes in the environment and lessons learned.

The priority work streams, key components, and initial associated resource needs are envisioned as follows:

- 1. Global, regional, and country engagement** – An estimated total cost amounts to **US\$5.2 million** in order to ensure the Summit engages communities, countries, and issue-focused constituencies all around the world to drive multi-stakeholder engagement, local ownership, and progress on transformative actions. It will cover the costs of consultation meetings, secretariat travel, and managing a central structure for decentralized Food Systems Dialogues.
 - Design a global consultation process to engage a wide breadth of interest groups, geographic constituencies, technical constituencies, and stakeholder groups (member states, development partners, private sector, civil society, farmers, indigenous people, etc.);
 - Drive this consultation process to ensure it is inclusive in seeking ideas and engages people throughout the duration of the two years to the Summit and beyond in order to best bring them along as champions of the outcomes;
 - Ensure at least one Food Systems Dialogue (FSD) in every country of the world, as well as FSDs at regional and global level, working through decentralized multi-stakeholder partner groups to ensure that these dialogues are locally owned to best advance eventual action;
 - Work with key thematic events and issue-specific constituencies during the preparatory process (e.g. the Oceans Conference, Beijing +25 events, Biodiversity COP, Climate COP, Nutrition for Growth Summit, UNEA, and beyond) to leverage their discussions and outcome documents to advance shared objectives with the Summit;

- Manage an online consultation process and portal, building on best lessons from the SDG development process and other existing platforms and forums;
- Curate the inputs and feedback received into summary documents with key ideas and priorities;
- Provide updates throughout the preparatory process to all constituencies and engage with them directly on feedback and questions;
- Mobilize and vet commitments to action from various actors – countries, cities, companies, civil society, consumers, producers, etc.

2. Evidence and Knowledge – An estimated total cost amounts to **US\$3.3 million** in order to enable all efforts to curate and develop the evidence-base required as the foundation for the vision, positions, recommendations, and priority actions. It will cover the costs of the work of the Scientific Group and Secretariat with partners and consultants across the global community that will ensure materials are tailored to specific country and regional contexts.

- Work with and through the Scientific Group to support its mandate of ensuring the independence and robustness of the evidence and knowledge underpinning the Summit and overall food system policy and investment decisions;
- Engage with research constituencies and coalitions across various technical areas and regions to bring them into the effort and build a more common understanding around food systems with thousands of researchers and scientists around the world;
- Curate data, evidence, and knowledge generated at local, national and international institutions to help define what sustainable food systems look like, where we are today, and how we can achieve the SDGs by 2030;
- Draw out the best insights from various evidence streams and sources from the recent past and the cutting edge efforts underway today (e.g. CERES 2030, Food Economics Commission, Food Systems Vision Prize, HLPE Reports, etc.);
- Use existing and new models and scenarios to help inform strategies and actions for food systems transformation to achieve the SDGs, through understanding of tradeoffs and cost/benefit calculations of different interventions;
- Develop and consolidate case studies at country level, city level, company level, and for other actors in order to understand and feature best practices, share lessons learned, and help scale and transfer what works;
- Manage the “action tracks”, through which it will structure its multi-stakeholder approach in driving to greater depth on the evidence of particular challenges, specific pain points, potential solutions and transformative actions, tradeoffs from these actions, costing, etc.;
- Curate and develop a set of frameworks and tools that can help all stakeholders move forward strategies and efforts related to food systems transformation before and after the Summit;
- Draft documents and recommendations that stakeholders will review at the Pre-Summit and Summit events.

3. Advocacy, Communication, and Mobilization – An estimated total cost amounts to **US\$3.9 million** in order to increase awareness, shape the narrative, and drive mobilization around food systems at the heart of the SDGs. Success will depend on engaging a wide range of constituencies to raise awareness, commitment to the agenda, and desire to take action to move forward. This will require a focus on communications to a broader set of stakeholders including NGOs, private sector, farmers, and the public about issues relating to the Summit, which includes building a robust online and media presence. It will cover the costs of the Secretariat and

the Champions Group to build, mobilize, and maintain strategic coalitions with partners to drive a global campaign toward and beyond the Summit.

- Develop a brand identity that positions the Summit as “business unusual”, creating a narrative around its action-oriented goals, including creative content and targeted assets in all UN official languages;
- Work with and through the Champions Group (where appropriate) to support its mandate of informing the preparatory process and harnessing the widest possible support across all stakeholders with equal status and ideas to drive a new coalition for food systems transformation;
- Identify and build effective partnerships internal to the UN system and externally to align activities, and ensure a coherent approach to communications;
- Engage a wide range of constituencies in international and local markets to raise awareness, commitment to the agenda, and desire to take action by developing a cohesive digital strategy to reach target audiences more effectively, using the platforms they prefer to spend their time – websites, online platforms, social media channels and ensure this reaches across UN platforms and channels;
- Build and manage strategic coalitions with advocacy and communications groups to develop and drive a global digital campaign with creative and targeted content which will resonate with the focused audience groups and in local markets toward and beyond the Summit;
- Develop and manage a strategic media and digital content outreach and marketing plan that favorably impacts the views of the public and opinion leaders in order to raise the Summit profile and generate broad support;
- Manage the roadmap of events and a potential speakers’ bureau to support engagement of the SG, DSG, Special Envoy, leaders of the RBAs, and other champions of the Summit.

4. Summit leadership and Secretariat support – An estimated total cost amounts to **US\$4.4 million** in order to manage the Summit in best alignment with the expectations of all stakeholders and the agreed strategy, work plans, and budgets. It will cover the costs of the work of the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat personnel who will steward the Summit process over the two years.

- Work with and through the Advisory Committee to manage a high-quality, inclusive, transparent, and successful process with effective oversight and accountability mechanisms;
- Harness all inputs from the work streams on evidence, global engagement, and communications to finalize a Summit vision, set of objectives, materials, and strategic choices that will resonate best with global stakeholders and a broad range of new constituencies for transformative action;
- Finalize materials for consultation and ultimate dissemination that are politically relevant and publicly compelling;
- Finalize the Summit declaration, policy positions, review of tools, and other outcome documents (as appropriate).

5. The Pre-Summit – Resource needs for this component are **not yet estimated**, as the event-specific costs associated with the pre-Summit (e.g. venue, security, catering, travel, technical onsite supporting, branding, event management, etc.), will be heavily dependent on the locations and formats chosen.

- Design and implement the pre-Summit event that serves as a moment for the global community to come together during the Summit process to take stock of

what is emerging from global engagement, evidence and knowledge efforts, and the coordinated campaign;

- Prioritize recommendations and actions to focus attention of all actors in the final months leading up to the Summit to arrive with the strongest set of outcomes and actions to advance the Summit's vision.
- Drive the pre-Summit program, content, speaking roles, branding, partner management, protocol, venue/space management, security, food, and beyond;
- Manage service providers to deliver successfully and efficiently on the pre-Summit.

6. The Summit – Resource needs for this component are **not yet estimated**, as the event-specific costs associated with the Summit (e.g. venue, security, catering, travel, technical onsite supporting, branding, event management, etc.), will be heavily dependent on the location and format chosen.

- Design and implement a Summit event that serves as the crescendo moment to advance this agenda;
- Drive the Summit program, content, speaking roles, branding, partner management, protocol, venue/space management, security, food, and beyond;
- Manage service providers to deliver successfully and efficiently on the Summit.

7. Post Summit follow up, including building accountability mechanisms – An estimated total cost amounts to **US\$1.5 million** in order to cover the modest close-out costs of the Summit related to standing up an enduring accountability mechanism and knowledge management.

- Ensure from the outset that the efforts of the Summit will result in practical actions and next steps after the event;
- Develop and roll out an accountability mechanism in alignment with the final outcomes;
- Ensure appropriate knowledge management of all materials produced during the two-year effort to the Summit;
- Consolidate coalitions so that they live on for implementation of the agenda, actions, and commitments.

8. Operations – An estimated total cost amounts to **US\$2.4 million** in order to cover the costs required by the Summit and its Secretariat for operations between Nairobi, Rome, and New York City.

- Drive all operational support for the Summit and its Secretariat, including human resources (recruiting and contract management), finance, accounting, procurement, transportation support, legal, ICT, administration, and beyond;
- Drive the resource mobilization strategy development and implementation, manage relationships with contributors, and ensure compliance with all reporting requirements.

The Summit Support Structures

To facilitate this process, the UN Secretary-General is forming a few support structures to work with existing capacities, structures, facilities around the world to ensure success:

The **Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Food Systems Summit**, Dr. Agnes Kalibata, will provide leadership, guidance and strategic direction towards the Summit. The Special Envoy will be responsible for cooperation with key leaders, including governments, and other strategic stakeholder groups, to galvanize action and leadership

for the Summit. The Special Envoy will also assist with outreach and represent the Secretary-General in many global and regional consultative events related to food systems during 2020 and 2021.

The Summit Advisory Committee will be responsible for oversight of the preparatory process and input to the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the 2021 Food Systems Summit. Chaired by the UN Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohamed, the Committee will provide input on key considerations and decisions related to the vision, development, and implementation, as well as provide strategic leadership across the areas of action to ensure the Summit achieves its intended outcomes.

The Scientific Group will be responsible for ensuring the Summit brings to bear the best evidence and helps expand the base of shared knowledge about experiences, approaches, and tools for driving sustainable food systems that will inform the future. The work of the Scientific Group ensures the robustness and independence of the science underpinning dialogue of food system transformation decisions. It will also inform the content, recommended outcomes, and the asks and commitments that emerge from the Summit.

The Champions Group will be responsible for supporting the development, delivery, amplification, and political and financial support of the Summit in order to help ensure it achieves its intended outcomes. The Champions Group members give key input, feedback, and reflection to the Secretariat and Advisory Committee at structured moments in the preparatory process (at least once a quarter). In addition, this group will help ensure it engages all key global constituencies to harness the widest possible ideas and drive a new coalition for collective action that will chart transformative change for sustainable food systems. Specific constituency groups will be established within this recognizing the need for specific engagement approaches to best ensure their leadership and mobilization.

A UN Task Force will also be put in place to draw in resources and expertise from across the UN System that is critical to a successful Summit and transformative action in the years ahead. In addition to the role the Rome-based agencies are taking in supporting the Summit, the Task Force will seek to include many other UN Agencies and related entities, including DGC, GEF, IOM, OCHA, OHRLS, SUN, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFCCC, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNGC, UN Women, WHO, World Bank, and WTO.

The Summit Secretariat will be responsible for supporting the efforts of the Special Envoy and all governance mechanisms of the Summit. The Secretariat headquarters will be in Nairobi where the Special Envoy will be based, but it will also include satellite offices in Rome and New York to facilitate key connections with the UN, Rome-based agencies, permanent representatives, and other stakeholders.

The Summit Budget and Mobilizing Support

The success of the Summit will depend on the overall support of member states and the global community. It will also depend on the timeliness of this support to enable the Summit leadership and Secretariat to get work underway for the most effective efforts around global engagement, evidence and knowledge generation, advocacy and communications, and mobilization of support and action.

As a Secretary-General led Summit, all resources will need to be mobilized from voluntary contributions from member states and other partners who see the impact this Summit can make in delivering on our collective goals for people, planet and prosperity.

The Secretariat is therefore looking to work closely with member states and the EU throughout the entirety of the process to take onboard key ideas and feedback that might shape the vision, approach, and work streams to be most successful in catalyzing transformative change in our food systems. These actors are similarly being approached to seek their leadership, strategic partnership, and financial support to make the Summit a success and to achieve its bold vision.

The initial budget estimates in this concept note have been developed through the combined contributions of the Rome-based agencies with the staff of the Special Envoy. They are based on a review of recent UN Summits, as well as many assumptions about the approach to the preparatory process.

There are various modalities for supporting the Summit, but a priority will be placed on direct financial contributions that will be required to cover many essential expenditures as detailed in this concept. A Multi-Donor Trust Fund is now in place hosted by WFP on behalf of the Summit and in alignment with international best practices for full accountability and transparency to stakeholders.

Figure 1 – Summit Budget Estimates, USD millions
(As of April, 2020)

Workstream	Estimated Budget
1.Global, Regional, and Country Engagement	\$5.2M
2.Evidence and Knowledge	\$3.3M
3.Advocacy, Communications, and Mobilization	\$3.9M
4.Summit Leadership and Secretariat Support	\$4.4M
5.Pre-Summit Event	-
6.Summit Event	-
7.Post Summit Follow Up and Accountability	\$1.5M
8.Operations	\$2.4M
Total (not including Pre-Summit & Summit Events)	\$20.7M

The Rome-based agencies are showing leadership in the Summit development by committing initial investments to allow work to get underway, and they are looking for member states, the EU, and other partners to join with them. In particular, IFAD and WFP are contributing US\$1.5 million each. FAO is providing experts to initiate the evidence and policy work of the Summit, and will house a satellite team of the Secretariat in Rome. Similar to FAO's contribution, in select instances, partners may be able to provide some resources that are as good as direct cash contribution, particularly when it comes to hosting consultations, hosting the pre-Summit, or hosting elements of the Summit event itself. The Summit will work with partners to consider any potential in-kind contributions to ensure they are as on-budget as possible and covering the costs that otherwise the Summit would be expected to finance directly.

Summit leadership will begin engaging global partners around this concept note in May.

Conclusion

As we collectively set an audaciously ambitious vision for the 2021 Food Systems Summit, we must simultaneously align behind it with the strategic leadership and support required for its success. It is a very tall order, but it is possible under the leadership of the UN Secretary-General and when we draw on the combined commitment and resources of the UN system, all of its member governments, and the countless partners who are determined to see progress on this agenda.

We have seen it many times in our recent history, when governments and their partners align around a common vision with the right policies and investments, incredible progress can happen in a short period of time. We are confident we can rise to rebuild our food systems in ways that benefit all and meet our ambition.