

***Message on behalf of the Co-Conveners of the Rome-based Membership Informal Group of Friends for the Food Systems Summit 2021***

**To the Permanent Representatives of the Rome-based UN Agencies**

As Co-Conveners of a newly to be established Rome-based Membership Informal Group of Friends for the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 (GoFFSS) we would like to invite all RBA members interested to a virtual inaugural meeting of the GoFFSS on Thursday, 18 June, 15:00 to 17:30 Rome time.

Please find attached a Non Paper outlining a proposal for the design and the working methods of the GoFFSS, to be discussed with the broader membership at the first meeting.

Besides we suggest to discuss the following agenda items on the occasion of this inaugural GoFFSS meeting:

- (i) Guidance for the preparations of the FSS to be drawn from the recently released “UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19” ([A UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19](#)) and from the Policy Brief of the UN Secretary-General on the “Impact of COVID-19 on food systems and nutrition”, to be released shortly – based on brief notes prepared by RBA focal points.
- (ii) A first preliminary discussion of the five Action Tracks highlighted by the Special Envoy in her second information note from April 2020 (**Food for All** – End Hunger around the World in line with Zero hunger under SDG 2; **Healthy People** – End malnutrition and stem the increase in obesity rates; **Nature Positive Agriculture** – Ensure Agriculture is climate neutral or even has a net positive impact on climate emissions; **Environment and Biodiversity** – Significant reductions in land degradation and biodiversity loss due to agriculture; and **Fair and economically efficient and resilient food systems** – providing healthy diets at stable, affordable prices while reducing the excessive waste in our current food systems), based on brief notes prepared by the RBA focal points, which should outline what contributions the RBA could readily make to underpin these action tracks based on available material.
- (iii) Members’ expectations, priorities and main questions regarding the FSS and the GoFFSS.

The meeting will be held on a Zoom platform. Participation from other UN locations (New York, Nairobi) is welcome. We will share the Zoom Code separately once received.

Sincerely yours

Hisham Badr, Alexandra Bugailiskis, Carlos Cherniak, Hans Hoogeveen, Malik Melvin, Ulrich Seidenberger, Khalid Mehboob, Gilbert Hougbo  
(Co-Conveners of the Rome-based Membership Informal Group of Friends for the Food Systems Summit 2021)