

High-Level Dialogue on Donor Coordination for Food Systems Transformation: A Forward Agenda

27 June 2023 | 10.00 - 18.00 CET | IFAD HQ Rome, Italy and Zoom



Keynote Address



Afshan Khan
UN Assistant Secretary-General, Coordinator, Scaling Up Nutrition Movement

Ms. Khan has been an international public servant for over 30 years. Previously she was the UNICEF Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, and the Special Coordinator for the Refugee and Migrant Response in Europe. She has also held other senior positions including Director of Emergency Programmes for UNICEF; Director of Public-Sector Alliances and Resource Mobilization; Associate Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa; and the UNICEF Representative in Jamaica. Ms. Khan has extensive field experience including assignments in Kenya; Mozambique; Democratic Republic of Congo; and Colombia. She also has broad United Nations-wide expertise stemming from assignments with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee for Humanitarian Affairs (IASC) in Geneva; the Executive Office of the Secretary-General; and the United Nations Development Group. From 2012 to 2014 Ms. Khan took leave from the United Nations to become the CEO of Women for Women International. In that role, she was responsible for setting the strategic vision and mobilizing the necessary resources for women rebuilding their lives after war.

Ms. Khan was born in Hyderabad, India, and grew up in Montreal, Canada. She has a Master's degree in Public Policy from the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies, and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from McGill University. She is fluent in English and French.

High-Level Panel



H.E. Hussein Mohamed Bashe
Minister of Agriculture, United Republic of Tanzania

H.E. Hussein Mohamed Bashe (born 26 August 1975) is a Tanzanian politician and Member of Parliament for Nzega Urban constituency since 2015. In January 2022, he was appointed Agriculture Minister.

Bashe has accumulated vast experience in a number of senior leadership positions in three different sectors, the print media sector, banking sector and telecommunication sector where he worked as the CEO of New Habari (2006) Limited including newspapers of Mtanzania, RAI, The African, Dimba, Bingwa and Mwananchi Communication Limited. Bashe is a visionary and the brains behind the youth legacy programme – Building a Better Tomorrow (BBT). He is an influencer for youth and an advocate for private sector investment in agriculture. He is an avid believer of irrigation and block farms for youth and women, who by nature lack access to land and capital. He set the agenda 1030 which aims to achieve a 10% agriculture growth by 2030.



Titta Maja-Luoto
Director General of the Department for Development Policy, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland

Ms. Titta Maja-Luoto has served as the Director General at the Department for Development Policy at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland since December 2021. Prior to her current role, she served as a Deputy Director General at the Department. Since joining the Ministry in 2001, she has served abroad at the Finnish embassies and missions in Geneva, EU Delegation in Brasília, Santiago de Chile, Tallinn and Brussels. Her previous positions at the ministry also include roles such as Director for South Asia Unit and Head of Trade Communications Team.

Prior to joining the Ministry she worked for the United Nations Development Programme UNDP and United Nations Children Fund UNICEF. She has also extensive background in working for the development NGOs in Finland and the EU.

Ms. Maja-Luoto holds a Master of Public Policies and Administration (1996) from the University of Jyväskylä, Finland and a diploma on International Public Law from University College of London (2014). Her studies focused on public policies, development policy and international politics with the main thematic focus on Latin America, Spanish and Portuguese language studies. She has also done MBA studies including macroeconomics with the focus on marketing at the Aalto University in Helsinki.

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Sara Sekkenes **United Nations Resident Coordinator (RC), Lao PDR**

Sara Sekkenes has served as UN Resident Coordinator (RC) to Lao PDR since 2019. During this 4-year period, she has led the work of the UN country team of 25 UN organizations in their development support and cooperation with Lao PDR. In 2021, she led the elaboration of a new Lao PDR –UN Sustainable Development Cooperation framework that aligns with the 9th National Socio-Economic Development plan, a plan that received the integrated UN country team support in its development under her lead. Other critical work in support of Government development efforts include coordinating support to, the re-calibration of the NSEDP to address the impact of COVID-19, the COVID 19 support provided by the UN, the development of a Financing Strategy for the 9th NSEDP, the Resilience Framework to support better coping mechanisms in the event of future crisis, and the Smooth transition Strategy to prepare for a sustainable and quality graduation from LDC status.

Prior to this appointment, Sara worked at the UNDP headquarters for 14 years as Adviser on Partnerships and Conflict Prevention (2015-2019), as Team Leader, Conflict Prevention and Recovery (2011-2014), and as Adviser and Team Leader, Armed Violence Prevention, Mine Action and Small Arms (2006-2011). Before joining the UN, Sara worked with the Norwegian Peoples Aid as Country Director in Mozambique (2004-2005), as Policy Adviser at their headquarters in Norway (2001-2004), as Programme Adviser in the Balkans (2001), and as Programme Manager in Angola (1998-2000).



James Catto **Director of the Office of International Development Policy, Department of Treasury, USA**

James Catto is the Director of the Office of International Development Policy at the U.S. Department of the Treasury. The office leads Treasury's work across a wide range of development topics, including food security and agriculture, global health and pandemic preparedness, social and financial inclusion, fragility, and development effectiveness. Mr. Catto represents the U.S. government and the Treasury at the governing bodies of several bilateral and multilateral institutions, including the U.S. Development Finance Corporation (DFC), the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP).

Prior to his appointment as Director, Mr. Catto was the Acting U.S. Executive Director to the InterAmerican Development Bank (IDB). Previous roles at Treasury included Deputy Director in Treasury's Office of the Western Hemisphere and policy advisor for Western Hemisphere issues in Treasury's Office of Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes. He led the U.S. delegation to the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT), a regional body that monitors the implementation of global anti-money laundering/countering the financing of terrorism standards. Prior to joining the Department of the Treasury, Mr. Catto was a diplomat with the U.S. Department of State specializing in economic and financial issues.

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Plenary Presentations



Carin Smaller

Executive Director, Shamba Centre for Food and Climate

Carin has worked for over fifteen years advising governments, donors, and parliamentarians in more than 20 countries on public and private investment and trade in agriculture and food systems. She co-founded the Shamba Centre to continue her lifelong quest to end hunger and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. She was the co-Director and co-author of Ceres2030: Sustainable Solutions to End Hunger, a three-year research project combining artificial intelligence and economic modelling to find the most effective ways and costs to end hunger, double farmer incomes and protect the climate.

Carin also co-authored the Guide to Negotiating Investment Contracts for Farmland and Water, published by IISD, the first attempt at a model contract for developing countries to attract foreign investment for agriculture, while reducing poverty and protecting the environment. She holds a LLB and a BSc in Political Science from the University of New South Wales in Australia.



Nadine Gbosa

Director, Food Systems Coordination, IFAD and Chief, Means of Implementation, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub

Nadine Gbosa started her career with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Geneva, and the United Nations Office for Project Services in Abidjan and New York. From 2004, she has held senior management positions with the United Nations Development Programme and IFAD in Italy. As Country Director, Representative and Regional head for IFAD, Ms Gbosa worked in several African countries with vulnerable communities, governments, development partners and the private sector for inclusive growth. From 2016 to 2018, Ms. Gbosa headed the Global Partnerships and Policies Division in the Development Cooperation Directorate of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris leading the OECD's development cooperation work. In August 2018, she was appointed as Representative for IFAD in Nigeria, managing the largest country programme in the region. Subsequently, IFAD appointed her Director for the West and Central Africa region leading one of IFAD's largest investment divisions with responsibility for the fund's investments in 24 countries in the region.

In 2021, Nadine was appointed Director for Food Systems Coordination in IFAD. IFAD was designated by the Office of the United Nations Secretary General to lead the financing agenda for food systems transformation in support of the newly established United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub. In addition to her role as Food systems Director, Nadine was also appointed Chief of the Means of Implementation for the UN Food System Coordination Hub, leading the financing agenda for food systems transformation on behalf of IFAD.



David Nabarro

Strategic Director, 4SD and Co-lead, Food Workstream of the UN Secretary General's UN Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance

Dr David Nabarro is Co-lead of the Food Workstream of the UN Secretary General's UN Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance and Special Envoy on Covid-19 for the World Health Organization and Professor of Global Health at Imperial College London.

Dr. Nabarro has served as Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Food Security and Nutrition and Coordinator of the Scale up Nutrition Movement. He also served as Senior UN System Coordinator for Avian and Pandemic Influenza. He was Coordinator of the UN system's High-Level Task Force on the Food Security Crisis for five years, beginning in 2009. In his early career he worked on child health and nutrition programmes in Iraq, South Asia and East Africa; taught at the London and Liverpool Schools of Tropical Medicine; and served as Chief Health and Population Adviser to the British Government's Overseas Development Administration and as Director for Human Development in the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

David was appointed [Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George \(KCMG\)](#) in the [2023 UK New Year Honours](#) for services to global health.

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Susan Chomba

Director of Vital Landscapes for Africa, World Resources Institute (WRI)

Dr Susan Chomba is the Director of Vital Landscapes at the World Resources Institute (WRI). She leads WRI Africa's work on forest protection and landscape restoration, food systems transformation, water and governance. She is a scientist with extensive research and development experience in more than 20 countries on the continent. Susan is a member of the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems ([IPES-Food](#)), and a global ambassador for the Race to zero and Resilience under the [UN High Level Champions for Climate Action](#).

She serves on advisory boards of several organizations and has received several global recognitions for her work including being named as one of [Global Landscapes Forum's '16 Women Restoring the Earth' in 2021](#) and one of the [top 25 women shaping climate action globally by Greenbiz](#).



Johan Swinnen

Managing Director of Systems Transformation, CGIAR and Director General, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

Johan Swinnen is director general of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and managing director of Systems Transformation at CGIAR. Prior to joining IFPRI, he was professor of economics & director of the LICOS Centre for Institutions & Economic Performance at KU Leuven (Belgium) and senior research fellow at the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels. Earlier he was lead economist at the World Bank and economic adviser to the European Commission.

Dr. Swinnen has been a visiting professor at various universities and a frequent adviser to international institutions. Dr. Swinnen has a PhD from Cornell University and two honorary doctorates. He has published extensively on agricultural policies, food security, international development, political economy, institutional reforms, trade, & global value chains.

Townhall Dialogue and Panel



Juan Echanove

Associate Vice President, Food and Water Systems, CARE

Juan Echanove (Madrid, Spain, 1969) has been active in the food security, agriculture, rural development and climate adaptation sectors for 27 years. Juan started his career working as food aid monitor in **Croatia, Bosnia and Cuba**; he spent 5 in **Central America** as chief of party on [agriculture programs for the Swedish Development Cooperation](#), policy advisor for Oxfam International and consultant for DFID, the Spanish Development Cooperation Agency and UNDP. Later, he coordinated the agriculture programs in **West Bank and Gaza**. In 2004 Juan joined the European Union. Based in Manila, he led the establishment of the [South East Asia Centre for Biodiversity](#) and he run the [EU Food Security Facility for the Philippines](#). He was based in the **Caucasus** from 2009 to 2016, where he successfully managed the agriculture and food safety negotiations for the [free trade agreement between Georgia and the EU](#) and coordinated the EU's agriculture and rural development programming, co-designing the [national agriculture strategy](#), and successfully establishing more than 1,500 [smallholders' cooperatives](#) across the country. In 2015 Juan was [awarded by the Prime Minister of Georgia](#) with the **Order of the Golden Fleece** (the highest State recognition in the country) for his '*outstanding contribution to the development of agriculture*'.

Juan joined CARE in 2016. He was Senior Director for Food and Water Systems until 2022, when he has been promoted as Associate Vice President. In this function, Juan leads CARE's global work on for security, resilience, agriculture, livelihoods, nutrition and WASH/Water overseen a portfolio of USD 740 M in 55 countries, and coordinating a team of 65 senior technical advisors. During his time in CARE, Juan and his team have been able to multiply the impact of CARE work on food and water systems globally, improving the food security and nutrition of 50 million small scale famers, expanding and diversifying CARE's food security and agriculture portfolio exponentially, including new corporate partnerships and building various global strategic alliances with FAO, IFAD, WWF, GAIN and other global stakeholders. Juan also coordinated CARE leadership role in the UNFSS.

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Jyotsna Puri

Associate Vice-President - Strategy and Knowledge Department (SKD), IFAD

Jyotsna Puri (or Jo) is the Associate Vice-President - Strategy and Knowledge Department (SKD) at IFAD. She leads the organization's strategy work in IFAD's key areas targeting agriculture, climate, gender, nutrition, youth and social inclusion. Puri provides the vision for evidence-informed advice on program designs and implementation, contributing to resource mobilization, and supporting IFAD's global remit in providing state-of-the-art policy advice related to these topics.

Puri has worked previously at the Green Climate Fund, Zie, UNEP, the World Bank and UNDP. She is also adjunct associate professor at Columbia University, New York where she was also a research scientist. She has published in many academic journals and written for newspapers and provided advice as a board member to several development organizations. In 2019, Puri was selected one of 16 women who have shown leadership in restoring the earth through their efforts, by the Global Landscape Forum.

She holds a PhD and MSc in Agriculture and Resource Economics and an MA in Development Economics.



Máximo Torero

Chief Economist, FAO

Mr. Maximo Torero Cullen is the Chief Economist of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). He joined the Organization in January 2019 as Assistant Director-General for the Economic and Social Development Department. Prior to joining FAO, he was the World Bank Group Executive Director for Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay since November 2016 and before the Bank Mr. Torero led the Division of the Markets, Trade, and Institutions at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). His major research work lies mostly in analyzing poverty, inequality, importance of geography and assets (private or public) in explaining poverty, and in policies oriented towards poverty alleviation based on the role played by infrastructure, institutions, and on how technological breakthroughs (or discontinuities) can improve the welfare of households and small farmers. His experience encompasses Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Asia.



Iris Krebber

Head of Agriculture, Food Security and Land, UK Foreign, Development and Commonwealth Office (FCDO)

Iris Krebber is the Head of Food Security, Agriculture and Land – Development Policy and Strategic Programmes, at the UK's Foreign and Development Department. Her responsibilities include policy, programmes, evidence and engagement around food security and agriculture in an era of climate change as set out in the [Agriculture Development Policy](#), land governance, and sustainable food and agriculture investment. She is also the FCDO's GDPRD focal point.

Iris also leads on the [Global Agriculture and Food Security Program \(GAFSP\)](#). She co-chaired its global Steering Committee and chaired the Donor Committee for the IFC-led GAFSP Private Sector Window until the regular rotation in May 2022. Prior to joining the Civil Service, Iris spent 10 years working for [Welthungerhilfe](#), the largest German INGO working on global food security, agriculture and rural development. She was Regional Director in the Greater Horn and worked in a number of capacities in various African countries, on eradicating hunger and sustainable agriculture and rural development. Prior to that, Iris worked in the private sector. Iris also serves on the Advisory Board of the [Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment](#).

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Christine N. Umutoni **UN Resident Coordinator, Liberia**

Ms. Umutoni recently served as the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Mauritius and Seychelles. She was already in this position prior to the United Nations reform. Previously, she was the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative in Eritrea. Ms. Umutoni also worked for UNDP as Country Director in Zimbabwe, Country Adviser in the Regional Bureau for Africa at Headquarters in New York and Head of Governance, Justice, Gender, and HIV Units in Rwanda. In this capacity, she supported the production of Rwanda's first-ever Joint Governance Assessment report and capacity-building to governance institutions covering elections, anti-corruption, justice, human rights, and peacebuilding.

Prior to joining the United Nations system, she worked as a development consultant, focusing on governance and gender. Ms. Umutoni has worked with the Rwanda Government in various capacities. She has served as both Rwanda's Ambassador to Belgium, also accredited to the Netherlands, Luxembourg, European Union, and the Vatican, based in Brussels, and Rwanda's Ambassador to Uganda. Before her diplomatic assignments, she worked in the Office of the President as Adviser on Economic and Social Affairs and supported the process of the elaboration of Rwanda's poverty reduction strategy among other things. Ms. Umutoni also served as Director of Cabinet at the Ministry of Rehabilitation and Social Integration in 1994, after the war and genocide. She was responsible for policy formulation, coordination of ministry activities, and international fundraising for post-genocide rehabilitation and reconstruction activities in Rwanda. She also coordinated humanitarian aid, reconstruction, repatriation/resettlement of refugees and displaced persons, and provided assistance to vulnerable groups, including widows and orphans. From 1988 to 1994, she worked as Chairperson of the Rwandese Refugees Foundation and contributed to various types of work during the crisis period in Rwanda.

Closing Remarks



Leonard Mizzi **Head of Sustainable Agri-Food Systems and Fisheries, European Commission**

Dr. Leonard Mizzi is Head of Unit at the European Commission, Directorate-General (DG) for International Partnerships - Sustainable Agri-Food systems and Fisheries, since 1st of January 2017. Prior to this post he was Head of Unit for 10 years in DG Agriculture and Rural Development, first in charge of agri trade and development issues (2007-2014) and from 2015-2016 leading the inter institutional unit hence relations with the European Parliament, Council and consultative bodies and well as steering the Civil Dialogue Groups.

He is a graduate in Public Administration from the University of Malta (BA Hons First Class); and has degrees from CIHEAM-Montpellier (Master of Science) and a Ph.D in Agricultural economics from the University of Reading (UK). He has been an author of a number of articles and publications on agri food issues and nutrition in the Mediterranean region.

Dr. Mizzi has a broad working experience in the Maltese public administration and the Maltese private sector. He first worked in the Economic Planning Division of the Office of the Prime Minister (Malta) and from 1996-2006 was the first Director of the Malta Business Bureau in Brussels- the office of the Malta Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise and the Malta Hotels and Restaurants Association.