

18 SEPTEMBER 2024

POST-2030

A Holistic Approach to Sustainable
Development to Realise a Better
Future for All.



ONLINE EVENT | REPORT

SIDE EVENT AT THE SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE | 2024

ORGANISED WITH THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (UN-OHRLLS)

THIS REPORT:

On 18 September 2024 the World Federation for Animals (WFA) and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) hosted a virtual side event to initiate a discussion on how a comprehensive and holistic approach – respecting all forms of life – can support the creation of a streamlined, simplified and achievable Post-2030 Agenda. The discussion included experts working to support and promote the needs of some of the most vulnerable states, delving into the upcoming challenges and identifying strategies for financing and resource allocation to achieve a very ambitious future.

This is a summary of the event's key messages. A recording of the event is available at [WFA's YouTube Channel](#).

PUBLISHED DATE: October 2024



Jackson Zee - Moderator

Dr. Jackson Zee is the Global Affairs and Disaster Resilience Director at FOUR PAWS International. He focuses on sustainable development, global health, and disaster resilience, advocating for holistic approaches that integrate human health, animal welfare, and environmental sustainability. He collaborates with global organisations to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and frequently moderates discussions on these topics.

- A comprehensive and holistic approach that respects all forms of life is essential for achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while also laying the foundation for sustainable development beyond 2030.
- The intersections of health, food systems, and animal welfare highlight the critical connections between these areas and sustainable development, making them crucial for accelerating progress toward the SDGs.
- Practical strategies are imperative, particularly immediate actions in the next six years leading up to 2030, to drive meaningful progress in sustainable development.

"Today, we're here to explore how a comprehensive and holistic approach, one that respects all forms of life, can help us not only meet our 2030 goals but also create a foundation for sustainable development beyond 2030."

Anna Marry

Senior Global External Affairs Advisor at Brooke, an NGO dedicated to the welfare of working horses and donkeys, Anna Marry plays a pivotal role in advocating for the integration of animal welfare into global development strategies. Her insights during the discussion highlighted the often-overlooked yet essential contribution that animal welfare makes to achieving the SDGs by 2030 and beyond.

- Animal welfare is integral to achieving SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger). Animals are a crucial source of livelihoods in agriculture and transport for many of the world's poorest communities. Without ensuring the welfare of these animals, it is impossible to lift people out of poverty or provide food security. Animals in good health and welfare produce safer food, contribute to agricultural productivity, and support the livelihoods of vulnerable populations.
- There is a strong link between animal welfare and public health. Poor welfare conditions can lead to the spread of zoonotic diseases. Healthier animals require fewer antibiotics, which reduces the risk of antimicrobial resistance, a major global health threat.
- Recognition of animal welfare in global policies remains insufficient. While it has been acknowledged in recent UN policies, such as the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) Nexus Resolution, more concrete action is needed. Implementation of animal welfare goals, with measurable targets and deadlines, is essential for driving real progress.
- Breaking down silos between sectors like health, agriculture, and the environment is essential. Collaboration across these areas and the inclusion of those who rely on animals for their livelihoods must be a priority. Animal welfare needs to be integrated into both current and future development goals to ensure co-benefits for people, animals, and the planet.

"Animals in good welfare can help people lift themselves out of poverty. We cannot leave those people behind."





Aniket Ghai

Aniket Ghai is the Senior Economic Affairs Officer at the UN Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States. His key focus is on integrating a One Health approach and fostering international cooperation to accelerate the progress of the SDGs, particularly in vulnerable nations.

- Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are highly vulnerable to climate change, biodiversity loss, and weak health systems, making international support critical for sustainable development.
- The One Health approach, which integrates human, animal, and environmental health, is crucial in addressing challenges like zoonotic diseases and climate change. This approach can drive progress towards the SDGs by fostering a more holistic and interconnected understanding of health.
- Health crises like the Ebola virus and COVID-19 have shown how pandemics disproportionately impact LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS due to weak health systems. Strengthening these systems is essential for preventing future crises and ensuring resilience.
- Ethical food systems that balance sustainability and food security are essential for accelerating progress toward the SDGs. Specifically, addressing food security in vulnerable countries will require integrating climate resilience and enhancing food systems to ensure long-term sustainability.
- Encouraging countries to shift from raw material exports to value-added industries is crucial for fostering economic growth. By processing materials domestically, such as roasting coffee within the country, nations can capture more economic benefits and improve their economic resilience.
- Existing programs, such as the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS and the Doha Programme of Action, are designed to address the unique challenges faced by these nations. These initiatives aim to drive progress toward the SDGs and will continue beyond 2030, ensuring sustainable development over time.

“The animal welfare issue is a critical one to achieve the SDGs, and one that does not have enough attention.”

Arjan van Houwelingen

Chief of Strategic Policy and Public Affairs at WFA, Arjan van Houwelingen, advocates for integrating animal welfare into global sustainable development policies. He has played a significant role in shaping international discussions on sustainable food systems, climate action, and animal welfare, including currently through engaging with the FAO Subcommittee on Livestock, which seeks to develop a Global Plan of Action to transform into a sustainable livestock sector.

- Sustainability in agri-food systems is context-dependent in the current global policy domain. The FAO-led global assessment of the sustainability of livestock systems concluded that high input systems, i.e. industrial animal farming, are most 'economically efficient' (if public health and environmental costs are disregarded; mixed farming systems offer the most sustainable outcomes when balancing all three dimensions of sustainability; and extensive or low-input systems are the most environmentally friendly.
- Good animal welfare enhances sustainability across all contexts and dimensions of sustainable development. It positively impacts climate resilience, biodiversity protection, human health, poverty reduction, food and water security, and pollution in all livestock systems. This has been acknowledged by governments and the UN in recommendations from the Committee for World Food Security, UNEA, the UN General Assembly, and the FAO Sustainable Livestock Transformation Framework.
- As the FAO Subcommittee on Livestock begins a two-year process to develop a Global Plan of Action for sustainable livestock transformation, the animal welfare community must provide governments and the FAO with the resources and evidence to integrate animal welfare perspectives into our understanding of sustainable livestock systems.
- To achieve this, there are two priorities. First, presenting clearer and convincing evidence on the economics of animal welfare is needed to counter a prevailing narrative that such measures increase production costs and reduce productivity. Second, there is a need to rethink how natural resources, including animals, are valued within development frameworks. This will enable a more effective assessment of the balance among the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainability, ensuring that animal welfare positive impacts on climate, biodiversity, pollution, and health are appropriately considered when evaluating high-welfare versus low-welfare livestock systems.

“Real transformation to a sustainable global agri-food system will occur when economic prosperity and social progress is pursued not at the expense of but alongside of environmental protection and when the role of animals, as sentient beings, in delivering and maintaining ecosystem services is fully recognised and acted upon.”



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