



Nourishing Africa through improved nutrition and sustainable food systems : African launch of the EAT-Lancet Commission Report on Food, Planet, Health

High-level side event during the 32nd Ordinary Summit of the African Union

7th February 2019 09.00-12.00am at the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Co-organized by African Union, NEPAD/AUDA, EAT, and the SUN Movement

Introduction

Good nutrition is the starting point and the foundation for a sustainable future. It is crucial for building the human capital needed for a healthy and prosperous world. Sustainable and healthy food systems are fundamental to reach a world without hunger and malnutrition and to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 - The Africa We Want. However, Africa is the continent with the highest prevalence of undernutrition globally with one in every five persons affected, and 59 million children suffering from chronic malnutrition. At the same time, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight, obesity and diet-related chronic diseases are also increasing, creating triple burden of malnutrition. This triple burden is probably the greatest threat facing Africa's development trajectory as the current and next generation of African's are deprived of reaching their full potential.

Like all other regions, Africa faces considerable agriculture and food system¹ challenges. In parts of the continent, the impacts of climate change and associated environmental degradation are already acutely felt and has caused a resurgence in the numbers of undernourished people trends have also contributed to rising tensions and instability. Conflict, climate and environmental stressors are major drivers of displacement across the continent. Hunger is both a cause and a consequence of conflict. Insurgents are using hunger among civilians as a weapon, causing massive displacements and preventing humanitarian access. Hunger exacerbates crisis, creating ever greater instability and insecurity.

Up until now, key questions remain unanswered and a lack of scientific consensus is slowing down governments, businesses and civil society actors who want to act on transforming food systems. The forthcoming report of the EAT-Lancet Commission on Food, Planet, Health will change this. The Commission is an unprecedented collaborative effort, bringing together over 30 world-class experts in health, nutrition, agriculture, environmental science and policy, to create a universal reference point for global food system transformation. For the first time, we will have scientific targets for what constitutes both a healthy diet and a sustainable food system.

¹ A food system encompasses all the stages of keeping us fed: growing, harvesting, packing, processing, transforming, marketing, consuming and disposing of food



With a rapidly increasing population, addressing these interconnected challenges is now pertinent. Adhering to the report's findings would address many of the challenges outlined above, and could unleash unprecedented progress towards the bold visions of Africa Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030. Action in and by Africa itself, led by African governments and with support from international public and private sector partners playing supportive roles, will be critical to success. But the EAT Lancet Report also makes it crystal clear that major changes in food systems in other regions of the world will also be necessary in order for Africa to succeed, given the fact that food production worldwide is such a major contributor to climate change, to the spread of diet related diseases, and other systemic challenges.

This side event will provide an opportunity for concrete discussions around the findings of the report and translating it into actions on the ground through multi-sector and multi-stakeholder action, working with national and local policy makers, businesses, academics and civil society. [NEPAD's 7 Dakar Principles for Multisectoral Coordination for Effective Delivery on Nutrition](#) can provide a critical framework for how the much needed transformation of food systems could happen in practice.

Objectives

- To stimulate commitment to action and garner high level political support for the importance of good nutrition and sustainable and healthy food systems for Africa's future
- Present and discuss the findings of the EAT-Lancet Commission Report on Food, Planet, Health and its implications across the African continent
- Discuss practical actions needed to transform food systems across Africa, including in contexts affected by climate change and conflict, to deliver nutritious food for all.
- Broader changes needed globally to create the enabling conditions needed for Africa to succeed in this agenda.

Event format

- Welcome and introductions by NEPAD/AUDA
- Opening remarks by Heads of State
- Presentation of the key findings of the EAT Lancet report
- Multi-stakeholder panel discussion: how to nourish a sustainable Africa through nutrition and food systems - how to implement the report's recommendations across the continent.
- Audience discussion
- Closing remarks and commitments
- The event will be followed by a press conference focusing on the report findings

Speakers

- Heads of State from African countries (Angola, Botswana, Ghana, Lesotho, Niger, Sudan TBC)
- AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, H.E. Sacko Josefa Leonel Correa
- Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, CEO, NEPAD/AUDA
- AU Nutrition Champion His Majesty King Letsie III of the Kingdom of Lesotho
- Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda Majele, EAT-Lancet Commissioner
- Fabrice DeClerck, Bioversity International and Science Director, EAT
- Dr. Gunhild A. Stordalen, Executive Chair and Founder, EAT
- Aliko Dangote, CEO Dangote Group or Monica Musonda, Founder and CEO, Java Foods (TBC)
- Marie-Chantal Rwakazina, Mayor of Kigali, Rwanda (TBC)
- Gracha Machel, Founder, Gracha Machel Trust (TBC)



Moderator

Gerda Verburg, United Nations Assistant Secretary General and Coordinator of the SUN Movement