Explore the co-benefits to environment, biodiversity and health of the promotion of sustainable and healthy food systems and diets. Showcase strategies to promote sustainable food systems and diverse and healthy dietary patterns while protecting biodiversity.

Discuss strategies to foster pragmatic, scalable and inter-disciplinary policy solutions fostering biodiversity, health and food and nutrition security. Discussions will aim to jointly support the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the ICN2, the commitments of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the SDGs.

Identify pathways for collaboration and convening platforms and accountability mechanisms under the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the Decade of Action on Nutrition, and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to bring governments, academia, NGOs and other stakeholders together to contribute to the transition towards sustainable and healthy food systems and diets within the Climate and the 2030 Development Agendas.

Co-organized by

World Health Organization
UNEP
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Convention on Biological Diversity
KEY MESSAGES

ENGAGEMENT IN NUTRITION-SENSITIVE CLIMATE ACTIONS TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE AND HEALTHY FOOD SYSTEMS AND DIETS. Nutrition-sensitive climate adaptation and mitigation, nutrition-smart investments, social protection, education and community-based disaster risk reduction can contribute to promote nutrition under a changing climate particularly in low income countries. The nutrition community, and others, should engage in multi-sectoral decision-making processes for climate adaptation, mitigation and sustainable development initiatives that support, among other, sustainable and healthy food systems and diets. This includes contributing to national processes related to climate action, such as NAPs, NDCs, NAMAs and the work on health and food security and nutrition under the IPCC and UNFCCC, as well as ensuring nutrition sensitive adaptation approaches are considered in NBSAPs and the links between biodiversity and nutrition outcomes are mainstreamed into other relevant nutrition strategies, policies and actions. Stakeholders involved in the UNFCCC work related to agriculture and food security should draw on support from the UNSCN and CFS and integrate the right to food and other human rights as guiding principles for climate action.

SUSTAINABLE AND HEALTHY FOOD SYSTEMS AND DIETS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE REDUCTION OF EMISSIONS AND IMPROVED PUBLIC HEALTH AND NUTRITIONAL OUTCOMES. To promote healthy and sustainable systems and healthy diets worldwide it is necessary to transform food production and consumption patterns. This requires enhanced political will and leadership, enhanced food governance, multi-stakeholder dialogue and integrated policy development to promote diversified, sustainable and healthy diets that contribute to climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity conservation, as well as optimal nutrition outcomes, through the adoption of international guidelines on healthy diets, and through consideration of sustainability criteria in food-based dietary guidelines. Understanding the social and economic dimensions of sustainable diets, and develop effective strategies to encourage them in developed and developing country contexts is critical. Measures of success of food systems should go beyond the narrowly-defined indicators of agricultural performance and include benefits such as reduced health risks, production of healthy food and diverse diets, high resource efficiency, genetic conservation, decent job creation, and resilience to shocks among others.

THE PRESERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY AND WELL-MANAGED FOOD AND AGRO-ECO-SYSTEMS, ARE CRITICAL TO FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AND HEALTH OUTCOMES. Food biodiversity represents a nutrition resource that is underutilized yet capable of contributing to addressing the multiple burdens of malnutrition by providing dietary energy, macro- and micronutrients and other beneficial bioactive constituents. Crop wild relatives guarantee the genetic diversity which is essential to preserve the sustainability of harvests. It is essential to ensure the mainstreaming of biodiversity and health into policies, programmes and national and regional plans of action on biodiversity conservation, food and nutrition security and ultimately better conservation and sustainable use of resources as climate change proceeds. The interrelated considerations at the intersection of agrobiodiversity, human health and climate should be considered in the development of NBSAPs in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. At the local level, traditional and Indigenous’ food systems can jointly contribute to biodiversity conservation, nutrition security, sustainable use and resilient climate adaptation.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS PROMOTING HEALTHY DIETS REQUIRE COHERENT PUBLIC POLICIES FROM PRODUCTION TO CONSUMPTION ACROSS RELEVANT SECTORS. Since food systems have become increasingly complex and strongly influence people’s ability to consume healthy diets, coherent action and innovative food system solutions are needed to ensure access to sustainable, diverse and healthy diets for all. Policy coherence needs to be ensured through better food system governance and institutional and cross-sectoral collaboration. Under the broad umbrella of the SDGs, the UN Decades of Nutrition and Biodiversity offer a time-bound window for joint action on human health and the environment health through translation and implementation into national policies and integration in climate actions. Agreement on shared principles of sustainability in promoting healthy diets is needed.

STRENGTHENING EVIDENCE TO ENSURE SUPPORT FOR NUTRITION AND CLIMATE ACTION. There is a need to strengthen evidence of the co-benefits to health and climate goals to ensure that the promotion of nutrition and sustainable and healthy diets are recognized as a priority for climate financing. In this context, the nutrition community needs to build its capacity to provide evidence and engage in policy development on nutrition-sensitive climate change mitigation and adaptation, resilience and climate informed nutrition programming and services. Improved effectiveness, monitoring and accountability of investments in protecting nutrition from climate risks, and in developing sustainable and healthy diets are necessary. Most vulnerable countries require support in developing strategies and facilitating access to climate finance to promote nutrition, health and sustainable food systems by adopting a human rights approach.

MODERATOR
• Dr. Cristina Tirado-von der Pahlen, UCLA, Chair of the IUNS Task Force –Climate Change and Nutrition.

PANEL MEMBERS
• Dr. Maria Neira, Director, WHO Public Health and the Environment.
• Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, UNEP, Deputy Executive Director UNEP and Assistant SG of the UN.
• Mary Robinson, President Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice.
• Inger Andersen, IUCN, Director General.
• David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
• HM Flavia, Nabugere former Minister of State for Environment for Uganda
• Mrs. Gerda Verburg, Coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement