



UN FOOD SYSTEMS COORDINATION HUB

# THE CONVERGENCE INITIATIVE



**FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION PROGRESS REVIEW**  
*Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting with the Food Systems National Convenors*  
29 April 2024

Conference Room 4, ESCAP Office, Bangkok, Thailand

## The Origins of the Convergence Initiative

- The **UN Secretary-General's Call to Action** for Accelerated Food Systems Transformation released at the 1st UN Food Systems Summit Stocktaking (**UNFSS+2**) in July 2023 in Rome emphasizing, inter alia, the need to “*align the implementation of national food systems transformation pathways with the continuous updates of National Determined Contributions (NDCs) and national adaptation plans (NAPs) for climate action*”.
- The **COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action**, endorsed by the heads of 159 Member States stressing inter alia that “*any path to fully achieving the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement must include agriculture and food system*” and affirming that “*agriculture and food systems must urgently adapt and transform in order to respond to the imperatives of climate change*”.



# Convergence Initiative



## Keeping the political momentum

To support the implementation of these ambitious purposes, the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub has developed the Convergence Initiative which **was launched by the UN Deputy Secretary General during the COP28**, and the Hub has been entrusted with the implementation of the Initiative.

Support national efforts to advance the alignment between the “food systems transformation (FST)” and “climate action (CA)” agendas to enable governments and stakeholders at national level, to strengthen synergetic action that will simultaneously support the achievement of the SDGs, and the Paris Climate Agreement.

## Objective

# Linkages & synergies



## Integrated approaches

Integrating across sectors and disciplines to achieve sustainable food systems that contribute to the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.

## Updating policy instruments

Drawing on references such as the FAO Roadmap to SDG2\* and associated toolkits to update policy instruments such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

\* Achieving SDG2 Without Breaching the 1.5 Degrees Celsius Threshold: A Global Roadmap

## Dialogues & Stakeholder Engagement

Engaging diverse stakeholders inclusively with dialogues, for exploration among food and climate actors.

## Support & Capacity Building

Providing support mechanisms and capacity-building initiatives to take advantage of the convergence.

# Framework for Action

## FACILITATE

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(upon demand) national processes aimed at exploring and identifying alignment between the mandates and priorities of the FST and CA teams as well as opportunities for synergetic action.

## EMPOWER

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the National Food Systems Convenors to advance such alignment through multi-sectoral co-design processes and peer-learning.

## SAFEGUARD

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a whole-society approach to be followed via the active engagement of various stakeholders in an inclusive

## NURTURE

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links with relevant global and regional processes to ensure complementarity of action and avoid duplication of efforts and resources.

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# Facilitate National Processes



## Preparation

Briefings and meetings with Convenors and relevant **food & climate** stakeholders, alongside an analysis of key documents



## Dialogues

A national programme of dialogues **within & among stakeholder groups**, harnessing interdisciplinary science & local insights



## Opportunities

Working across ministries, with perspectives of low-income producers & consumers, to **explore synergies & expose trade-offs**



## Consolidation

**Updating** National Food Systems Pathways, NDCs, NAPs & **revising** policies, implementation & governance

# Empower National Convenors

## Regional Coordination

National Convenors, Climate  
Action Focal points,  
Ecosystem of Support

## Knowledge Support

Dialogues guidance packages,  
tools and frameworks for  
synergetic action

## Convenors in Climate Fora

peer-learning events to  
enhance their capacity  
and links with the climate  
action ecosystems

# Safeguarding a whole-society approach

## Science and Innovation

Investing in research, data, innovation, and technology capacities including stronger connections to science, experience and expertise

## Participatory Design

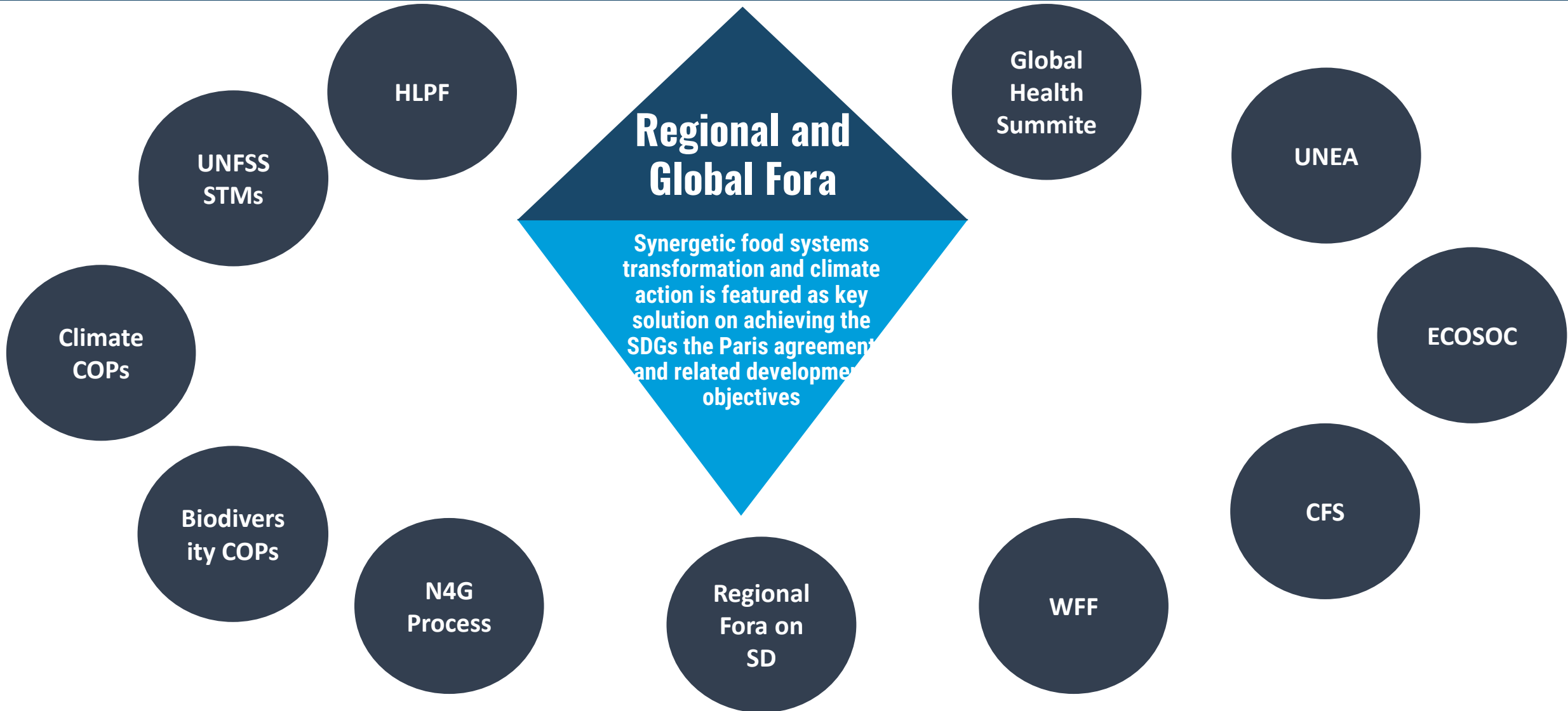
inclusive of women, young people and indigenous peoples at the local level

## Engagement of business

including through public private partnerships and establish and strengthen accountability mechanisms



# Nurturing Links



# Expected Outcomes



## Governance

**Cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms being established or strengthened, and supported by multi-sector monitoring, evaluation and learning processes.**

## Policy

**Convergence Action Plans are developed based on each country's policy mechanisms and tools.**

## Implementation

**Programs, projects and initiatives being implemented that reflect convergence and collaboration between multiple stakeholders across different sectors, including agriculture, environment, climate, health and others. The implementation is based on countries' priorities and targeted sectors**

# Measuring National Progress



## Governance

Are there cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder mechanisms established that include relevant sectors (e.g. agriculture, climate, nutrition, environment, health, and others)? How do they function?

## Policy

Are food systems issues integrated into National Adaptation Plans, Nationally Determined Contributions, Long-term Strategies, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and other related strategies within the coming two years, in time for COP30?

## Implementation

Are programs, projects and initiatives being implemented that reflect convergence and collaboration between multiple stakeholders across different sectors, including agriculture, nutrition environment and climate?

# Services to National Convenors

## Connection moments

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There will be periodic orientation sessions and regional meetings where National Convenors and their teams will be invited to share the progress and challenges they face to advance the national convergence processes.

## Facilitation of Dialogues

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Regular liaison with National Convenors and the Convergence Group to respond to questions and offer country specific coaching as needed.

## Bespoke Support

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(upon demand) Planning workshops and peer-learning sessions, provision of technical and financial support.

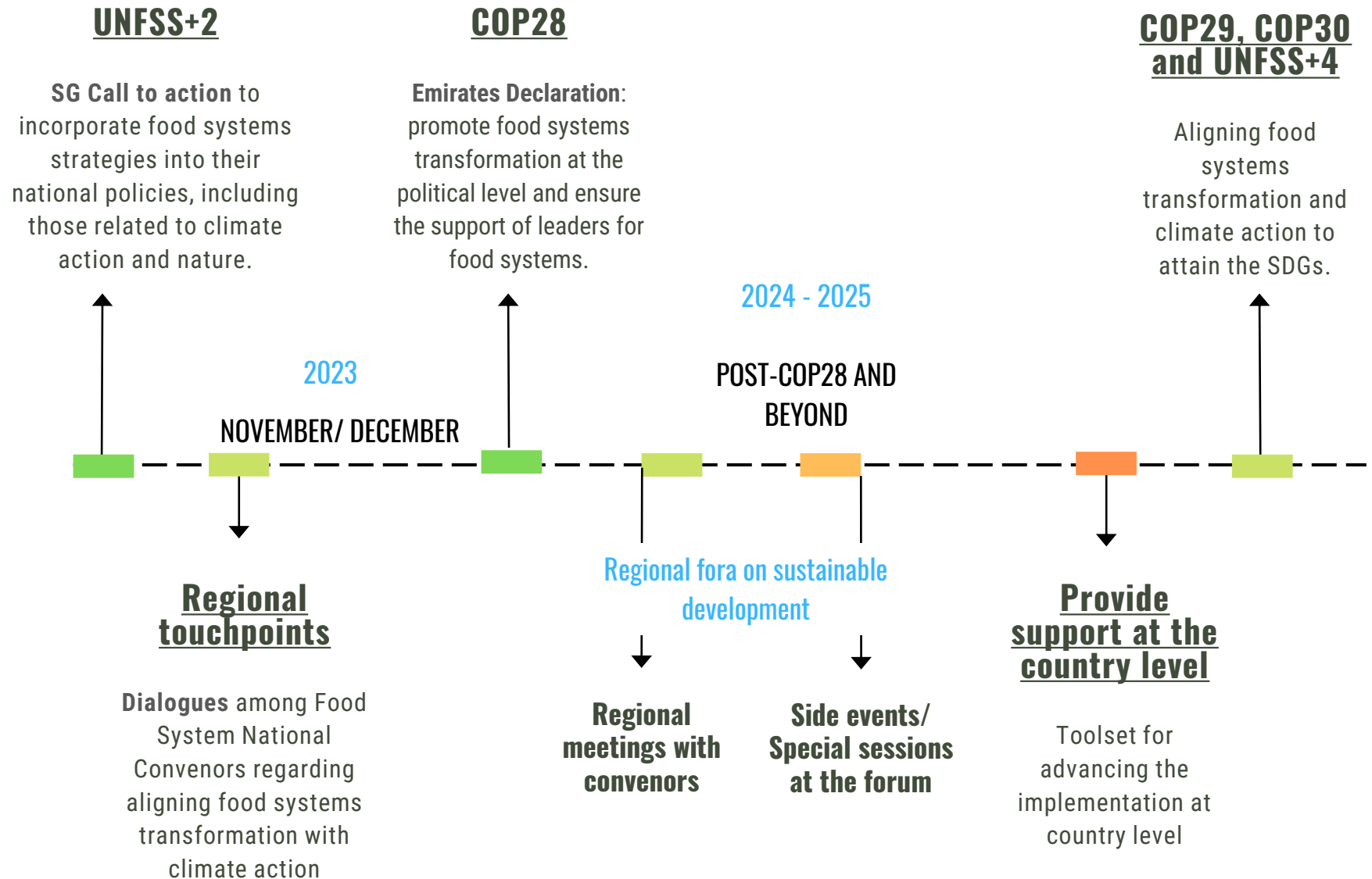
## Monitoring Progress

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Technical support for voluntary synthesis reports on country progress ahead of COP29, UNFSS+4 and COP30.

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# Milestones for the Food Systems and Climate Action Convergence



# The UN Food Systems Coordination Hub



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