

YOUNG PEOPLE AS CHANGEMAKERS:

How Art and Creativity are Driving Change and Sustainable Food Systems

Organized by Italy, Ethiopia and the UN SDG Action Campaign

UN Food Systems Summit +4 Stocktake (UNFSS+4), Action Day

14:00 – 15:30 (TBC), 27th July 2025

UNECA Conference Centre

Addis Abeba

Concept Note and Tentative Agenda

Background

Systemic inequalities and **food insecurity** are the most critical issues of our time, deeply rooted in historical and structural barriers that perpetuate exclusion across societies. Today, the world produces more food than ever, yet **2.8 billion people cannot afford a healthy diet** and **over 750 million face hunger** — one out of 11 people in the world, and one out of every five in Africa.¹ **These stark inequalities** continue to increase hunger, food insecurity, and ecological collapse, both within and between countries.

In a world of **parallel realities** —where billions of people go hungry while millions of tons of food are wasted— transforming food systems is not optional. It demands inclusion, transparency, and accountability, with youth at the forefront. **Youth** today are not only the most affected by climate change, food insecurity, and economic exclusion, but they are also the torchbearers of a sustainable, resilient and just future.

Transformation is possible, and **art and creativity** can spark the transformation we need. They have the power to confront injustice, shift narratives, and inspire collective action.

As part of the UNFSS+4 Action Day, the event “**YOUNG PEOPLE AS CHANGEMAKERS: How Art and Creativity are Driving Change and Sustainable Food Systems**” co-organized by Italy, Ethiopia and the [UN SDG Action Campaign](#) aims to inspire the next generation of food systems changemakers.

Through the compelling collages of the renowned Turkish artist [Uğur Gallenkuş](#), the event will trace the journey from acknowledgment of systemic inequalities to hopeful action, **spotlighting youth as changemakers in food systems**, including winners of the [UN SDG Action Awards](#); **harnessing the power of art and creativity** to shift narratives and inspire bold and transformative action; and fostering an intergenerational multi-stakeholder dialogue and new forms of collaboration rooted in trust and solidarity between national governments, UN entities, changemakers, artists, civil society and grassroots organizations.



¹ [The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024 — Jointly produced with fellow UN agencies IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO](#)

Tentative Agenda

Note: Possible presence of high-level participation from the Governments of Italy and Ethiopia to be confirmed at a later stage.

<p>Welcome 14:00 – 14:10 EAT</p>	<p>Introduction and Welcome Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Moderators: Mr. Valerio Cataldi, Africa Correspondent for RAI & Mr. Shiferaw Lakew, Ethiopian Broadcast Journalist • Ms. Marina Ponti, Global Director of the UN SDG Action Campaign <p><i>Screening of the Parallel Realities Video, featuring the work of Mr. Uğur Gallenkuş, renowned Digital Artist</i></p>
<p>High-Level Opening 14:10 – 14:15 EAT</p>	<p>High-Level Opening Remarks: “Rethinking the Food Systems”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations
<p>Artistic Performance 14:15 – 14:30 EAT</p>	<p>Musical Performances</p> <p>Cill, Singer-Songwriter and Artist, performing “Échi”</p> <p>Ms. Yordanos Yohannes, Yared School of Music, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia</p>
<p>Panel Session 14:30 – 15:15 EAT</p>	<p>“How art and creativity can inspire youth and changemakers rethinking the Food Systems”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Moderators: Mr. Valerio Cataldi, Africa Correspondent for RAI & Shiferaw Lakew, Ethiopian Broadcast Journalist <p>Video message from Dr. Felipe Paullier, Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs, United Nations Youth Office</p> <p><i>Panel Discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Eldana Samuel, Chairperson of Nefas Silk Lafto sub-city's Child Parliament/Member of the Ethiopian and Addis Ababa city Child Parliaments • Prof. Bekele Mekonnen, Contemporary Visual Artist, Poet and Educator, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia • Ms. Nzambi Matee, Founder of Gjenge Makers, a Nairobi-based social enterprise <p>Ms. Yordanos Yohannes, Yared School of Music, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Million Belay, General Coordinator, Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa • Mr. Njathi Kabui, Chef and Expert in Food Literacy • Ms. Paola Andrade, Founder of Supvivors Say No More — Ecuador
<p>High-Level Closing Remarks 15:15 – 15:20 EAT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Ergogie Tesfaye, Minister of Women and Social Affairs, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
<p>Artistic Performance 15:20 – 15:30 EAT</p>	<p>Musical Performance by Rocky Dawuni, Singer-Songwriter, 4x Grammy Nominated Musician and Activist, UNEP Goodwill Ambassador, performing “Shine a Light”</p>

*Pending formal confirmation.