

# Food Systems & Agriculture Framework: Stakeholder Engagement Charter Template

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The *Stakeholder Engagement Charter Template* is a customizable tool to formalize inclusive collaboration among stakeholders—farmers, indigenous communities, youth, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), local governments, and private sectors—implementing the *Food Systems & Agriculture Framework*. It establishes a shared commitment to equitable, transparent, and resilient food systems, aligning with the framework's [Core Principles](#) of sustainability, equity, resilience, and transparency. Designed for pilot projects or broader initiatives, this charter supports the framework's [Stakeholder Engagement](#) goals and is part of the [Start with the Seed Kit](#).

## Overview

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The charter template provides a structured agreement to:

- Define the purpose and scope of collaboration.
- Outline roles and responsibilities for diverse stakeholders.
- Establish principles for inclusive engagement.
- Set clear decision-making and conflict resolution processes.
- Secure stakeholder commitment through signatures.

This tool ensures marginalized groups (e.g., indigenous communities, women, youth, refugees) have a voice in governance, fostering trust and alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

*Accessible explanation:* This template is a written promise to work together fairly, making sure everyone, especially those often left out, helps decide how to improve food systems.

**Alignment:** Supports SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

## Instructions

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1. **Customize the Template:** Replace placeholders (e.g., [Project Name], [Region]) with specific details about your project or initiative.
2. **Engage Stakeholders:** Convene a workshop with all stakeholders to review and agree on the charter's content, ensuring inclusive input.
3. **Complete Sections:** Fill in each section, tailoring roles, principles, and processes to your context.

4. **Sign and Share:** Have stakeholders sign the charter to formalize commitment, then distribute copies and post publicly (e.g., on community boards or [globalgovernanceframework.org](https://globalgovernanceframework.org)).
5. **Review Regularly:** Revisit the charter annually or as needed to update roles or processes, ensuring ongoing alignment.

*Accessible explanation:* Fill in the blanks with your project's details, talk with your team to agree, sign it, share it, and check it every year.

## Charter Template

### Purpose and Scope

**Purpose:** This Stakeholder Engagement Charter for [Project Name] establishes a collaborative framework to implement [specific goal, e.g., a regenerative farming pilot] in [Region]. It aligns with the *Food Systems & Agriculture Framework* to promote resilient, equitable, and sustainable food systems.

**Scope:** The charter covers activities including [list key activities, e.g., training farmers in regenerative practices, establishing a local food hub], engaging stakeholders from [list groups, e.g., smallholder farmers, indigenous communities, youth], and achieving outcomes such as [list outcomes, e.g., 10% increase in local food access by 2026].

*Accessible explanation:* Explain why your group is working together and what you plan to do, like starting a farm project in your area.

### Stakeholder Roles and Responsibilities

**Objective:** Define the roles and contributions of each stakeholder group to ensure clarity and accountability.

Stakeholder Group	Role	Responsibilities
[e.g., Smallholder Farmers]	Implementers	Adopt regenerative practices; share local knowledge; participate in workshops.
[e.g., Indigenous Communities]	Co-Governors	Provide Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK); lead co-governance decisions.
[e.g., Youth Organizations]	Advocates	Lead community outreach; propose innovative solutions.
[e.g., Local Government]	Enablers	Provide funding or policy support; align with national frameworks.
[e.g., NGOs]	Facilitators	Offer training and resources; mediate stakeholder dialogues.

**Note:** Ensure at least 50% representation from marginalized groups (e.g., women, indigenous, youth) in governance roles, per framework guidelines.

*Accessible explanation:* List who's involved, like farmers or youth, and what they'll do, making sure everyone has a fair role.

### Engagement Principles

**Objective:** Establish shared values to guide collaboration, reflecting the framework's [Core Principles](#).

- **Equity:** Prioritize voices of marginalized groups, ensuring fair access to resources and decision-making.
- **Transparency:** Share decisions and outcomes openly through regular updates (e.g., community meetings, online dashboards).
- **Sustainability:** Focus on long-term environmental and social benefits, such as regenerative agriculture.
- **Resilience:** Build adaptive strategies to address challenges like climate shocks or market disruptions.
- **Inclusivity:** Engage diverse stakeholders, respecting cultural and regional contexts, per UNDRIP.

*Accessible explanation:* Agree on rules like being fair, open, and ready for challenges to work together well.

## Decision-Making Processes

**Objective:** Define how decisions are made to ensure inclusivity and consensus.

- **Structure:** Decisions are made by a [Steering Committee/Working Group], with [number, e.g., 10] members representing all stakeholder groups.
- **Process:** Use participatory decision-making requiring [e.g., 75%] consensus. Major decisions (e.g., budget allocation) require approval from [e.g., indigenous representatives].
- **Frequency:** Hold [e.g., monthly] meetings to review progress and make decisions, with agendas shared [e.g., one week] in advance.
- **Documentation:** Record decisions in a shared log, accessible via [e.g., community portal, [globalgovernanceframework.org](https://globalgovernanceframework.org)].

*Accessible explanation:* Decide as a team, with most people agreeing, and keep notes on what you decide.

## Conflict Resolution Mechanisms

**Objective:** Provide a fair process to address disputes, as outlined in [Conflict Resolution](#).

- **Mediation Panel:** Form a neutral panel of [number, e.g., 3–5] members, including [e.g., an indigenous leader, a youth representative], trained in Consensus Building Institute protocols.
- **Process:** Conflicts are addressed within [e.g., 14 days] through mediation sessions, aiming for mutually agreed solutions.
- **Transparency:** Publish outcomes on [e.g., biannual dashboards, community boards] to maintain trust.
- **Escalation:** Unresolved conflicts are escalated to [e.g., a regional framework coordinator] for final resolution.

*Accessible explanation:* If people disagree, a small fair team helps solve it quickly, and everyone knows the result.

## Signatures and Commitment

**Objective:** Formalize stakeholder commitment to the charter.

We, the undersigned, commit to upholding the principles, roles, and processes outlined in this Stakeholder Engagement Charter for [Project Name]. We pledge to collaborate inclusively to achieve [specific goal, e.g., a sustainable food system in our region].

Name	Role/Organization	Signature	Date
[Name]	[e.g., Farmer, Cooperative X]		[Date]
[Name]	[e.g., Indigenous Leader, Community Y]		[Date]
[Name]	[e.g., Youth Advocate, Group Z]		[Date]
[Name]	[e.g., Local Government Official]		[Date]

*Accessible explanation:* Everyone signs to promise they'll follow the plan and work together.

**Cross-Reference Note:** This charter supports [Stakeholder Engagement](#) and aligns with [Implementation Mechanisms](#). Explore the [Index](#) for navigation or access additional tools at the [Tools Library](#).