

Food and Land Use Systems Transformation

Context

The Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU) proposes a new global approach be launched at the Summit which engages governments, the private sector, civil society, farmers and local communities to create a tipping point in food and land use systems critical to delivering the SDGs and Paris Agreement. The next ten years are critical to meeting these ambitions.

The FOLU Transformation Approach, in which there is already strong commitment and momentum, focuses on the challenge of feeding a growing population a healthy and nutritious diet, and protecting vital natural ecosystems which sustain life, at a time when rural communities and key ecosystems are suffering growing stresses from climate change. We propose a new, integrated approach to sustainable land use (a FOLU Transformation Approach) which:

- Values and protects natural resources
- Provides nutritious, safe and affordable food for at least nine billion people
- Cuts food loss and waste by at least 50 per cent
- Delivers up to a third of the required reduction in global emissions through natural climate solutions
- Ensures rural communities are resilient and thriving, and rewards people for the actions they take to protect the environment, including through efforts to:
 - Enhance livelihoods for small-holder farmers worldwide
 - Restore critical ecosystems such as forests, peatlands and mangroves
 - Mobilise public and private finance

Overview

ROLE OF GOVERNMENTS: Governments, including ministries of finance and planning, will work together on the transformation agenda for food, land and water systems by:

- **Developing aspirational, long-term targets and pathways** that set clear direction for the sustainable management of food, agriculture, biodiversity, land use, energy and water resources in alignment with sustainable development and climate goals. This should be integrated into countries' Low Emission Development Strategy submissions under the UNFCCC, as well as informed by the CBD and UNCCD.
- **Implementing policy, fiscal and regulatory reforms** to create incentives to enable and accelerate the transition to resilient and sustainable food and land use, including fully valuing natural capital, repurposing agricultural subsidies and pricing carbon.
- **Strengthening land use planning and governance** to manage competition and trade-offs across different land uses, and deliver national economic, social, health and environmental goals which enhance long-term resilience of economies, communities and ecosystems.
- **Promoting awareness of consumers, producers, retailers and investors** to support behavioural change, encourage innovation and promote inclusive participation in the transition.

The next steps, ahead of the UN Secretary General's Climate Action Summit, will include engaging interested parties in **turning these principles into direct policy commitments that can be monitored.**

Upcoming Release of FOLU Global Synthesis Report

In September 2019, the Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU) will release a global synthesis report which sets out the economic case for the transformation of food and land use systems. This report will describe the political and economic opportunity and mechanisms to deliver a transformation in how our food and land-use systems function, shifting them from a major contributor to climate change and inequality into a source of balanced economic growth, human health and a flourishing natural environment.

FOLU was launched in 2017 and its core partners and donors are set out below:



Supporting actions

Non-governmental actors are imperative to supporting this Agenda. The Summit provides an opportunity to catalyse new contributions from diverse stakeholders to support delivery of the FOLU Transformation Agenda.

THE ROLE OF BUSINESS : Achieving the transition will require action by businesses throughout supply chains, to address their footprint on land, diets and resources. Participating businesses can be encouraged to bring forward specific commitments (e.g. at CEO level). Examples of the contributions of business could include:

- Adoption of science-based targets;
- Agreement to increase R&D and/or marketing budget to promote sustainable, nutritious food;
- Commitment to fair prices for agricultural commodities, which reflect the true cost to the environment, public health and rural economies;
- New programmes and investment in the adoption of regenerative agriculture;
- End lobbying against progressive government policy which promotes a sustainable food system;
- Restoration of critical ecosystems upon which their businesses and supply chains depend;
- Commitment to zero deforestation supply chains.

THE ROLE OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FINANCE: Financing the transformation will require new financing models and partnerships involving donors, development finance institutions, commercial banks, informal capital providers, corporate value chain actors and food producers. Developing countries need support to build capacity, design and implement reforms, and participatory approaches. Participating stakeholders can make specific commitments to finance the Agenda. Examples of this could include:

- Pledges from public and philanthropic donors and multilateral development banks;
- Agreement to scale up use of “blended finance” instruments like guarantees, insurance, currency hedging and first loss/subordinate capital;
- New technical assistance programmes;
- Inclusion of food and land use systems risk in work of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD).

THE ROLE OF FARMERS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES: Farmers unions, community organisations (rural and urban), indigenous peoples and local communities in the forest frontier and those vulnerable to the impacts of climate change are also core to delivering this agenda. Their experience, needs and perspectives need to be fully integrated into the consultation and implementation of this Agenda.

CONTRIBUTION OF THE FOOD AND LAND USE COALITION: We will draw on our experience of implementing FOLU in countries such as Colombia, Ethiopia and Indonesia and nurture a FOLU transformation movement by:

- Supporting governments to develop tools, knowledge and pathways to identify priority actions for transformation;
- Facilitating knowledge exchange between governments, private sector, communities and other actors on emerging learnings and scalable, replicable solutions;
- Identifying or creating platforms and multi-stakeholder action coalitions to deliver priority actions, spur innovation and catalyse broader support from public and private stakeholders;
- Developing a Food and Land Use “Action Tracker”, with support of the Food, Agriculture, Biodiversity, Land and Energy Consortium (FABLE) Consortium and others (including participating countries’ national research institutes). This will develop methodologies, standardize assessments and enable countries to monitor and assess progress toward their long-term goals.
- Working with existing Coalitions and Initiatives active in this space to facilitate a coordinated approach that leverages the strengths of each respective partner. This will enable rapid scaling and implementation, and offer a more integrated and effective package of support to participating governments.

CONTRIBUTION TO ADDITIONAL CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT WORKSTREAMS: While this FOLU Transformation Agenda is core to Nature-Based Solutions, it is also strongly aligned to the Resilience, Popular Mobilization and Social and Political Drivers Workstreams.