REPORT

ENGAGING POWERHOLDERS IN CATALYSING FOOD SYSTEMS CHANGE

CURATOR

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Identify concrete steps key stakeholders can take, from the perspective of civil society, to ensure that recommendations coming out of the Summit are inclusive and actioned.

- Create a critical set of suggestions from civil society representatives
- Ensure inclusivity and actionability of the Summit outcomes
- Push for a pathway for taking these outcomes forward
- Important step towards the Pre-Summit in July
We identified the following levels of engagement to be the crucial powerholders in transforming Food Systems:

- **INTERGOVERNMENTAL**
- **NATIONAL**
- **SUBNATIONAL**
- **INDIVIDUAL**
- **PRIVATE SECTOR**

The event brought together 59 participants from across geographies & sectors representing diverse stakeholder groups, including civil society representatives, those from the private sector, national, regional, and international bodies. The event served as an important step leading up to the Pre-Summit and will inform the official Summit process going forward of the key prerequisites to ensure inclusivity and actionability of the Summit outcomes.
KEY TAKEAWAYS

ACROSS ALL LEVELS

TRANSPARENCY

ACCOUNTABILITY

MECHANISM

ACCESSIBILITY & AFFORDABILITY

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

IDENTIFICATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

MULTI-ACTOR APPROACH

HOLISTIC APPROACH

CONTRIBUTION OF OUTCOMES TO NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL PROCESSES

TAILOR-MADE STRATEGIES

LISTEN TO VULNERABLE GROUPS

LOCALISE SOLUTIONS

BUILDING BRIDGES

CAPACITY BUILDING AND ENHANCING TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

DEFINE ONE STRONG CORE MESSAGE

INCLUDE EVERYONE IN DECISION MAKING

CONNECTING FORMAL NATIONAL FSS DIALOGUES AND COMMITMENTS FROM NATIONAL LEVELS

BUILDING BRIDGES

*size of words depending on frequency of occurrence during the dialogue
Actionability:

- Define **one strong core message** in UNFSS to collectively bring to COP26
- **Focus on localised solutions:** local businesses, availability of healthy & plant-based food, meet communities where they are
- More focus on **capacity-building** & enhancing **technical expertise** for stakeholders and CSOs to engage in concrete actions
- Develop **tailor-made strategies** for specific areas, communicate implications for different countries
- Implement CSO watchdog role to ensure **accountability** and **transparency**
- **Focus on outcomes that feed into existing processes:** building on existing entry points & scaling them up to increase ambition
- Focusing on actions which make healthy choice the easy choice – **accessibility, affordability**
Inclusivity:
- Ensure used **language** is inclusive, empowering and trust building
- Identification of **responsibilities** linked to other processes at a national and international level
- Policies and processes to be inclusive and participatory, not only focus on the food sector → **holistic approach**
- **Multi-actor approach**: address all stages of the food chain and include everyone, especially vulnerable communities, in decision-making
- **Building bridges** between stakeholders/ different actors working in silos
- **Connecting formal national FSS dialogues and commitments from national levels** to ensure full inclusion for sub-national governments in advancing solution sets that emerge from the Summit
KEY TAKEAWAYS

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL LEVEL**

- For **complete transparency**, the FSS governance **structure** should be **open** to civil society and an **accountability system** should be set up, shared and owned by all the stakeholders.
- **Food systems** have to play an essential role at **COP26** - catalyse civil society towards it, this is the role of the UN.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

**NATIONAL LEVEL**

- To empower **key actors** in food systems, the focus on **accessibility** and **affordability** as well as the guarantee of **technical** and **financial support** provided for the implementation of actions are essential.
- Directly **reaching out** to **national governments** is crucial—preparations to engage with **existing actors** to bring in **different actors**.
**KEY TAKEAWAYS**

**SUBNATIONAL LEVEL**

- Frame **actions** as **collective missions**, that invite people to contribute to a **continuous, evolving journey**
- It is essential to **move** the **needle** further **down** towards the ground to **empower local leaders** better. **Resources** and **decision power** should be transferred from the UN and nation-states more to a **city-level** through different mechanisms and processes. With strong **fora** and **facilitators** we need to start asking questions and **empower conversation** at a **lower level** where the issue begins and then build up from there

**KEY TAKEAWAYS**

**INDIVIDUAL LEVEL**

- Individuals should change their **consumption patterns**, but the Food Systems Summit needs to create an **environment of change** for those patterns. **Affordability** and **Accessibility** are key
- **Procurement** is impactful. For example, **food in schools/universities** can contribute to change towards a **more healthy & sustainable consumption** which is why more focus is needed on the impact of surroundings
There are many different types of the private sector: some are transnational; some are small-holders. Additionally, the split between the Global North and Global South needs to be considered - more focus on the large corporations that are significant for the change to a more sustainable system is needed.

Realising the importance of “unusual” alliances between NGOs, private and public sector is essential - these partnerships can be useful but it is important to find a balance between partnerships without the risk of greenwashing.
KEY ACTORS:

- Young People
- Women & Girls
- Inter-faith Communities
- Academics, Scientists, Media
- Participatory Policy Approaches (Citizen Assembly)
- Policy Makers
- Vulnerable Communities
- Food Companies

*Size of words depending on frequency of occurrence during the dialogue.*