

## **Twelfth Meeting of the UNFSS Scientific Group (ScGroup)**

**19 October 2021, 14.00-15.00 (CEST)**

### **Meeting Notes**

#### **Agenda of the Meeting (Agenda was shared with the participants prior to the meeting)**

1. 14.00-14:10 Briefing on Advisory Committee Meeting (ppt from the Advisory Committee meeting shared with the ScGroup prior to the meeting)
2. 14:10-14:40: Approaches to the UNFSS follow-up (ppt shared with the ScGroup prior to the meeting)
3. 14:40-14:55 ScGroup and Partners Publications: book volume and journals
4. 14:55-15:00 Any other business

#### **Introduction and Agenda Item 1:**

The Chairperson of the ScGroup, Joachim von Braun opened the meeting, welcomed the participants, and presented the agenda of the meeting. In his opening remarks, he noted the key issues to be discussed in the meeting: approaches to the UNFSS follow up and publications of research prepared for the summit. Participants were asked to add items to the meeting agenda, no further items were added.

The Chair noted that Science and Innovation are expected to play an important role in the follow up to the summit. The Secretary General's Statement of Action at the UNFSS mapped the five action areas of the UNFSS follow up. The Action Areas are 1. Nourish All People; 2. Boost Nature-based Solutions; 3. Advance Equitable Livelihoods, Decent Work and Empowered Communities; 4. Build Resilience to Vulnerabilities, Shocks and Stresses; and 5. Accelerating the Means of Implementation. These Action Areas are to be followed through by governments at country-level, context specific measures.

The role of science was emphasized in the Statement of the UN Secretary General's Statement of Action at the UNFSS. In his statement, it was mentioned in terms of, 1. Investment in Science and innovation, 2. Scaling up public and private financing for science and research on food, 3. Supporting the infrastructure of science implementation 4. Initiatives to reinforce science-based solutions and 5. Strengthening capacities of science-policy interfaces.

Science and Innovation also emerged as key themes in the statements of the member states; Science and Technology and Innovation and Research were among the top priorities of 69 member states statements. Overall, these two themes were among the top three priorities along with COVID-recovery and international cooperation/collaboration on food systems.

#### **Agenda Item 2: Approaches to the UNFSS follow-up**

The Chairperson shared the outline of the follow-up of the UNFSS chalked out by the Advisory Committee to the UNFSS. The follow-up will be coordinated by the Rome-based agencies of the UN. A summit follow-up coordination hub, hosted by the FAO, will manage interaction

between the stakeholders including the producer groups, indigenous peoples' organizations, women, youth and private sector. The hub will also coordinate with national governments on their respective action plans for transformation pathways. The Chair expressed hope for global level follow-up related to trade and climate issues. The schematic representation (flow chart on slide 7) of the follow-up is included in the PowerPoint presentation of the Chairperson.

ScGroup member, Maximo Torero briefed the participants on the follow-up strategies. He outlined talks were underway to structure the organization for the follow-up.

- At the core of the follow-up will be the coordination hub, the hub will be hosted at the FAO under the office of the Director General's office.
- Science will play a role in what is envisioned as the "Science Ecosystem of Support". This system will be autonomous and will be responsible for bringing in scientific evidence.
- Countries are expected to develop their own pathways and the hub will support countries develop their pathways.
- The coalitions will play a role in the follow-up. The coalitions will engage in the country-level pathways depending on the specific priorities of the country-level pathways.
- The mapping of the local and regional Scientific Group's material is an important task that needs to be carried out in this regard.

In an answer to a question, he clarified that there are several models of coalitions in operation. These coalitions are receiving commitments from the private sector on the priorities identified in the summit including on promotion of healthy diets, zero hunger, true cost of food, food waste etc.

The Chairperson added that an outline of the science landscape, highlighting the interfaces linking science, policy and end-users might be developed to mobilize science for implementation (slide 8 in ppt attached). He emphasized, that the work of the ScGroup informs the country-level implementation. He also mentioned that in a meeting with the producers' group, the group strongly emphasized the need for close interaction with the Scientific Group.

The Vice Chair, Mohamed Hasan added that the academies of sciences through the Inter-Academy Partnership (IAP) are preparing recommendations for action for follow-up. He stressed the importance of regular dialogue of science communities with the policymakers.

Ismahane Elouafi called for the engagement of the members of the ScGroup in two follow-up processes: **1. Science, Technology and Innovation platform.** The platform will include well-connected academies of sciences. Information and data from the national level will be shared by the academies with the hub. **2. Technology and Innovation Outlook,** an annual publication aimed at reporting the evolution and progress of technology and innovation, focusing on the countries of the Global South.

Kaoru Kitajima and Aman Wirakartakusumah shared country experiences helpful for the mapping of science-policy landscapes of countries.

David Zilberman emphasized the need for scientific thinking on the implementation approaches. He added that the financing of the implementation plan as an agenda item. The following points were also raised in the discussion:

The coalitions are listed on the website of the UNFSS, there is diversity in terms of their maturity/importance and are expected to evolve in terms of importance based on the needs of the country-level implementation pathways.

The UN secretariat should provide a holistic list and precise ideas in the post-summit process. This information may be shared with the ScGroup.

Including people/end-users in the process and integrating them in the implementation process.

Ensuring that food systems receive sufficient attention at the COP 26 summit.

Ensuring the continued engagement of scientists and science communities in the follow up process.

In an answer to a question, Science Ecosystem of Support was defined as community of institutions and organizations that relate to science in a country.

### **Agenda item 3: ScGroup and Partners Publications**

The Chairperson outlined the plans for publishing research for the UNFSS. ScGroup members are in the process of drafting the papers prepared for the summit as journal articles. Additionally, a *special issue of the journal “Global Food Security”* will be published. The special issue will include selected Briefs from the partners of the ScGroup. Member Mario Herrero Acosta informed the meeting on the progress of this process. Fourteen papers were selected for the special issue, expected to come out in the beginning of 2022.

The Chair also informed the meeting that an offer for an *open-access book volume* by Springer Publ has been made. This shall include all the ScGroup papers and the Briefs from ScGroup partners prepared for the UNFSS. Open access will allow authors to retain the copyrights/ownership over their chapters in the book and will also enable them to publish their contributions as journal articles in addition. These proposals were generally welcomed by the members.

### **Agenda Item 4: Any other business**

Three items were brought up by the participants. 1. Progress on the global science-policy interface for food. 2. Media coverage of the UNFSS 3. Using material from the meetings ScGroup meetings/ppt.

The Chair informed the participants that the theme of “science-policy interface” on food issues remains on the agenda and is under discussion. He pointed to the related international expert group of the EU, which has this on the agenda until spring 2022. Mohamed Hassan informed that the InterAcademy Partnership also remained interested in the theme.

On the media outreach, the Chair expressed satisfaction at the media coverage. Over 51000 people from around the globe attended the summit virtually. The summit also engaged with global food community on social media.

He added that the material disseminated among the ScGroup may be used by the members of the ScGroup.

The next meeting of the ScGroup will be held on November 15, 2021. The Chair closed the meeting with thanking the ScGroup members for their engagement.

The meeting closed at 15:00 h CEST.