

JULY 2021

**From Strategy to Action: Youth leadership in agri-food systems transformation and innovation for a better food future for everyone, everywhere - Side Event at the 2021 High-Level Political Forum**

The Youth Committee of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has launched the World Food Forum powered by global youth (WFF) – a youth-led movement and network of partners, created for and led by youth, to spark a movement to transform our global agri-food systems and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 2 on “zero hunger” and other SDGs under review in the HLPF 2021 such as SDG 1 “no poverty”, and SDG 13 “climate action”.



The GEO-6 for Youth report was presented at the 2021 High-Level Political Forum on 14th July 2021. This side event at the HLPF aimed to give youth a platform to engage in a dialogue with Member States, Major Groups and Other Stakeholders and the UN Systems, proposing ideas to deliver on the goals of food systems transformation and building back our societies and economies post-COVID 19, which are essential for the achievement of the SDGs, and jointly identifying partnerships and action necessary to transform ideas into results. It will also provide an initial set of recommendations from youth to global leaders involved in the implementation of SDG 2, stemming from the ECOSOC Youth Forum (April 2020) and an in-depth survey ahead of the HLPF 2021. In doing so, the side-event will also contribute to solidifying and reinforcing the WFF as a permanent independent global youth platform and network of youth-related partners and energize the global youth movement for food, placing young people into the centre of attaining systemic changes in the food system for a better food future for everyone, everywhere.

Watch the recording of the event [here](#).

For more information on the event visit <http://www.fao.org/new-york/events/2021-World-Food-Forum-at-HLPF>.



Photo © Shutterstock.com

## Tribute to Rowena from Umvoto Africa



Rowena (right) with Walter and Ania at GEO-6 Authors' Meeting in Frascati, Italy Feb 2017

Elizabeth Rowena Hay sadly and unexpectedly passed away on Thursday 8th July after a battle with COVID-19. She was part of the team of authors on the [GEO-6 Report](#) launched in March 2019. Rowena founded Muizenberg-based earth science and groundwater research consultancy [Umvoto Africa](#) in 1992 and was managing director until her passing. She was a trailblazer in the truest sense of the word, particularly for women in science and engineering and small business entrepreneurship (of which she and Umvoto Africa won numerous awards and recognition). She played an integral role in the understanding and development of the deep fractured aquifer systems of the Table Mountain Group and pioneered the drilling of 500-1000 m ultradeep exploration and production boreholes across the Western Cape. She was also passionate about communities improving their livelihoods through the betterment of their surrounding natural environment, and was deeply involved in disaster risk reduction, gender mainstreaming and social hydrogeology projects (with many being undertaken for the United Nations). Out of this she recently established The [Umvoto Foundation](#), a non-profit organization aimed at merging art and science to foster mutual learning and co-create sustainable solutions for resilient and empowered communities. Rowena was a loving partner of Chris, mother to Mike and Ruth, and mentor (and in some cases second mother) to her Umvoto Africa staff (and numerous interns) for the past 30 years. Her unique humor, wit, passion, vibrancy and insight will be greatly missed, but her legacy will continue onwards in the people who had the privilege of knowing and working with her.

Umvoto Africa and The Umvoto Foundation sends their deepest condolences to the Hay and Hartnady families, and all of Rowena's friends and colleagues. Her co-authors from the GEO-6 report will be making donations to Umvoto Foundation in her name. Donations to the foundation from the GEO-6 community are welcome.

Any condolences can be sent through to **Umvoto Africa** at [amanzi@umvoto.com](mailto:amanzi@umvoto.com), as the family has asked for privacy at the moment.



Photo © Shutterstock.cm



O  
e  
3  
/  
3  
r  
O  
.  
P  
e  
n  
u  
.   
W  
.  
W  
W