

TRANSFORMING FOOD SYSTEMS FOR PEOPLE, NATURE, AND CLIMATE: A SHARED CALL TO ACTION - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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A) Role and purpose of Call to Action

Q: What is the purpose of the Call to Action on Transforming Food Systems for People, Nature, and Climate (CtA)?

The purpose of the CtA is to bring together a diverse range of actors to highlight the urgent need to take action on food systems to deliver positive, measurable progress for people, nature, and climate, priority actions that are needed, and opportunities to work in partnership with each other, and with governments, to increase ambition and close the implementation gap.

The CtA is open for endorsement by a wide range of ‘Non-State Actors’ (any stakeholder or rightsholder who is not a national government) involved in the food system. It is a shared communication from Non-State Actors who endorse it to all stakeholders involved in the food system, including governments.

It is a collaborative effort that has involved many diverse Non-State Actors across the food system – including farmers and other frontline food systems actors, Indigenous Peoples, youth, cities, consumers, civil society, business, financial institutions, philanthropy, and others. It responds to the need for a clear, aligned and compelling set of asks from Non-State Actors that reflect:

- Why food systems are important;
- The unprecedented challenges they face, and the need to act with appropriate urgency, effort and scale;
- The need to align food systems with global goals and to develop time-bound and holistic global targets by COP29 at the latest, with actionable, evidence-based locally appropriate transition pathways;
- A set of ten priority actions;
- Four core principles for how to take this work forward;
- The vital role of governments in creating the enabling conditions to accelerate action and enhance ambition;
- The vital role and contribution of farmers and frontline food systems actors and what they need to thrive and prosper;
- A commitment from those who endorse it to take action and report on progress.

The CtA is intended to support and complement the Emirates Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action, led by the COP28 Presidency for endorsement by National Governments.

Q: Who has been involved in developing this CtA?

This process was led by Gonzalo Munoz, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP25 and Chair of the COP28 Presidency’s Food Systems & Agriculture Agenda Non-State Actors Pillar, on behalf of the UN Climate Change High-Level Champions for COP27 and COP28, Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin and H.E Razan Al Mubarak.

The Climate Champions Team facilitated a consultation process for the CtA in partnership with initiatives and networks that represent diverse stakeholders and rightsholders.

The High-Level Champions are deeply grateful for the support of many Non-State Actor leaders and to the global and regional stakeholder networks who helped distribute the draft CtA and provide thoughtful feedback. We thank the UNFCCC Farmers’ Constituency and UNFCCC YOUNGO for providing opportunities to their members to engage in this process. We would also like to acknowledge and thank the [Just Rural Transition](#) for additional support in managing this multi-stakeholder collaborative process.

The CtA builds on decades of knowledge, experience and advocacy from a wide range of Non-State Actors working on food systems, the UN Food Systems Summit in 2021 (UNFSS), the UNFSS +2 Stocktaking Moment in 2023, the Food Day during New York Climate Week, and other events and processes, as well as recent relevant

Statements and Declarations. We are indebted to the many people who provided input and suggestions, either via the Feedback Form or through webinars and meetings.

B) Consultation and Endorsement Process

Q: What was the Consultation Process behind the CtA and what efforts were taken to ensure this was diverse and inclusive?

The consultation process involved many global and regional networks representing a diverse range of Non-State Actors, including farmers and other frontline food systems actors, Indigenous Peoples, youth, cities, consumers, civil society, business, financial institutions, philanthropy and others.

Consultations through August and September helped develop and refine the draft CtA text. This was distributed via a range of global and regional networks in October, in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish, and via two public webinars promoted on the High-Level Champions social media sites.

In early November, the draft text was updated and finalized based on feedback received through a Feedback Form link, emails, the webinars and other dialogues, to reflect areas where greater clarity, emphasis or nuance was requested by multiple respondents.

The final text is on the High-Level Champions [website](#) for endorsement.

Q: What is the Endorsement Process for the CtA?

Entities/Coalitions who want to endorse the CtA need to complete a short form on the Climate Champion's [website](#). This includes:

- Confirming they are authorized to endorse the CtA on behalf of their Entity/Coalition;
- Providing relevant contact information (not for public communications);
- Providing a **Statement of Action** (no longer than 200 words) that details specific plans, priorities and actions they are already taking and/or will take to deliver on the ambition of the CtA;
- Providing relevant permissions (for public communications).

Q: How will information submitted by endorsers be used?

Entities who wish to endorse the CtA will be asked to complete a short questionnaire.

By completing the questionnaire, endorsers accept that the following information may be used in public communications related to the CtA:

- The name of the entity

- The logo of the entity (if one exists)
- The Statement of Action.

Contact information will be collected and stored by the Climate Champions Team to enable follow-up correspondence, in accordance with relevant privacy and data sharing provisions. This information will not be made public.

The names of entities who endorse the CtA will be listed in alphabetical order on the High-Level Champions [website](#). This information will be updated periodically to reflect new endorsements.

Q; Can Multi-Stakeholder Initiatives, Coalitions and Collective Groups of Entities Endorse the CtA?

Yes, collective groupings of Non-State Actors are able to endorse the CtA and submit Statements of Action. This can include member-based organizations or multi-stakeholder initiatives or coalitions. Please include relevant information in the endorsement form. Entities who submit as part of a collective submission can also submit as individual entities.

Q: Can Individuals endorse the CtA?

No. The CtA is a platform for organizations, entities, initiatives, and multi-stakeholder coalitions, though we welcome individuals who support the CtA to amplify its messages.

Q: What should be included in the Statements of Action?

Those who endorse the CtA should submit Statements of Action of no more than 200 words that provide a summary of the actions they are already taking or planning to take to deliver on the ambition of the CtA, highlighting relevant targets, timeframes, reporting frameworks and partnerships, including website links to further information.

These Statements of Action can be submitted by individual entities, groups of entities, as well as multi-stakeholder initiatives, coalitions, or platforms. Entities who submit as part of a collective submission can also submit as individual entities.

All entities who endorse the CtA are required to submit a Statement of Action no later than 6 months after endorsement. These will be made public on the High-Level Champions [website](#) to facilitate transparency and accountability.

Q: What is the process for vetting and accepting endorsers and ensuring follow through?

This is an inclusive CtA that is open to all Non-State Actor entities that represent farmers and other frontline food systems actors, Indigenous Peoples, youth, cities, consumers, civil society, business, financial institutions, philanthropy and others who share in its vision and key messages and who intend to contribute to individual and collective action through to 2030.

Entities who endorse the CtA are expected to contribute to its shared objectives, acknowledging the varied roles of different food systems actors. Statements of Action will be published on the High-Level Champions [website](#), to promote accountability and transparency.

To avoid duplication of efforts and ensure high quality and best practice, entities are encouraged to work through existing, transparent, third party initiatives, frameworks and reporting systems where available and as appropriate and applicable. All endorsers commit to reporting publicly on progress at least annually.

The High-Level Champions reserve the right to review the endorsement and follow up process as needed.

Submissions which use offensive language or are not submitted in good faith will not be accepted. Please note there will be a delay in receiving endorsements and updating information on the High-Level Champions website.

C) Reference materials

Q: What key resources and reference materials informed the CtA?

Stats and facts referenced:

- Food systems provide livelihoods for at least 4 billion people. [FAO Estimating Global and Country-Level Employment in Agrifood Systems 2023](#)
- Global food and agriculture is responsible for more than one third of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, up to 70 percent of freshwater use, and as much as 80 percent of biodiversity loss. [Crippa et al. Food systems are responsible for a third of global anthropogenic GHG emissions, Nature, 2021](#)
- Poor diet quality is the leading driver of non-communicable diseases and the major cause of premature death around the world. [Health effects of dietary risks in 195 countries, 1990–2017: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017 - The Lancet](#); [Health and environmental impacts of diets worldwide - Global Nutrition Report](#)

- Around 30 percent of food is lost or wasted. Around 14 percent of this is lost and a further 17% wasted. [UNEP Food Waste Index Report 2021](#); [FAO The State of Food and Agriculture: Moving Forward on Food Loss and Waste Reduction 2019](#)
- Over 900 million people are food insecure. [FAO The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023](#)
- Over 3 billion cannot afford a healthy diet. [World Bank Food Prices for Nutrition DataHub: global statistics on the Cost and Affordability of Healthy Diets 2021](#)
- The hidden social, economic, and environmental costs associated with today's food systems amount to more than US\$10 trillion annually. [FAO The State of Food and Agriculture 2023](#)

International agreements referenced:

- [The Paris Agreement](#)
- [The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#)
- [The 2023 Sustainable Development Agenda](#)

Other frameworks referenced:

- [The Sharm El Sheik Adaptation Agenda](#)
- [The Breakthrough Agenda](#)

Key resources:

- [The Sixth Assessment Report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2023](#)
- [FAO The State of Food and Agriculture 2023](#)
- [FAO The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023](#)
- [UNFSS Stocktaking Report 2023](#)
- [International Energy Agency \(IEA\) World Energy Outlook 2023](#)

What are the target setting, disclosure, and reporting frameworks and initiatives mentioned in Footnote 4?

- [Carbon Disclosure Project](#) (CDP)
- [International Sustainability Standards Board](#) (ISSB)
- [Race to Zero](#)
- [Science Based Targets Initiative's Forest, Land and Agriculture Guidance](#) (SBTi FLAG)
- [Science Based Targets Network](#) (SBTN)
- [Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures](#) (TCFD)
- [Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures](#) (TNFD)

D) Next Steps

Q: *What process is envisaged after COP28?*

Those who endorse the CtA commit to monitor and report publicly at least annually and as appropriate, on their actions and progress on transforming food systems to deliver for people, nature, and climate as set out in the Call to Action.

To avoid duplication of efforts and ensure high quality and best practice, entities are encouraged to work through existing, transparent, third party initiatives, frameworks and reporting systems where available and as appropriate and applicable. All endorsers commit to reporting publicly on progress at least annually.

Subject to interest and feedback from endorsers, potential endorsers, partners who have been involved in the development of the CtA and other stakeholders in food systems, the CtA could remain open for endorsers through to COP30, with a review at COP29.

Endorsers will receive communications updates from the Climate Champions Team in 2024.