



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Inputs of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) to the thematic review of the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) 2024

“Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crisis: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions.”

1. Entity/ Intergovernmental body or forum

The Committee on Agriculture (COAG) is FAO’s main technical advisory committee on agriculture. COAG provides overall policy and regulatory guidance on issues relating to agriculture, livestock, food safety, nutrition, rural development and natural resource management, and is responsible for: i) reviewing major agricultural and nutritional problems and proposing concerted action by FAO’s Members and the Organization; ii) advising the FAO Council on activities relating to agriculture, livestock, food, nutrition and natural resource management, with particular emphasis on all the social, technical, economic, institutional and structural aspects relating to agricultural and rural development in general.

The biennial sessions of COAG bring together its 136 Members, and other international and non-governmental organizations, to identify emerging policy and technical issues, to seek solutions and to advise on appropriate action, with a focus on actions to accelerate and scale-up progress for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 2 and other related SDGs, and addresses interdisciplinary topics, reflecting the crosscutting nature of major global challenges to sustainable and resilient agrifood systems.

COAG’s substantive inputs to the 2024 HLPF are based on relevant policy recommendations that have emerged from the 28th Session of the Committee (COAG 28), held from 18 to 22 July 2022, comprising the outcomes of the first Session of the COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock, held on 16-18 March 2022.

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4. Impacts of multiple crises on the implementation of SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16 and 17 from the vantage point of your intergovernmental body.

Most of the **food- and agriculture-related SDG targets are still far from being achieved**. The lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with climate change, conflicts, economic shocks and growing inequalities, **set back efforts to achieve Agenda 2030**, as per the latest report tracking progress on food and agriculture-related SDG indicators, analyzing trends on indicators for which FAO is a custodian or contributing agency or have key implications for food and agriculture across eight SDGs (1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 12, 14 and 15).¹ Progress made in the past two decades has stagnated, and in some cases even reversed, compounding the challenges in **eradicating poverty and hunger**, improving health and nutrition, and **combating climate change**.

Since 2017, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI)* reports have identified and analyzed the **major drivers behind the increasing trends of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition** in the world, with conflict, climate variability and extremes and economic slowdowns and downturns as the **three major drivers**

¹ FAO. 2023. *Tracking progress on food and agriculture-related SDG indicators 2023*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc7088en>

external to agrifood systems. The adverse effect of these drivers is exacerbated by **poverty and inequality**, which are structural causes of food insecurity, and by the unaffordability of healthy diets. In addition to these drivers for structural, long-term chronic food insecurity,² **conflict, economic shocks and weather extremes** are the main drivers of the current high levels of acute food insecurity situations that require urgent humanitarian response.³ Chronic and acute food insecurity are related, as shocks and protracted crises that drive acute food insecurity can occur so often that they provoke deterioration in chronic, more long-term structural food insecurity.

The **major drivers of food insecurity are intensifying** and occurring more frequently. Conflict negatively affects almost all the components of agrifood systems, creating significant impacts on hunger and food insecurity.⁴ Conflict may lead to the destruction of agricultural and livelihood assets (such as land, livestock, crops, seed stocks or irrigation infrastructure), may force seizure of natural resources, and cause displacement from land, livestock grazing areas and fishing grounds. Conflict disrupts the flow of food, labor, and other essential items through markets; creates shortages of foods and contributes to price hikes, thereby damaging market functionality.

Climate variability and extremes negatively affect agricultural productivity and increase the demand in food imports as countries try to compensate for domestic production losses, and often lead to losses in agricultural income and cause food price spikes and volatility, reducing access to food and negatively affecting the quantity, quality and dietary diversity of food consumed. Crop contamination and **outbreaks of pests and diseases** can also compromise the quality and safety of food.⁵

The **frequency of disaster events has risen in the last two decades**, from 100 events per year in the 1970s to around 400. Most of the rise can be attributed to the increased number of climate-related events such as floods, droughts, extreme temperatures and wildfires.⁶ Over the last 30 years, an estimated USD 3.8 trillion worth of crops and livestock production has been lost due to disaster events, corresponding to an average loss of USD 123 billion per year, or 5 percent of annual global agricultural GDP, inflicting the highest relative losses on lower- and lower-middle-income countries, with a significant impact on **Small Island Developing States (SIDS)**.⁷ The impact of disasters is also influenced by the **systemic and interconnected nature of current risks** - they can have cascading impacts, affecting multiple sectors within and across boundaries. Underlying drivers include climate change, poverty and inequality, population growth, health emergencies caused by pandemics, practices such as unsustainable land use and management, conflicts and environmental degradation, and call for a proactive disaster risk-reduction solutions in agriculture and anticipatory action to increase the resilience of livelihoods to disasters.

Vulnerable populations, including smallholder and subsistence farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk and wage laborers, bear the brunt of increasingly frequent disasters and the resulting economic losses. Communities engaged in the agricultural sector bear the effects of these shocks more than any other productive sector.

Economic slowdowns or downturns primarily impact agrifood systems through their negative effects on people's access to food, including the affordability of healthy diets, as they lead to rises in unemployment and declines in wages and incomes and result in the displacement and outward migration of rural populations. The poor who spend a large share of their income on food and depend on markets for a significant portion of their diets, are especially vulnerable to economic slowdowns and downturns.⁸ **Poverty and inequality and sociocultural stratification**, including gender and power dynamics, are important structural factors that magnify the negative effects of these

² FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2021. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021. Transforming food systems for food security, improved nutrition and affordable healthy diets for all*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb4474en>

³ *Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) 2023* <https://www.fsipplatform.org/global-report-food-crises-2023>

⁴ FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2017. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2017. Building resilience for peace and food security*. Rome, FAO <https://www.fao.org/3/i7695en/i7695en.pdf>

⁵ Ibid SOFI 2021. <https://www.fao.org/3/cb4474en/cb4474en.pdf> and FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2018. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2018. Building climate resilience for food security and nutrition*. Rome, FAO. <https://www.fao.org/3/i9553en/i9553en.pdf>

⁶ FAO. 2023. *The Impact of Disasters on Agriculture and Food Security 2023 – Avoiding and reducing losses through investment in resilience*. Rome <https://www.fao.org/3/cc7900en/cc7900en.pdf>

⁷ United Nations. 2023. SDG Indicators Database – Statistics. In: Department of Economic and Social Affairs. New York. [Cited 8 June 2023]. <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/database>

⁸ Ibid SOFI 2021. <https://www.fao.org/3/cb4474en/cb4474en.pdf>; and FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2019. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019. Safeguarding against economic slowdowns and downturns*. Rome, FAO. <https://www.fao.org/3/ca5162en/ca5162en.pdf>

drivers on food security, with income inequality amplifying these effects.⁹ Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, **global poverty reduction** was slowing down because of reduced global economic growth. Given current trends, 575 million people (almost 7 percent of the world’s population) will still be living in extreme poverty in 2030.¹⁰

The FAO report on the *Status of Women in Agrifood Systems (SWAF)*,¹¹ highlights that globally, 36 per cent of working women are employed in agrifood systems, along with 38 per cent of working men. However, women’s roles tend to be marginalized and their working conditions are likely to be worse than men’s –irregular, informal, part-time, low-skilled, or labour-intensive. Likewise, women engaged in wage employment in agriculture earn 82 cents for every dollar that men earn. Women also have less secure tenure over land, less access to credit and training, and have to work with technology designed for men. Along with discrimination, these inequalities create a 24 per cent gender gap in productivity between women and men farmers on farms of equal size. It demonstrates how shocks in agrifood systems, such as COVID-19, have a differential impact on men, boys, women and girls and their coping strategies. It further underscores how **gender equality and women’s empowerment** are central to the transition towards sustainable, productive and resilient agrifood systems and how the transformation of agrifood systems can contribute to gender equality and women’s empowerment.

Urbanization is a megatrend creating challenges and opportunities for food security. By 2050, it is projected that almost seven in ten people will live in cities, the current proportion is about 56 percent. While food insecurity is estimated higher in rural areas (affecting 33 percent of adults), it is also very high in peri-urban areas and urban areas (28 and 26 percent respectively).¹² Urbanization is further leading to rising and changing food demand and shifts in patterns of food supply, and is resulting in a greater availability of cheaper and convenient foods, which are often energy dense and high in fats, sugars and/or salt that can contribute to malnutrition.¹³ Urbanization and increasing connectivity across the rural-urban continuum are creating other challenges for food security, including the exclusion of small farmers from formal value chains as well as the loss of lands and natural capital due to urban expansion. It also presents opportunities with longer, more formal and complex food value chains that expand income-generating activities, increases the variety of nutritious foods, and increases access to agricultural inputs and services as urban areas grow closer to rural areas.¹⁴

Hunger and **food insecurity remain far above pre-COVID-19-pandemic levels and far off track to achieve SDG 2** according to *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2023* report.¹⁵ Global hunger, measured by the **prevalence of undernourishment (SDG Indicator 2.1.1)**, remained relatively unchanged, affecting around 9.2 percent of the world population in 2022, compared with 7.9 percent in 2019. It is estimated that about 735 million people faced hunger in 2022, 122 million more people than in 2019, before the global pandemic.

The prevalence of **moderate or severe food insecurity** at the global level (**SDG Indicator 2.1.2**) remained unchanged for the second year in a row after increasing sharply from 2019 to 2020. About 29.6 percent of the global population – 2.4 billion people – were moderately or severely food insecure in 2022, of which about 900 million (11.3 percent of people in the world) were severely food insecure. The relative lack of change in hunger at the global level hides substantial differences at the regional level. It is **projected that almost 600 million people will be chronically undernourished in 2030**. This points to the immense challenge of achieving the SDG target to eradicate hunger, particularly in Africa.

Food insecurity affects women more than men in every region of the world. However, the gender gap in food insecurity at the global level, which had widened in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, narrowed from 3.8 percentage points in 2021 to 2.4 percentage points in 2022, suggesting that the disproportionate impacts of the pandemic on women’s food insecurity have eased globally and in some regions.

⁹ FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2019. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019.*

Safeguarding against economic slowdowns and downturns. Rome, FAO <https://www.fao.org/3/ca5162en/ca5162en.pdf>

¹⁰ *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023: Special edition Towards a Rescue Plan for People and Planet* <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2023.pdf>

¹¹ FAO 2023: *The status of women in agrifood systems.* Rome <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc5343en>

¹² FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2023. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023. Urbanization, agrifood systems transformation and healthy diets across the rural–urban continuum.* Rome, FAO <https://www.fao.org/3/cc3017en/cc3017en.pdf>

¹³ Ibid. FAO SOFI 2023. <https://www.fao.org/3/cc3017en/cc3017en.pdf>

¹⁴ Ibid. FAO SOFI 2023. <https://www.fao.org/3/cc3017en/cc3017en.pdf>

¹⁵ Ibid. FAO SOFI 2023. <https://www.fao.org/3/cc3017en/cc3017en.pdf>

The cost of a healthy diet rose globally by 6.7 percent compared to the pre-COVID-19-pandemic levels, in 2019. **More than 3.1 billion people in the world – or 42 percent – were unable to afford a healthy diet** in 2021.

According to the *Global Report on Food Crisis 2023 Mid-Year Update*¹⁶ and the *Hunger Hotspot (2023)*¹⁷ reports, acute food insecurity continued to escalate. Up to 238 million people were projected to face acute food insecurity and to be in need of urgent assistance (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above or equivalent) in 48 countries/territories in 2023, showing an increase by around 10 percent compared to 2022 and identified 18 hunger hotspots, comprising a total of 22 countries or territories.

These **threats to world food security, are compounded by the macroeconomic situation** where economic recovery is below pre-pandemic levels, particularly in emerging economies and developing countries and global growth is projected to remain below its historical average over the last two decades.¹⁸ Other key factors relate to **agricultural input prices, and structural and long-term challenges**, including economic growth and population dynamics that are driving the structural change of economies.¹⁹ Population dynamics are a key driver of changes in the demand for food, with ageing and urbanization having important repercussions for agriculture and rural communities, and related shifts in food consumption patterns and in employment. Agricultural productivity has been lagging behind and investment in innovations, especially those benefitting the poorest farmers, has been insufficient contributing to the interconnected challenges of poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition.

5. Three key areas where sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions for achieving the SDGs are being effectively delivered, especially related to the cluster of SDGs under review in 2024, bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the Goals and targets.

The Committee advised on the following key initiatives and actions contributing to the achievement of interconnected SDGs.

1. Sustainable livestock transformation. COAG established a **Sub-Committee on Livestock** in 2021 as an intergovernmental forum with a mandate to discuss and build consensus on livestock issues and priorities, including in poverty alleviation, food security and nutrition, sustainable livelihoods and achieving the 2030 Agenda, and collaboration with specialized organizations and multi-stakeholder partnerships. COAG 28 endorsed the outcomes of the first Session of the COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock (March 2022),²⁰ including the progress made for producing a comprehensive, science and evidence-based **global assessments of the contribution of livestock to food security, sustainable food systems, nutrition and healthy diets** with the aim to provide holistic guidance and to support the sustainable transformation of the livestock sector. Further to the launch of the *Contribution of terrestrial animal source food to healthy diets for improved nutrition and health outcomes* report²¹ and related studies, the COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock Second Session (July 2024), is envisaged to advance this agenda building on the evidence and findings of these assessments for action-oriented mechanisms for sustainable livestock transformation.
2. The role of **One Health**²² in achieving the 2030 Agenda, and of a holistic, coordinated, science and evidence based One Health approach for sustainable agrifood systems, and the progressive management pathway for biosecurity as a framework to reduce the risks of animal and plant diseases, emerging zoonoses, and antimicrobial resistance. COAG welcomed the strengthening of the coordination of One Health activities between FAO, the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO), forming the Quadripartite for One Health, and the development of a One Health Joint Plan of Action, and recommended to enhance data integration and sharing across sectors, to strengthen global One Health knowledge and scientific information systems, and early

¹⁶ September 2023 update of the *Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC)* <https://www.wfp.org/publications/global-report-food-crises-2023-mid-year-update>

¹⁷ WFP and FAO. 2023. *Hunger Hotspots. FAO–WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity: November 2023 to April 2024 Outlook*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc8419en>

¹⁸ Monetary Fund (IMF), *World Economic Outlook 2021* <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/Issues/2021/10/12/world-economic-outlook-october-2021>

¹⁹ FAO, *The future of food and agriculture: Drivers and triggers for transformation*, 2022. <https://www.fao.org/3/cc0959en/cc0959en.pdf>

²⁰ COAG/2022/5 <https://www.fao.org/3/ni966en/ni966en.pdf>

²¹ FAO. 2023. *Contribution of terrestrial animal source food to healthy diets for improved nutrition and health outcomes – An evidence and policy overview on the state of knowledge and gaps*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc3912en>

²² COAG/2022/7 <https://www.fao.org/3/nj006en/nj006en.pdf>

warning for resilience to emerging cross-sectoral threats, and to support national One Health early warning frameworks for rapid risk assessments of animal and zoonotic disease threat. To advance the implementation of **One Health action at country level**, the Quadripartite released two guiding documents at COP 28, in 2023 in Dubai, to translate the goals of the One Health Joint Plan of Action into actionable steps, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) guidance note on One Health²³ and an implementation guide²⁴ to serve as catalyst for One Health in action. COAG 28 welcomed the progress made in implementing the **FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) 2021-2025**²⁵ and support provided to countries in minimizing and containing AMR for more resilient and sustainable agrifood systems.

3. Among key policy instruments, the **FAO Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Waste Reduction**,²⁶ to contribute to Food Loss and Waste (FLW) reduction globally and to sustainable food systems development and achieving the SDGs, in particular SDG target 12.3,²⁷ sets out a generic framework of actions and guiding principles to be followed to reduce FLW, and that Governments can use as a basis for the development of strategies, policies and legislations, which are critical elements of intervention packages aimed at effectively and sustainably reducing FLW, and programmes on FLW reduction and for the preparation of technical guidelines for use by practitioners.²⁸ This contributed to the development of *Guidelines for action on food loss and waste reduction in the Near East and North Africa*,²⁹ as a tool for implementing the Code of Conduct by developing national operational, multisectoral national FLW reduction strategies that address the underlying drivers of FLW and set clear actions and targets. Further, a regional strategy for the adoption of the CoC on FLW at the city level is being validated with local authorities in several countries in Latin America. Similar initiatives are being promoted in other regions. The *Technical Platform on the Measurement and Reduction of Food Loss and Waste*,³⁰ hosted by FAO, provides an overview of actions at all levels.

6. Three examples of specific actions, policies and measures that are most urgently needed to effectively deliver sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions to eradicate poverty and reinforce the 2030 Agenda, building on interlinkages and transformative pathways for achieving the SDGs.

1. **Intersectoral collaboration on the multiple linkages between the agriculture and forestry sectors.**³¹ COAG underscored the need to achieve better synergies through inter-sectorial approaches for more sustainable agrifood systems. It recommended collecting and analyzing science and evidence-based data on agriculture and forestry interdependencies, including on the direct and underlying drivers of deforestation and land degradation. Additionally, it advised to improve complementarity between the agriculture and forestry sectors and to promote greater and inclusive policy coherence between these sectors and to support small-scale producers, women, youth, local communities and Indigenous Peoples. COAG 28 requested to put greater emphasis on ways to decouple growth in agricultural production from forest and other biodiversity loss. In response to these, COAG and the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) are strengthening collaboration as part of their joint roadmap towards scaling up actions on agriculture and forestry linkages and improving consistency of policies across agriculture and forestry sectors.
2. **Food safety key contributions to One Health, the development of sustainable agrifood systems, food security and nutrition**, are essential prerequisites to achieve the 2030 Agenda. COAG 28 endorsed the *Strategic Priorities for Food Safety within the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31*³² and expressed its interest in the development of the Joint FAO/World Health Organization (WHO) Implementation Plan. It invited FAO to continue providing demand-driven policy and technical support to Members in their efforts to improve food safety in formal and informal settings. Additionally, it encouraged Members to continuously improve their

²³ FAO, UNEP WHO, and WOA. 2023. *One Health and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. Guidance for United Nations country teams.* <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc5067en><https://www.fao.org/3/cc5067en/cc5067en.pdf>

²⁴ WHO, FAO, UNEP and WOA. 2023. *A guide to implementing the One Health Joint Plan of Action at national level.* <https://www.fao.org/3/cc7916en/cc7916en.pdf>

²⁵ COAG/2022/8 <https://www.fao.org/3/nj007en/nj007en.pdf>

²⁶ FAO. 2022. *Voluntary Code of Conduct for Food Loss and Waste Reduction.* Rome. FAO <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb9433en>

²⁷ C 2021/27. <https://www.fao.org/3/nf393en/nf393en.pdf>

²⁸ COAG/2020/INF/4 <https://www.fao.org/3/ni950en/ni950en.pdf>

²⁹ NERC/24/9. <https://www.fao.org/3/no274en/no274en.pdf>

³⁰ *FAO Technical Platform on the Measurement and Reduction of Food Loss and Waste* <https://www.fao.org/platform-food-loss-waste/en>

³¹ COAG/2022/12 <https://www.fao.org/3/nj009en/nj009en.pdf>

³² COAG/2022/6 <https://www.fao.org/3/nj005en/nj005en.pdf>

national food control systems, data collection and analysis, and participate in international food safety governance.

3. In contribution towards **SDG 13**, COAG commended the **FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031**³³ and its Action Plan, aligned with the SDGs, and welcomed FAO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) co-leadership to promote the implementation of the **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030**; ³⁴ and recommended addressing the restoration of agricultural production ecosystems within FAO's policies and programmes; and encouraged Members to support the activities of the Decade and enhance their ecosystem restoration efforts.
4. The **UN Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028 (UNDF)**,^{35,36} builds on the potential of family farming and the catalyzer role of the UNDF to facilitate the shift towards sustainable, inclusive and resilient agrifood systems. COAG 28 invited FAO to continue its close coordination with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in their leadership of the UNDF, to mobilize financial resources to promote concrete actions to strengthen the resilience of family farmers; and Members to accelerate efforts to support the UNDF through the adoption of supportive policies and further investments.

7. Recommendations and key messages for inclusion into the Ministerial Declaration of the 2024 HLPF.

- Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and **eradicating poverty and hunger in times of multiple crisis**: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions, needs to address at the same time unprecedented major threats such as climate change, conflicts, transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases, economic shocks, combined with growing inequalities. In the context of the need to produce more food to feed a growing world population, sustainable agrifood systems play an important role for achieving the interconnected SDGs, and strengthen sustainability across all dimensions – economic, social, and environmental – and contribute to food security, nutrition, and healthy diets, and reduce its impact on biodiversity, natural resources, ecosystems, and the climate.
- Need to scale up actions for the transition towards **sustainable and resilient agrifood systems and to address food insecurity and malnutrition, support livelihoods of vulnerable groups** of the population, particularly small- scale producers, family farmers, women and youth. Additionally, it is crucial to address intertwined issues related to climate change, biodiversity, water management, and agriculture and forestry linkages. This involves promoting the sustainable use and management of natural resources, reducing inequalities, and strengthen partnerships.
- Agriculture can play a significant role in **climate action**, and be part of the solution, by building climate-resilient agrifood systems, strengthening climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and resilience of communities. To maximize the climate and environmental benefits of agrifood systems, we must focus on conserving, protecting, restoring land and natural ecosystems, enhancing soil health and biodiversity.
- Applying a holistic, coordinated, science and evidence-based **One Health** approach for sustainable agrifood systems is key for achieving the 2030 Agenda.
- **Innovation** is a key accelerator and enabler of all SDGs, including technological, social, policy, institutional, and financial innovations, who can have a positive impact on the production, nutrition, environment and livelihoods of people, notably smallholder farmers and agriculture-dependent communities.

8. Follow-up actions and measures being undertaken by your intergovernmental body or forum to support implementation of the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit.³⁷

³³ COAG/2022/20 Rev.1 <https://www.fao.org/3/ni992en/ni992en.pdf> ; COAG/2022/INF/8 Rev.1 <https://www.fao.org/3/ni994en/ni994en.pdf>

³⁴ COAG/2022/17 <https://www.fao.org/3/nj013en/nj013en.pdf>

³⁵ COAG/2022/11 <https://www.fao.org/3/ni949en/ni949en.pdf>

³⁶ UNDF website: <https://www.fao.org/family-farming-decade/home/en/>

³⁷ UN SDG Summit 2023 <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/SDGSummit2023/political-declaration>

In relation to the **SDG Summit's Call to action – turning our world towards 2030**, COAG 28 advised on the following key issues:

1. **Accelerate actions to end hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition, and the realization of the right to adequate food, including through access to sufficient, safe and nutritious foods, the promotion of sustainable and resilient agriculture and food systems, as well as safe, nutritious and healthy diets.**

Actions to achieve SDG 2 and attain sustainable agrifood systems will accelerate progress across most other SDGs and targets. COAG as FAO's main technical advisory Committee on agriculture, provides overall policy and regulatory guidance on the Organization's work in the agrifood sectors related to agriculture, livestock, food security, nutrition and natural resource management.

2. **Address water scarcity and stress and drive transformation to a world where water is a sustainable resource, ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.**

Building on the FAO report **The State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture (SOLAW21)**^{38,39} COAG recognized the importance of a paradigm shift towards sustainable agrifood systems to meet the growing demand for food, while conserving biodiversity and safeguarding land, soil and water for food security and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, and it also emphasized the importance of **addressing water scarcity**⁴⁰. COAG recommended to step up the work of the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG)⁴¹ regarding water tenure for the sustainable management of natural resources, and FAO's initiatives to understand the complexity of water rights, sustainable water management and to identify actionable and context-specific avenues to improve the governance of water tenure.

3. **Support the global efforts to address plastic pollution, and the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.**

To improve intersectoral collaboration and governance to **address plastic use throughout agrifood systems**,⁴² COAG recommended FAO to address knowledge gaps through inclusive consultations with Members and relevant stakeholders, and to develop, within its mandate, a **Voluntary Code of Conduct on the sustainable use of plastics in agriculture**, taking into account the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution *End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument* (UNEP/EA.5/Res.14). The Code of Conduct is to be presented for consideration at the 29th Session of COAG in September 2024.

4. **Recommit to the full implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, as disasters have become more frequent and intense, and promote a disaster risk-informed and more people-centered preventive approaches at all levels, and disaster risk reduction to be multi-hazard and multisectoral, inclusive and accessible and promote multi-hazard early warning mechanisms.**

COAG has emphasized the role of **One Health**⁴³ in achieving the 2030 Agenda, and of a holistic, coordinated, science and evidence-based One Health approach for sustainable agrifood systems, and the progressive management pathway for biosecurity as a framework to reduce the risks of animal and plant diseases, emerging zoonoses, and antimicrobial resistance, and welcomed the strengthening of the coordination of activities under Quadripartite for One Health, and the development of a One Health Joint Plan of Action.

5. **Bridging the science, technology and innovation divides and their responsible use as drivers of sustainable development and to build the capacities necessary for sustainable transformations.**

The Committee commended the **FAO Science and Innovation Strategy (2022-25)**⁴⁴ and the development of regional action plans for its effective implementation, contributing to the Agenda 2030. COAG emphasized the fundamental role of well-functioning agricultural innovation systems, knowledge and best practices for promoting efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable, agrifood systems: and of national agricultural research systems and extension and advisory services to advance agricultural innovation, through co-development of

³⁸ COAG/2022/15 <https://www.fao.org/3/nj011en/nj011en.pdf>

³⁹ FAO. 2022. *The State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture – Systems at breaking point. Main report.* Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb9910en>

⁴⁰ Ibid. COAG/2022/15 <https://www.fao.org/3/nj011en/nj011en.pdf>

⁴¹ WASAG website: <https://www.fao.org/wasag/en/>

⁴² COAG/2022/16 <https://www.fao.org/3/nj012en/nj012en.pdf>

⁴³ COAG/2022/7 <https://www.fao.org/3/nj006en/nj006en.pdf>

⁴⁴ FAO. 2022. *FAO Science and Innovation Strategy.* Rome <https://www.fao.org/3/cc2273en/cc2273en.pdf>

technologies and good practices and making them available to micro-, small- and medium-scale producers; and recommended FAO to support Members in the development of multistakeholder mechanisms, including research, extension platforms and innovation hubs.⁴⁵

6. ***Urgency of climate action in the implementation of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, in relation to climate mitigation, adaptation and the provision of the means of implementation, especially finance to developing countries.***

COAG commended the **FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031**⁴⁶ and development of the Action Plan setting priorities for climate action in the agrifood systems at sectoral levels. These priorities encompass the crops, forests, fisheries and aquaculture, and livestock sectors, spanning from local to global scales and in synergy with work by other relevant organizations. COAG recognized the importance of mobilizing additional resources to support the implementation of these activities. Moreover, it emphasizes the need for inclusive collaboration to adopt low-emission, good practices and innovative solutions, ensuring that no one is left behind. ***Enhanced implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 and the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.***

COAG welcomed progress made in the implementation of the **FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors** and its related Action Plans,⁴⁷ and supports Members in their efforts to mainstream biodiversity, taking into consideration developments under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and contributing towards SDG target 2.5.

⁴⁵ COAG/2022/10 <https://www.fao.org/3/ni963en/ni963en.pdf>

⁴⁶ FAO. 2022. *FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022–2031*. Rome <https://www.fao.org/3/cc2274en/cc2274en.pdf>

⁴⁷ COAG/2022/13 <https://www.fao.org/3/nj010en/nj010en.pdf>