

CLOSING REMARKS (speaking notes) to the [Science Days](#) by Joachim von Braun,

Chair of Scientific Group for the UN Food Systems Summit

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I want to thank all session chairs and speakers, and all that engaged in the dialogues.

My special thanks to the hard working interpreters

to the FAO team that facilitated this in excellent ways

to the team at the Center for Development Research at Bonn University that worked with me.

Just briefly mentioning 5 points on ways forward, not a conference summary.

1. The Science Days are about science for objectives: science to help facilitate a sustainable food system, with ending hunger and malnutrition. Bringing all science, social and natural science to the sessions.

We noted that food systems do marginalize and tolerate hunger. But we do not tolerate it.

The undernourished, youth, and women, and Indigenous Peoples and all have the right of agency on all matters of the food systems.

Our equivalent of the 1.5 degree global warming goal is Zero Hunger by 2030. To get there, accelerated science investments and the complex set of innovations need to be one of the top game changing actions of the Summit statement.

2. This was a great learning and research exchange experience.

We learned about Game Changing actions, partly resulting from the important 5 Action Tracks that shape Summit Agendas. The FSS as a whole needs to become the game changer.

We had frontiers of science themes on the agenda that bring resilience and equity:

- We noted the opportunities of data revolutions, and related analytics, but also the related monopolization risks
- biotechnologies and digitization play a key role in several contexts
- micro-biome research, so relevant for understanding both, human nutrition and soil health, plant and animal health – One Health;
- Agro-ecological approaches should be part of the science agenda, and landscapes need to change, monocultures on large fields need to be overcome, and

- digital precision farming innovations may be a force to facilitate that for biodiversity
- the opportunities for modelling are stressed, and the key role of trade arrangements.
- All our sessions touched upon the issue of Covid19 crisis, and the fragility of the food systems due to climate crises.
- and we need more sharing of science.

3. We heard ideas for addressing the finance challenges, for instance from IFPRI. We need the corporate and public sector for finance. The InterAcademy Partnership suggested to connect science funding to ODA development program spending. We call for at least 1% of Ag GDP target for food systems science, and there was a call that poverty lines must change: many of them are ridiculously low, not permitting a healthy diet.

4. It was a bold decision by UN leadership to unleash a multi-stakeholder process as well as invite an independent Scientific Group to mobilize science communities around the world and advise with evidence on the summit agenda. The science communities welcome that move by the UN, but it is normal that this not welcomed by everyone. Some existing mechanisms, such as the HLPE of CFS feel uncomfortable about the independent Scientific Group and articulated that in the Science Days and in the media. Colleagues: let us move to productive so called “cooperative conflicts”, to use a term from Amartya Sen. Proposals are on the table from HLPE to strengthen existing science – policy interfaces. Academies and business leaders suggested some new IPCC type mechanisms, and the EU has set up a HLEG to sort that out, and this is a good move.

5. I hope you too found this an interesting Food Systems Science and stakeholder conference cutting across all disciplines, involving stakeholders at scale, Civil society, Government, private sector. Send us your reactions.

We may like to explore options for continuation of this Science Days format in the future, a few times till 2030, including watching progress on the FSS commitments from an independent science perspective.

- We see us again at Pre-Summit and Summit.

Thank you all.