

Frequently Asked Questions



General Pre-Summit Information

What is the Pre-Summit gathering?

Ahead of the UN Food Systems Summit, which will take place in September in New York, the UN is hosting a Pre-Summit gathering in partnership with the Government of Italy. It will bring together the efforts and contributions of a global engagement process over the past year to transform food systems. It will gather together youth, farmers, Indigenous Peoples, civil society, researchers, private sector, policy leaders and ministers of agriculture, environment, health, nutrition, and finance among other players. The three-day gathering aims to deliver the latest evidence-based and scientific approach from around the world, launch a set of new commitments through coalitions of action, and mobilize new financing and partnerships.

When and where will the gathering take place, and in what format?

The Pre-Summit gathering will be held in Rome, Italy from 26th to 28th July 2021. It will take a hybrid format, with an in-person component complemented by a vast virtual programme and platform enabling the participation of all who would like to participate from all parts of the world.

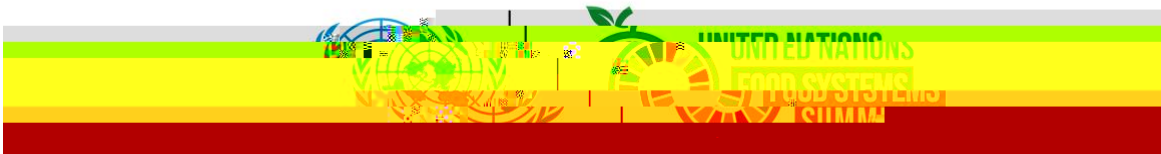
Who can participate in the Pre-Summit gathering?

The Pre-Summit gathering is no different. All interested parties are invited and encouraged to follow and engage in the gathering. A few hundred delegates will then be specifically engaged in-person at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) headquarters in Rome. Every session that takes place with an in-person component will also have a virtual component, with in person and virtual speakers and audience. In this way, those participating virtually will be just as included in all programmatic sessions and elements of the Pre-Summit gathering as those participating in person.

What portions of the gathering will be held in person, and who will be able to attend?

The nature of the in-person component of the Pre-Summit gathering in FAO will be determined by Covid-19 protocols and what is deemed safe and possible at the time of the event. In this regard, discussions are currently underway between the Secretariat, UN, Italian Government, and FAO to finalize Covid-19 protocols for the event. This discussion is drawing on the latest thinking and scientific information available from the UN and Italy. However, all interested

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About the Program and Participation

How is the main program designed?

The Pre-Summit program is designed to help consolidate all of the substantive work of the Summit over its more than year-long, intensive, and inclusive preparatory process to date and develop an emerging set of conclusions, approaches and accelerated actions in the lead-up to the Summit in September. The program particularly builds on the inputs from all of the priority workstreams – the Scientific Group, Action Tracks, Food Systems Summit Dialogues, work of the Champions Network and UN Task Force, constituency groups (Member States, civil society, indigenous peoples, private sector, producers, youth, and cities), the [foodsystems.community](#) online platform, and follow up and review.

Click here to find the latest version of the [Pre-Summit program](#).

Will there be official side events? How do I request to hold or attend a side event?

As the Pre-Summit moment is an opportunity to bring the community together around all of the

-Summit. Instead, given the richness of
-organizing constituency groups over
the past year, the main program sessions will serve to surface their key content and enable the exchange and engagement across all stakeholders.

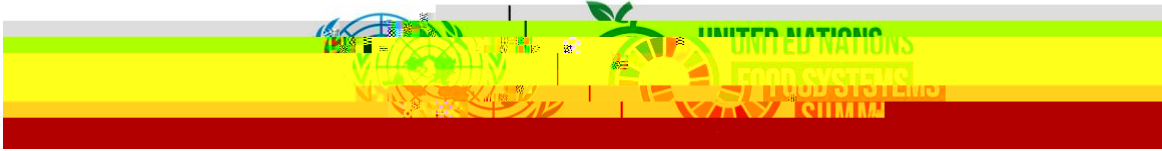
That said, the Pre-Summit led a three-week public call for expression of interest in holding parallel sessions between the months of May and June. As a result of this call, a rich set of affiliated parallel sessions will be organized independently of the Secretariat by Member States and a range of leading institutions working on food systems. These sessions serve a key complementary role in bringing out additional valuable ideas and offering a platform to convene actors around the world to ensure more voices and ideas are heard, and more actors are thinking about how to take action in their own contexts.

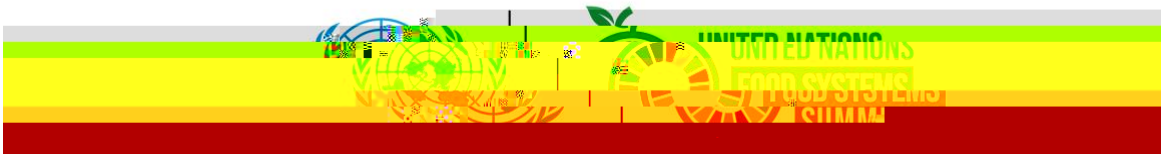
Click here to find the latest list of [Affiliated Sessions](#). The window for session requests for the Pre-Summit is now closed.

What are the opportunities for Ministers to engage over the three days of the Pre-Summit?

Ministers will have several opportunities to engage in the Pre-Summit. These include:

- 1) Providing Statements on National Pathways for Food Systems Transformation;
- 2) Attending and speaking in high-level plenaries;
- 3) Participating and speaking in Ministerial roundtables,
- 4) Participating and speaking in parallel thematic sessions; and
- 5) Bilateral meetings.

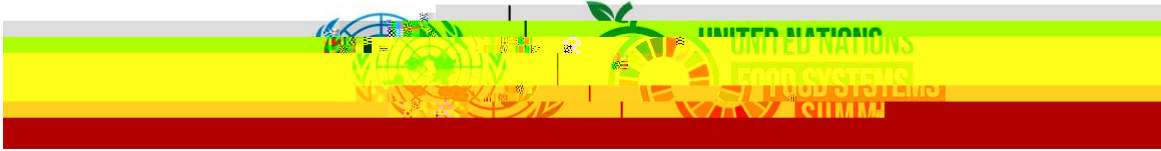




About Registration and Logistics

Is it possible to extend the deadline for the communication of the national delegations?

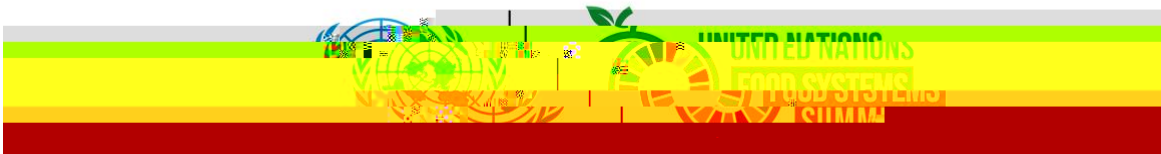
The Secretariat has extended the original deadline from 2 July until 13 July, in order to give Member States more time to determine their national delegations where it is helpful to have a deeper understanding of the Pre-



What should the country delegation composition be? Are companies, CSOs invited through a different trajectory, or will they be part of delegations?

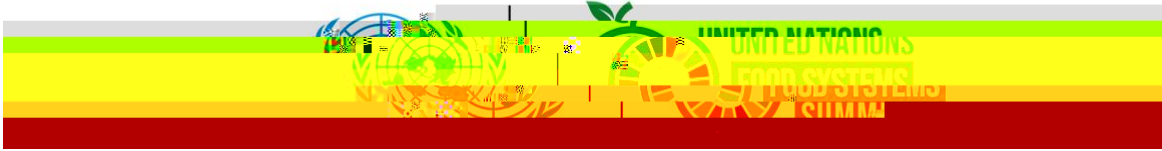
The Pre-Summit will be open to all constituencies to attend and participate, and so companies, civil society actors, and others will be able to register themselves on the virtual platform once it is fully developed. This will enable their participation in all sessions of the main program.

Each Member State can include whomever they like in their delegation. The Secretariat leaves it up to Member States to determine who they want to include in their official delegations of up to 15 individuals registered on the virtual platform. This is expected to be representative across government from different ministries, agencies, and institutions given the multi-sectoral nature of food systems, but partners from non-



with questions and livestreaming. The current cap on delegations of 15 individuals per Member State is linked to the expectation that these individuals will be those that need a higher level of access in order to be included within the main Zoom platform of the programme and able to take the floor at some point to show their face and speak. The organizers recommend that the 15 members on the list be focused on individuals that may need to speak at some time during the program and that other delegates register for the broader virtual platform. Links for speaking in sessions will be for individual use only.

Do permanent representatives need to be included in the national delegations to participate to the Pre-Summit sessions? Or will they have access to FAO given their status of permanent representatives?





Will delegates inside the FAO building be able to access the virtual platform when not in sessions physically?

Yes. Delegates participating in-person will have access to wifi throughout the venue and in bilateral rooms and open spaces. That said, it should be noted that there will be no devices put at the disposal of delegates, therefore delegates should bring their own PCs/Tablets/Phones to the venue to access the virtual platform. No IT equipment will be made available by the organizers or FAO.

What languages will be translated at the three-day event? Can Ministerial statements be recorded in any national language?

As an official UN event, the Pre-Summit will be conducted in the six official UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish). Through the partnership with the Italian Government around the event, they have also made resources available for Italian interpretation for all events just for the Pre-Summit. These seven languages will therefore be the languages interpreted in all sessions over the three days. There unfortunately are no other technical capabilities to add interpretation for other national languages.

Apart from the FAO, will other Rome-based UN agencies host any of the activities?

There are not currently any plans for formal activities outside of the FAO building. This will continue to be discussed in the Pre-Summit preparations and revisited if a need arises.