

UNEP's CPR Subcommittee meeting of 21 January 2021:
Briefing on the preparation for the 2021 Food Systems Summit
The intervention on behalf of the EU and its Member States

1. The EU and its Member States commend once again the UNSG's initiative to convene a World Food Systems Summit in 2021 and reiterate their support to an ambitious outcome. We thank as well the UN Secretariat-General's Special Envoy and the Executive Director of UNEP for this update and opportunity to exchange views on this important topic.
2. The global pandemic the world is facing, along with its humanitarian, socioeconomic and environmental consequences, has clearly highlighted the relevance and urgency of such an event.
3. Environmental challenges must be addressed to achieve sustainable food systems in the future, including challenges in relation to deforestation, excessive resource exploitation, pesticide and nutrient use, resilience to climate change and the relation to biodiversity, including as regards zoonosis like COVID19.
4. It will be very important that the Summit adequately addresses the need for, and ways to, effectively respond to these many challenges, especially through the mainstreaming of sustainable consumption and production in the food sector.
5. The EU and its Member States have been supporting and encouraging various partners, namely in the United Nations system, to provide all necessary support to the Special Envoy and her team, and to contribute to the various Summit work streams. In this regard, we welcome UNEP's strong engagement.
6. We consider that a science and evidence-based assessment of the current food systems with due attention to the environmental footprint, to the socio-economic related aspects and, in particular, the hidden costs of food¹ is of utmost importance to guarantee a sound outcome and follow-up of the Summit.
7. From the Information note delivered by the Special Envoy, we took note with appreciation that the Scientific Group does interact with all action tracks of the Summit, as well as other institutions and evidence providers. We also took note that the leadership for the five Action Tracks is in place.
8. We also would like to underline the importance which we attach to the participation of non-governmental stakeholders throughout food systems such as organisations of farmers and producers, food businesses, retailers, consumers as well as hospitality and food services, and the private sector in general. We welcome in this regard the initiatives to further incentivize regional perspectives and reports (such as the study on African Food Systems that will be completed by the end of February).

¹ As highlighted in the "State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2020 Report

Questions:

9. The updates provided are very good signs in the run up to the Summit. In this context we are wondering if it is possible to further elaborate on the development of the action tracks and how the delivery of the expected scientific support to each action track is seen by the Special Envoy.
 10. It would be enlightening to hear about the Special Envoy's vision on how to engage all countries, particularly those from the global South.
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