

Non Paper

“A Rome based Membership informal Group of Friends for the UN Food Systems Summit 2021”

-A proposal for discussion with the broad RBA Membership-

Following the last exchange of the RBA membership with the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General for the UN Food Systems Summit 2021, Dr. Agnes Kalibata, at the invitation of the three Chairs of RBA Governing Bodies on 06 May, Dr. Kalibata has agreed to engage with a Rome based Membership Group of Friends in the preparatory process of the Food Systems Summit 2021. This will be done, as of now, on a regular six-weekly basis.

In order to expedite the establishment of such a group, several Permanent Representatives from various regions and with specific functions in the RBA as well as the Chairs of the RBA Governing Bodies, have formed a group of so-called Co-Conveners to establish the next steps forward.

This group consists of the following representatives:

- Ambassador Hisham Badr, Egypt,**
- Ambassador Alexandra Bugailiskis, Canada,**
- Ambassador Carlos Cherniak, Argentina,**
- Ambassador Hans Hoogeveen, Kingdom of the Netherlands,**
- Ambassador Malik Melvin, Malaysia,**
- Ambassador Ulrich Seidenberger, Germany,**
- Ambassador Khalid Mehboob, Independent Chair of the FAO Council and**
- Mr. Gilbert Hougbo, IFAD President and Chair of the IFAD Board.**

In a preparatory virtual brainstorming meeting of the Co-Conveners with the RBA Focal Points for the Food Systems Summit and the representatives of the FSS-Secretariat held on 27 May, the following elements for a structure, guiding principles and working methods of such a “Rome based Membership informal Group of Friends for the

UN Food Systems Summit 2021 (GoFFSS)” have been jointly identified. These suggestions will form the basis of discussion with the broad RBA membership on the occasion of a first virtual meeting of the Group:

- **The GoFFSS will offer a central entry point for the RBA membership into the preparatory process of the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 and enables thereby a “Whole of Government” approach vis-à-vis the Summit preparation.**
- **The GOFFSS is an informal platform of RBA membership aimed at exchanging views on the preparations for Food Systems Summit.**
- **The GoFFSS shall be governed by the principles of inclusiveness, complementarity and supportiveness:**
 - **Inclusiveness: being an open-ended working group, any member of the RBA is invited to participate in the meetings of the GoFFSS.**
 - **Complementarity: any duplication with the work of the Advisory Committee and of the Science Group shall be avoided, notwithstanding a wishful regular exchange with both structures and the ambition of the GoFFSS to produce relevant “food for thought” for them as well as for the Special Envoy.**
 - **Supportiveness: the GoFFSS is designed as a supportive structure to the work of the Special Envoy and the Advisory Committee under the chairmanship of the Deputy Secretary General Amina Mohammed.**
- **The six Permanent Representatives among the Co-Conveners will jointly issue invitations to future virtual meetings of the GoFFSS to be held monthly and to be hosted by one of them on a rotational basis.**
- **Additionally, there will be six-weekly High-Level meetings of the GoFFSS with the Special Envoy, Dr. Agnes Kalibata, and if possible every three months prior or subsequent to the**

quarterly meetings of the Advisory Committee with the DSG Amina Mohammed.

- **The High-Level meetings will be organized and hosted by the ICC of FAO as the RBA coordinating agency in 2020 and by the Executive Board President of IFAD in 2021, as IFAD is the RBA coordinating agency in 2021.**
- **The agenda of each meeting of the GoFFSS will be jointly decided by the group as a whole at the end of the prior meeting. The role of the Co-Conveners is restricted to a convening one, i.e. providing the forum for exchange; it does not comprise an agenda setting competence. The exception will be for the very first meeting to facilitate the induction of the Group and also to ensure a first discussion on substance. Please see the suggested agenda in separate invitation.**
- **The GoFFSS is an informal open-ended working group, open to all members interested.**
- **While it is a Rome based Membership Group of Friends, members can decide themselves whether and when they wish to include participation alternatively or in addition from the respective capitals, New York and/or Nairobi.**
- **Participants at GoFFSS meetings besides RBA membership will always include the respective Focal Points of FAO, IFAD and WFP for the Food Systems Summit 2021; in addition, when necessary, the RBA experts for specific topics to be discussed at the respective meetings.**
- **Furthermore the representative of the Rome based part of the secretariat of the Special Envoy as well as representatives from other parts of the FSS Secretariat will participate in the meetings of the GoFFSS.**
- **The first virtual meeting of the GoFFSS shall take place on 18 or 19 June.**

- **A virtual High-Level meeting of the GoFFSS with the Special Envoy Dr. Agnes Kalibara shall be envisaged towards the end of June 2020, early July 2020.**