
SUBMISSION BY THE KINGDOM OF BHUTAN ON BEHALF OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ON VIEWS ON FUTURE TOPICS NOT LISTED IN DECISION 4/CP.23 AND VIEWS ON THE PROGRESS OF THE KORONIVIA JOINT WORK ON AGRICULTURE IN ORDER TO REPORT TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES AS PER DECISION 4/CP.23

Preamble

Agriculture sector in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) provides employment, income and livelihoods to the majority of the population. Approximately, the sector's contributions are 30-60% of GDPs, 40-90% of employment, 25-95% of foreign exchange, and most of the basic food and income to more than half of the LDCs' population. In other words, agriculture is the most important sector contributing towards the food and nutrition security and overall socioeconomic development of these countries. Agriculture in the LDCs is dominated mainly by smallholder systems, relies heavily on rainfall, with low external input use due to limited financial capacity, underdeveloped infrastructure, plus markets and input supply systems. It is the most vulnerable sector to climate variability and climate change, and the negative impacts are felt even beyond the sector itself. It is important to note that the global population is growing and hence the demand for agricultural produce and agricultural resources is growing. Despite these challenges, LDCs smallholder farmers continue to support livelihoods and meet most of their food and nutrition security in most of the countries.

The effects of warming trends which are already happening across the globe is likely to increase the temperature by +2°C by 2100. Some parts of Least Developed Countries particularly in Africa have recorded global warming of about +2°C causing unprecedented impacts through increased salinity, floods, sea level rises and severe droughts. Moreover, changes in precipitation is likely to put more pressure on agricultural systems and the livelihoods of the majority

of the LDCs population will be affected by drought and other risks associated with water scarcity. Hence, different agricultural systems will also be affected in different ways and adaptation to these impacts will need to be context-specific.

In accordance with the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) Roadmap, the LDC group presents its proposals on future topics to be considered by joint SBSTA and SBI and progress and outcomes of the KJWA:

(a) Future topics

Pursuant to decision 4/CP.23 on KJWA and its Roadmap, the current topics under consideration by joint SBSTA and SBI and will be concluded by SB52 session ahead of COP 26. In regard to this, the Parties will be required as stipulated in the roadmap to identify and submit future topics that could be considered for discussion under KJWA. To avoid duplication, the future topics should not have been covered or discuss under KJWA decision 4/CP.23 or other previous workshops referred to in paragraph (b) herein below. It's importance to note that all the topics discussed under SBSTA and SBI since 2013 have never been implemented and it is in the interest of LDCs that no future topic should be discuss or put into consideration before the framework or modalities are established under the UNFCCC, that will ensure all the outcomes from the joint SBSTA and SBI technical discussions on issues related to agriculture are implemented. Furthermore, any future topics should ensure that there is a balance between implementation and technical aspects to achieve the goal highlighted in articles 2 & 4 of the Convention.

That notwithstanding, the LDC Group identifies the following future topics:

- a) Fisheries and Blue Economy
- b) Nature- based Solutions in the context of the agriculture sector

(b) **Progress and Outcomes of KJWA**

Article 2 read together with Article 4 of the Convention is crucial because it defines the importance of agriculture and the roles agriculture plays in safeguarding food security and ending hunger, *particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse impacts of climate change* and that is why it should be considered under the UNFCCC process as an important item . Moreover, agriculture has been discussed in the UNFCCC process since the adoption of the Convention. However, it gained prominence during the negotiations that led to the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol (1997) and the Paris Agreement (2015). In 2006, SBSTA convened the first workshop on the potential of agriculture and forestry to reduce GHG emissions as part of global mitigation efforts. In 2007, Parties established the Bali Action Plan and agriculture was discussed under Agenda item 1(b)(iv) that dealt with Cooperative sectoral approaches. In 2011 at COP17 held in Durban, South Africa, decision 1/CP.17 paragraphs 75-78 was adopted that moved agriculture to SBSTA. Between 2013 (SBSTA 39) till 2016 (SBSTA 44) five workshops on various topics were conducted. In order to ensure that topics discussed are implemented, in 2017 at COP23, Parties adopted decision 4/CP.23 that established KJWA with joint mandate for the SBSTA and the SBI to address issues related to agriculture. Under KJWA 2(a), Parties were expected to agree on *“Modalities for implementation of the outcomes of the five in-session workshops on issues related to agriculture and other future topics that may arise from this work.”* Unfortunately, Parties have not agreed to any modality so far and this issue remains unresolved. It is important to note that technical workshops as set out under KJWA 2(b) – (d) have progressed well. What remains outstanding is how to implement the outcomes of the technical workshops.

In light of the above, the view of the LDCs is, that it is the time to shift from discussions to implementation of KJWA outcomes, and this can be realised only when modalities are put in place to ensure that the outcomes of each topic under the KJWA roadmap as well as the previous and future topics are implemented accordingly. The success of the implementation of the KJWA outcomes will require institutionalization of modalities / framework under the UNFCCC.

In this regard, the LDC group makes the following proposals as a way of institutionalizing implementation of the outcomes of the KJWA and other previous and future topics as envisaged under decision 4/CP.23 paragraph 2(a):

- a) **Put in Place an International Agriculture Program similar to the UNREDD+ Program:** The aim of the program should be to design strategies and mobilize resources to support developing countries to implement outcomes of the KJWA
- b) **Establish a window for Request for Proposals (RFP) under the Green Climate Fund (GCF):** The GCF be requested to dedicate additional finance to support developing countries in the implementation of the outcomes of the KJWA.
- c) **Institutionalize the KJWA as a Constituted Body under the Convention-** This will enhance maintenance of focus on safeguarding food security and ending hunger as emphasized in the Convention and the Paris Agreement. ¹

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/INF.2; FCCC/SBSTA/2015/INF.6; FCCC/SBSTA/2015/INF.7; FCCC/SBSTA/2016/INF.5; and FCCC/SBSTA/2016/INF.6